



REVOLUTION

“The Spirit of the Church”

Acts 2:43-47
July 5, 2015

It Involved Everyone and They Were All Together

Let's Ask Some “What If's This Morning...”

It Involved a Sense of Awe & Wonder

✓ In Awe Of God

Acts 9:31; Hebrews 12:28-29; Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 31:19

Acts 5:5,11; 19:17; Luke 7:16

✓ In Awe Of What Was Happening

John 14:10-12; Hebrews 2:3-4

It Involved Great Generosity

1 John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

✓ They Were Selfless

✓ They Were Willing to Sacrifice

✓ They Were Willing to Share

It Involved Consistency

It Involved Doing Life Together

✓ They Were Connecting

“Connect Yourself to Christ and Others”

✓ They Were Going

“Go Share the Love of Christ with Everyone Everywhere”

✓ They Were Growing

“Grow in a Deepening Relationship with Christ”

✓ They Were Committing

“Commit Your Time and Resources to Serving Christ and Others”

How Will We Respond?

- ✓ Would you realize and understand that the Lord will go to any length to say “This Message is for You?” Today, I plead with you to accept the greatest gift you could ever receive the Gift of Eternal Life? Would give Him your heart & life today? Jesus can bring the life change that you have been seeking. Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **A**dmit to God you are a sinner, **A**sk for His forgiveness, **B**elieve Jesus is God's Son, **C**onfess Him as Savior & **C**ommit Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
- ✓ Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you? We have baptism sets for the next several Sundays. Contact us and let us know that you a ready to follow through in obedience to the Lord's command!
- ✓ Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ!
- ✓ Are you connected to a LifeGroup? You need to be! It is a Biblical thing that goes all the way back to the early church? Get connected to one next Sunday!

THE ACTS: REVOLUTION

“The Spirit of the Church”

Acts 2:43-47

July 5, 2015 AM Service

May we just review quickly from last week because I really had to blow through those 4 Priorities of the NT Church last week. Would love to just touch on them again for a brief moment.

The Gospel Brings Growth and it did! Growth is to be desired because the natural response of something that is healthy is that it grows. Now the pace of growth is many times determined by the place where the church is located – for us folks there is no excuse for us not to continue to grow.

Numerical Growth and Spiritual Depth Must Connect This is critical – we must not have one without the other. This is a great danger here when we grow quickly the depth can get very shallow – and one way that happens is people join but don’t get connected – not in a LifeGroup, not serving anywhere – just attending worship – when the Church grows people must get plugged in and disciple and growing in their faith because we as a result of growth we need more LifeGroups Leaders, more children and preschool leaders, more student leaders, more ministry has to take place, new mission doors are opened and on it goes. Let us not miss this!

Priorities Must Come From Devotion – Key Word is devotion

- ✓ **Devoted to Learning** – to knowing the teaching of the Apostles which was the Word of God – the call is for us to be teaching and preaching the Word of God unashamedly in our Worship and LifeGroups and on our own. Not just content with what the preachers says – does it line up with the Word of God?
- ✓ **Devoted to Loving** – there was *Koininia* doing life together – intimate relationships – not just eating a meal together – far more than than – sharing life together! They deeply loved and cared for one another. Remember for us this comes through LifeGroups – they were deeply connected as we will touch on in a moment – the idea of a Christian not being deeply connected was not even envisioned in the Bible – wasn’t even a consideration. The same should be true today.
- ✓ **Devoted to the Lord**
Through Prayer which was their very lifeline – it wasn’t some

afterthought or boy we need to make sure this is a part of our worship – they knew that they were sunk without it? Do we? Are we truly and genuinely people of prayer – crying out in desperation? May we be! And then the **Lord’s Supper** which involved them being together and celebrating and remembering the incredible sacrifice of our Savior – we have a tendency to forget and this always brings us back!

It Involved Everyone and They Were All Together

Let’s Ask Some “What If’s This Morning...

What if every member was growing deeper in their relationship with the Lord?

What if every church member came to Church? – They were connected...

What if every member was a part of a LifeGroup? They were growing...

What if every member was tithing and giving? They were giving...

What if every member was committed to serving in a ministry somewhere? They were committed...

What if every member took the call seriously to GO and be involved in missions somewhere in this year and beyond? They were going...

What if every member came to Church already prepared for Worship?

What then could the impact be on our city, state, nation and the world?

I want us to take a look at the early Church and we see these very things occurring – it was normal, natural, regular, fresh with the Spirit of God blowing through their lives and their church and I pray this morning that it will awaken and ignite a fresh movement and wind of God in our lives and in our Church that will leave a deep and lasting impact which we will take a look at in our next message.

It Involved a Sense of Awe & Wonder

“Fear was occurring to every soul.”

“kept feeling a sense of awe” fear... awestruck, blown away. Visual representation standing in awe, speechless, can’t explain it, unbelievable When is the last time you and I were simply in awe of something?

Couldn’t hardly speak at what you had seen or experienced or heard?

ILLUS: 4th Fireworks and awakened to the fireworks of God – thunder and lightning

A time where you truly saw the hand of God at work in your life or in the life of somebody else or in a church service or camp or circumstances in

your life? It made you just stand there and saw wow God you are amazing, incredible, indescribable, uncontainable I stand in awe of you!! ‘
ILLUS: Pikes Peak in Colorado with TP&L singing the majesty and glory of your name – wow and I can think of other ones where God showed up and showed out in a major way and you were left breathless, speechless...

✓ **In Awe Of God**

Acts 9:31; Hebrews 12:28-29; Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 31:19; Acts 5:5,11; 19:17; Luke 7:16

Mark, Jesus calms the sea, “why are you so fearful...they feared him, two different meanings.

Folks we need to live our lives in awe of our great and awesome God – we live in awe of so many other things, may the Lord help us to recapture our awe and wonder of Him this morning!

ILLUS: In Katmandu – huge god being built on the backdrop of the Himalaya mountains – hello!! People stood in awe of this and yet it had to be tied down so it couldn’t fall over and had to be moved and yet there in the distance is Mt Everest made by the one true and living God! We are no different – we stand in awe of so much in our world because of the attention and resources we give towards it!

Do we have that sense of awe as we come to worship, as we engage in these specific priorities of the church?

Does our life reflect that kind of awe of God, the church, the work of the Holy Spirit?

✓ **In Awe Of What Was Happening - Many wonders and signs were taking place** *John 14:10-12; Hebrews 2:3-4*

Through the signs of wonders, why doesn’t it happen today?

After about Chapter 15, signs and wonders not mentioned anymore, and Paul only shares with them

There was a day and age for this signs and wonders, were they were necessary, but not so today. We don’t have to apologize for that. These things were done then to confirm the church, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the NT Church. Didn’t ever intend for it to be replicated, but one thing he did except and that was awe of the work of God. But let me say – there are different kinds of signs and wonders – I stand in awe of what the Lord has done here at Petal FBC and what is doing right now and what I believe He is going to do! Don’t you?

Our signs and wonders – movement of God and people coming to know Christ and become his Followers, His Disciples – seeing God use ordinary people like me and you to do extraordinary things!

It Involved Great Generosity

1 John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

✓ **They Were Selfless**

They were together – had all things in common

This is not Christian communism. Nobody had any property, possessions, they gave everything to the communal pot and everybody shared from that pot.

Verb sold and divided, verb tense means ongoing activities

What the church continued to do.

If it were communism, it would have happened one time and been done, but this was happening on ongoing basis.

✓ **They Were Willing to Sacrifice**

Different People sold what they had – property & possessions

A spirit of sacrificial giving, and ministry to the body of Christ.

In other words, believers would see another believer in need, they would sell a resource they had and give it to the one in need.

It was communal in the sense that none of them considered what they owned as theirs, but instead that is was the Lord's and to be the resources that were used to meet needs in the body of Christ.

✓ **They Were Willing to Share**

They shared with anyone who had a need

Put feet to this idea of ministry.

Never heard, this is mine and I worked for it and I'm not about to let it go. I'll give a tenth to the church but I'm holding on to the rest. No, they saw it as an opportunity to give and to give it to the Lord because they remember the most important principle, that what they had was not theirs anyway, it was the Lord's. We have simply lost that today in our culture and in our churches today.

Never intended for us not to own anything or have anything, but neither did he intend for us to be so possessed by our possessions that we would never give them up for the sake of meeting someone else's need

It Involved Consistency This happened day by day and they were unified and together in doing it!

“Continued with one accord...”

Wasn't something that worked up, it grew up and was an overflow of who they were as the church.

The center point of their unity was the apostle's teaching and doctrine.

Have to have the same foundational truth to have unity!

They were together, on the same page, may not have agreed on everything but in their maturity of faith they were together.

Yet another reason God was blessing is because they were single minded and they were consistent.

We have so much hit and miss – most churches have 2 churches within them – you have a core that is here almost every single week and then you have 2 other groups that are here every other week or even less. May the Lord grow us in our consistency and in our unity!

It Involved Doing Life Together

✓ **They Were Connecting**

“Connect Yourself to Christ and Others”

Connecting Worship – in the temple & praising God – breaking bread – Lord's Supper

This is where worship takes places. Why it was not on the non-essential list. Worship was a natural response to who Christ was and what He had done. Praising God, as they went about doing these things.

They had corporate worship oh yes.

They didn't have to have somebody to pump them up, come on let's worship, come on let's participate, come on sing with a smile on your face, let's stand or raise our hands.

Worship was just simply a natural response of what Christ was doing in their life, it was an overflow.

✓ **They Were Going**

“Go Share the Love of Christ with Everyone Everywhere”

Witnessing as they were in the Temple and as they were going about their daily lives – they were sharing of what Jesus had done in them! Many are doing that this Summer and we are doing our best to open more doors for as many of you as possible to be a part of Going locally and globally.

✓ **They Were Growing**

“Grow in a Deepening Relationship with Christ”

Fellowship – taking their meals together with gladness of sincerity of heart.

They were happy, not just because they were eating! They were overflowing with the joy of the Lord! They were joy filled even when life was all roses.

They loved being together, it was joyful when they were together.

Do people experience this kind of joy when they walk in this place. If they get up here and look around, do they see the joy of the Lord in or midst, does it show on our faces? It should.

Folks, not fake but real and this is attractive to a lost world. We live in such a world of brokenness and despair and when they come here they should see something different, and that is joy. Passion about the Lord and about one another.

To be genuine, un hypocritical, they were family, strengths and weakness, good and bad, they loved each other. Didn't have to dress up, hide their lives, be somebody they were not, they could be who they were, no masks, no pretending, but being real!

They were together and they shared their lives together.

How I pray that this would be the case for our church, that we will allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into this kind of people.

Being Real

✓ **They Were Committing**

“Commit Your Time and Resources to Serving Christ and Others”

Serving Each Other & Sharing With Each Other

We already touched on this with great generosity and we will see that this birthed new ministries and ministry leaders to help handle the incredible growth that had been taking place.