

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: May 9-10, 2020
Sermon Series: Upside Down
Sermon Title: The Effortless Present: Part Two
Sermon Text: Acts 2:42-47

Bottom Line

Prayer is the way we access the heavenly dimension and bring to bear the spiritual resources that are already ours on our earthly challenges. Practice is what separates serious followers of Jesus from those who are all talk. We need to be serious about practicing being strong in God's Word and in fellowship.

Scripture

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

This week, Pastor Dale talked about how different the people that made up the early church were from each other. It was like a "mixed salad bowl." What is the most diverse group that you have ever been a part of? What made it special? What made it a challenge?

Let's Talk

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. Dale compared the word "devoted" to the word "practice." Why is important for followers of Jesus to practice spiritual disciplines?

2. Pastor Dale talked about the hunger that the early church had for the Word? What fuels your hunger for God's Word? What fights against that hunger?
3. Why is it so important for us to be people who are devoted to the Word?
4. Pastor Dale said, "The decline of Christianity in the west and in our country in particular is because we've lost our passion and our appetite to learn and to put into practice what we learn from God's word."

Do you agree or disagree with that sentiment? Why? What could we do to develop a greater appetite for God's word?

5. The early church was devoted to fellowship. The Greek word for fellowship is Koinonia, which means to be closely associated. Mutual interaction and sharing. The secular Greeks used the term to describe the bond between a husband and wife. The early church loved each other so much that they couldn't get enough of each other. What do you suppose gets in the way of us having that type of love for one another? What difference would it make in your life to have this type of relationship with other believers? What difference would that type of church make in the year 2020?
6. Last week, Pastor Dale talked about the early church's devotion to prayer. This past week we celebrated the National Day of Prayer. What did Dale teach us about prayer? What does prayer really accomplish?
7. What does it mean that the apostles were committed to the "breaking of bread?" Why is this important?
8. What do verses 43-47 teach us was the outcome of the way that the early church lived?

Let's Act

A sports team uses practice to become better. Practice also helps the team to function better as a whole. In this week's message, Pastor Dale encouraged us to practice by:

1. Being strong towards God's Word
2. Being strong in fellowship

This week, find a partner in our group to hold you accountable to spending time in God's Word. Then, find a time to meet (electronically) and talk about what God has been teaching you.

Notes:
