



Brown Community Group

Discussion Guide

Go Therefore: Acts 2:42-47 – January 24, 2021

I. Starter Thoughts:

- Whether a new or mature Christian, do you have trouble focusing on the key things in your life to grow your relationship with God? What about your relationship with like-minded people? Do you view them as an integral part of your spiritual relationship and necessary or are they just side parts of your journey?
- How do you consider your gifts, time, energy, money and possessions? Are they hard earned for your pleasure or merely just items passing through your possession as stewards?
- In today's lesson, we begin to see practical application and results in the everyday life of the early Christians following the supernatural arrival of the Holy Spirit.

II. Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Discussion of Scriptures:

As we studied last week in Chapter 2 of Acts, Luke tells us about the miracle of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and of Peter's sermon to the multitude in Jerusalem proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth as Lord and Christ and of the offering of forgiveness of sins as a result of his crucifixion and resurrection. He tells us that many in the crowd were cut to the heart and that about 3,000 souls received the word, repented, and were baptized that day.

After the 3,000 were added, we see that these verses begin with the word "And", which shows this to be a continuation of last week's lesson about the events at that time. Those who believed and were baptized did not go their separate ways. They felt a need for further instruction. They wanted to know about the life, actions and teachings of Jesus. The fellowship in early Christianity did not simply mean associating with the Apostles, it also meant having goods in common. Luke uses verses 43-47 to present a summary situation of the Christian community that many might consider idealistic. They were practicing a communal way of life, dedicating themselves to worship. Verse 45 verb tense shows that the selling of possessions in the early church was not a compulsory action but rather voluntary. From time to time, they

made contributions as were necessary. We will learn later in Chapter 5 with Ananias and Sapphira, giving is a condition of heart and should not be done to impress or gain favor and stature in man's eyes. Giving is something personal between you and God and no one else. As we review these scriptures, several important items jump out at us:

- Devoted themselves to the apostles teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers
- Awe came upon them, wonders and signs as a result
- Took care of any with need
- Attending Church together (temple)
- Praising God together

III. Group Discussion:

1. Thinking back to the last two lessons, why was it important for Luke to include this information for his readers?
2. Who do you think "they" refers to in verse 42?
3. What were the four things they devoted themselves to in verse 42 and what did each consist of?
4. In verse 43, we see the result of being faithful and fulfilling verse 42. What does "awe came upon every soul" mean or imply?
5. Discuss what we see happening in verses 44-45 for the Christian community? Why do you think this was happening and what was being accomplished?
6. In verse 46 and 47, what are the two keys things that the Christian community did together? How would this impact new believers?
7. How do the following scriptures add to our understanding of Acts 2 comments on Christians communal way of life with caring, prayers, sharing and praise:
 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-20
 - Romans 12:9-13
8. How much of Acts 2 applies to our current modern-day church? Discuss points

III. Responding in Prayer:

As we read throughout the New Testament, community and fellowship are crucial for the life of a believer. Satan's desire as he "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" is to isolate believers and work on them individually. Let's pray that God will bring to our mind's members and visitors to HHBC that might be alone and in need of friendship and community. Pray that he will help us think of creative ways that we can have fellowship during this ongoing pandemic. Ask Him to renew our own zeal for the actions to which the early Christians were devoted.