

Life in the Spirit **Acts 2:42-47**

The first thing the Holy Spirit creates at Pentecost is the church: a dynamic interdependent missional community.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’” **1 Corinthians 12:21**

“A church becomes a church in the gathering... It is where we as believers show what we are, learn what we are, become what we are, rejoice and give praise to God for what we are. We are God’s people, Christ’s body, the Spirit’s temple, the shepherd’s flock, the vine’s branch, the kingdom’s citizens, the demonstration of God’s wisdom and grace.” **Jonathan Leeman**

The evidence of the Holy Spirit is a genuine inward spiritual compulsion towards life together with the people of God, the body of Christ, and the mission of the gospel Together.

I. Deep Devotion to Gospel Community. Acts 2:42

“And they **devoted** Themselves to the apostles Teaching and the fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread and the prayers.” **Acts 2:42**

- **Devoted to growing in The Word of God Together.**
Acts 2:42

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God.” **Matthew 4:4**

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be completely equipped for every good work.” **2 Timothy 3:16,17**

- **Devoted to Christ-Centered fellowship Together. Acts 2:42**

“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.” **Acts 2:42**

“The Christian brother knows when I come to him: here is a sinner like myself, a godless man who wants to confess and yearns for God’s forgiveness... The brother views me as I am before the judging and merciful God in the Cross of Jesus Christ.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- **Devoted to Breaking Bread Together.
Acts 2:42**

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

“God has willed that we should seek and find His living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of man. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him. He needs Him again and again when He becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure.” **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

- **Devoted to Praying Together. Acts 2:42**

Acts 4:31 – “And **when they had prayed**, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 6:4 – “But **we will devote ourselves to prayer** and the ministry of the word.”

Acts 12:5 “So Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest prayer** for him was made to God by the church.”

Acts 12:12 – “When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where **many people were gathered together and were praying.**”

II. Deep Emotion: Gravity and Gladness Acts 2:43-46

- **Gravity: A Holy Fear**

“And awe came upon every soul ... they received their food with glad and generous hearts.” **Acts 2:42**

“And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.” **Acts 5:11**

“I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.” **Jeremiah 32:39-41**

“The right fear of God is, quite explicitly, a blessing of the new covenant... And they fear and tremble precisely because of all the good He does for them.”
Michael Reeves

- **Joyful Generosity: Spiritually Instinctive Unity**

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking of bread in their homes, they received their food **with glad and generous hearts.**”
Acts 2:43-45

“...their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part...” **2 Corinthians 8:1-4**

III. Widening Impact: The Lord Added to their Number. Acts 2:47

“And the Lord added to their Number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:47

Evangelism and the advancement of the gospel is a result of the community of Christ overflowing together with the love of Christ towards one another. This is the mark of the Holy Spirit.