

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Meaning: Luke shared about the lingering effects of true revival

Big Idea: When the Holy Spirit comes transformation takes place

Objective: I want the hearers to call out to the Spirit for revival

Theme: Remnants of Revival

REMNANTS OF REVIVAL

Verse 42 is a summary and the following verses are a description of that summary. What was happening here? Keep in mind the significance of what has happened over the past 60 days.

Remember the Jewish people celebrated their deliverance from Egyptian slavery by the blood of the Lamb and the saving power of the Lord on Passover and commemorated the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai at Pentecost. Jesus's blood was shed to deliver us from our slavery to sin on Passover, He rose on the feast of firstfruits, and God begins the New Covenant by pouring out His Spirit in the hearts of believers at Pentecost.

So, what we have here is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ now empowered by His Spirit. Before He called the people to come and worship at the Temple. Now they are the Temple and their worship is in spirit and truth wherever whenever they please.

So often we come to Acts 2:42-47 and take away a list of systems to put in place in the church. Worship and Prayer and discipleship and stewardship, etc. But the whole point of the book of Acts is that it is only the Spirit of God who can bring true revival and transformation to people's lives.

PHIL HOSKINS SERMON – Gone with the Wind

In the sermon He talked about what was gone when the wind of the Spirit of God blew on the people at Pentecost.

Complacency, contention, selfishness, agendas, apathy, obligation

When the wind of God blows on a Church and on a Christian there is some stuff that is JUST GONE! The old passes away and the new comes. Revival takes place through the Holy Spirit! That's what we have in Acts 2:42-47, not just systems and programs for the church, we see Spirit filled revival breaking out.

Remnants of Revival:

1. HUNGER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The disciples had walked with Jesus, prayed with Jesus, been taught by Jesus, and were anointed by Jesus to lead the New Testament church. Jesus's original call to them was, "FOLLOW ME."

Now, these early believers were following their following. The model they had learned from Jesus and been taught by Jesus they were now engaged in with others.

When the Spirit of God brings revival there is a renewed commitment to discipleship, to following Jesus together, to following someone who is following Jesus

Devoted themselves – speaks of continuing in something with intense effort. The word DEVOTED also is both a verb and a participle here, so in other words devotion to the Word is not just what they did it was a defining characteristic of their new identity in Christ.

Apostles Teaching – What were the Apostles teaching? They were teaching the Old Testament and how Christ is the fulfillment of the law. They were teaching how Christ was the prophetic fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies and how the church was God's plan for the gospel getting to the nations. They were also teaching the very words of Christ directly shared with them.

The point is that strength comes from both the Spirit and the Scriptures. We are strengthened in the faith first by the Spirit but secondly by the teaching and exhortation of other believers from the Word of God.

2. LONGING FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship – KOINONIA

This is the first time the Greek word Koinonia is used in the entire Bible. We don't have an English word robust enough to do it justice in translation. This is a miraculous Spirit empowered kind of relationships. Koinonia is more than friendship. It is a divinely intimate, holy unity among believers involving everything from spiritual oneness in the Holy Spirit, community life, sharing money and food with one another, and the communion partaken in the body. When we think fellowship we think something much more surface level. True biblical Koinonia is deep-rooted, Spirit led and energized, love and service to one another.

Marks of this supernatural fellowship:

UNITY – Scripture says they were together and had all things in common. This doesn't mean they agreed on everything, but what it does mean is they God's Kingdom priorities before their own personal preferences or agendas. In fact, the love they had for each other was so different from the world that they came up with a new word to describe it. It is the Greek Word AGAPE, which is a Spirit-energized, Christ exemplifying, self-sacrificing kind of love. It was a love that crossed generational, national, and ethnic lines. It was so different that their neighbors had to come up with this new word AGAPE to describe it.

HOSPITALITY – They broke bread together from house to house and welcomed one another into their very lives.

GENEROSITY – They sold property and possessions to distribute money to those who had legitimate financial needs.

INTENSITY – There was an intensification of their prayer lives, confession of sin, and their worship of Jesus. Strongholds are broken and people are set free from besetting sins in their lives.

GRATITUDE – It says they ate together with gladness

3. THIRST FOR WORSHIP The early New Testament church continued to go back to worship the way they already knew, at the Temple. They recognized that Christ did not do away with the law, He fulfilled it. He was the Messiah, the prophetic Christ, the one who all the law and prophets pointed to. They recognized that deliverance was never through the law. God's delivered His people from Egypt by the blood of the Lamb and His supernatural intervention on their behalf. The Law was God was showing them the responsibility they now had because of their salvation.

When did they worship? – DAY BY DAY

Their worship was a daily rhythm of life not a once a week or once a month routine

Where did they worship – EVERYWHERE

They worshipped at the Temple. They worshipped in the streets. They worshipped house to house. They worshipped everywhere.

Who did they worship? – CHRIST JESUS, not the Apostles or the Prophets of Old.

The Breaking of Bread – LORD'S SUPPER

These early believers weren't quite sure exactly what to do when they gathered in homes for worship, so they did what Christ taught them to do. At that last supper He broke bread and passed the cup and said this represents my body which is broken for you and my precious blood which is shed for you. So, every worship time they

had was marked by this remembrance of the cross and resurrection of Christ. So too, true worship is markedly CHRISTOLOGICAL. When we gather we gather to lift up the name of JESUS, the one who has the NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME! As Paul declared, "I have determined to know nothing among you except Christ and Him crucified!"

When we gather we gather to worship the name of JESUS! The one who died for our sins and rose from the dead, the only way worthy to break the seal and open the scroll of God's judgment, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the King of Kings, and the Lord of all Lords!

How did they worship – PRAYER AND PRAISE

The Prayers – Jesus said "My house shall be called a house of prayer." Church, the Lord is bringing a revival of prayer and praise back to His Church. Little prayer, little power. Much prayer, much power. When the Church exhibits faith in the Lord through prayer and continually pursues the face of God, the Wind of God will blow on that place.

1 Timothy 2:1, 8

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.....I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting

Praise – Scripture says they were praising God and having favor with their neighbors. PRAISE is the call of every believer. Some people say "well, you know worship is a lifestyle. I may not sing very much but I worship with my life." I would dare say that if worship is truly your lifestyle then the praise of God will certainly be on your lips. CHURCH IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

Why did they worship? – THEY COULDN'T HELP IT

Whenever you see something or experience something remarkable you can't help but tell someone. How can we who claim to have been saved from our sins and filled with God's Holy Spirit not worship?

4. DISPLAY OF POWER

When the Spirit of God begins to work in a place He leaves an indelible mark. There are obvious visible and audible things that begin to take place that are unmistakably of God.

Signs and Wonders

Healings, miracles, strongholds are broken, addicts are set free, mental health and emotional health is restored, marriages are reconciled, relationships are healed, wayward children come home to Jesus.

Salvation of souls

The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Notice it was THE LORD who added to their number. It wasn't the church or their growth strategy that was adding to their number, it was THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

God can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime. It's time for the church to get serious about prayer and revival!

This is what happens when the wind of God blows in your life!

HUNGER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

LONGING FOR FELLOWSHIP

THIRST FOR WORSHIP

DISPLAY OF POWER

But it's only the Spirit of God that can do this in your life?

Do you want to be filled with God's Holy Spirit?

If so you must first EMPTY YOURSELF – Phil 2 – Christ EMPTIED HIMSELF

Secondly – ASK BY FAITH