

- A Study in Acts -

## Chapter Two – Coming of Power and the First Gospel Sermon

### ACTS 2:43-47:

In our previous lesson, we witnessed the completion of all the Apostles of Jesus Christ were commanded to do; preach, baptize, and teach (**Matthew 28:18-20**). From the beginning of this lesson to the end of the chapter, we will see as a result of the Apostles doctrine (teaching), a uniquely different kind of people bound by a unifying commonality that elevated them above their base nature.

This becomes the first illustration of the transformational process that takes place in the child of God through the knowledge of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).

#### Text #1:

**Acts 2:43-45** “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”

**Fear:** The fear being mentioned here is a reverential fear of the power of God. These obedient disciples have been witnesses to the mighty power of God in the demonstrated sign of tongues by the Apostles of Christ (not gibberish, but actual languages – **Acts 2:8**). However, the sign itself would mean nothing without the accompanied words of truth.

This fearful by-product of the word confirmed by signs (**Mark 16:20**), produced a dread of the wrath of God that they had now escaped, and a desire to reside in that safety. This fearful respect for the power of God would be confirmed in them again by the continued wonders and signs being produced by the Apostles. We will also note that this fear would be reproduced when the authority of the Holy Spirit in the Apostles of Jesus would be challenged by a lie. After the demonstration of the power of God through the Apostles again; note the result:

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

**Through the Apostles:** The wonders performed by the Apostles of Jesus as a sign of the power they have received is being confirmed here and goes on to demonstrate that they alone had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit promised to them by the Lord (**Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4**). This would continue to be their exclusive domain until they would lay their hands on others and distribute the spiritual gifts found in – **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**, to faithful brethren (see: **6:5-6; 8:4-8**); who, however, could not pass these gifts on to others (**Acts 8:14-17**).

**All Things in Common:** This did not mean that they lived together, nor did it mean that [all] the disciples sold their possessions. It was not a command for them to sell their possessions (**Acts**

**4:32; 5:4).** There were needs, and this was freely done to supply the needs among themselves (needy saints).

It is evident that their newfound restoration through Christ Jesus was their priority, not earthly possessions.

We should consider that the needs spoken of here have arisen because many of these believers were not year around residence of Jerusalem. Many had traveled many miles to be here for Passover and Pentecost. It was their custom to leave shortly after the feast, so many would not have the resources to remain and continue to be educated by the Apostles. The year-round brethren would be the ones who are making it possible for them to stay.

### **Text #2:**

**Acts 2:46-47** “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**One Accord:** This is associated with the commonality they had in **verse 44**, which goes to illustrate their priority at this time. They were, for all intents and purposes, “**seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you**” – **Matthew 6:33**.

The Apostles of Jesus remained in Jerusalem as they were instructed and also were of “**one accord**” in prayer, supplications, praising, blessing God, and waiting for the promise of the Father, which they had heard from Jesus (**Luke 24:52-53; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1**). In both examples, the unifying power is brought about by the guidance of and following the righteous instructions of God.

**Temple:** The early disciples of Christ used the temple complex as a place for daily instruction, prayer, etc. **Luke 24:53**. Temple worship of the Old Law is not the practice of these early Christians; simply the convenience of a large place to assemble to learn and practice that which the Apostles instruct. We must remember the prophetic words of our Lord to the woman by the well in Samaria:

**John 4:21-24** “Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

We learn from the Apostles Paul and Peter that the altar of worship would be within our hearts.

**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* <sup>2</sup> **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

**1 Peter 3:15** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”

**Ate Their Food:** The term “**Breaking Bread**”, as we have already discussed, is a universal term which describes a meal. It is used in **verse 42** as a spiritual meal, and here is used as a common meal by the use of the word “**Ate**”.

This word is one of several derivatives of the Greek “*Geuo*”, which describes perceiving flavor, to partake for enjoyment; all of which describe the satisfaction of the flesh. This word is absent in **verse 42**; however, it is used here to describe the common meals that many partook together in gladness and simplicity of heart (obviously absent of malice, selfishness, etc.).

**The Lord Added:** The Lord added to the “**Called Out**” daily (from the Greek, “*Ekklesia*”, which is referring to those who have escaped the perverted generation), to them, such as were repeating this very process recorded in **verses 37-41**.

**Acts 5:14** “**And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women**”

Here we learn that being added to the “**Called Out**” is the same as being added to the Lord (which we learn is being added to His body – **Ephesians 1:23**). The importance of that is found here:

**Ephesians 5:23** “**For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.**”

The Lord does not make mistakes, so all those who are following the precedence setting course of action are being added to the “**Called Out**”. Thus, one cannot be added to the “**Called Out**” except those who by this prescribed process are added by God (believing, repenting, being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and continuing in the Apostles doctrine).

They are being made safe from their past transgressions (**1 John 3:4**), and the eternal punishment that is due sinful man. The Lord writes the names of members of His body in the Book of Life (**Philippians 3:20-21** – “**Our citizenship is in heaven**”; **4:3** – “**Whose names are written in the Book of Life**”; **Hebrews 12:22-24** – “**registered in heaven**”). If we remain faithful, He will not blot our names out of the Book of Life (**Revelation 3:5; 20:15**).

**Next: “A Lame Man Healed”**