



Sermon Notes: October 11, 2015

Giving

3 of 5 from the teaching series "All In"
Acts 2:42-47 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Acts 2:42-47

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

The heart and generosity of the early church

- When the Holy Spirit filled the Church on Pentecost, a radical transformation took place - filled with the Spirit, God's law was now upon their hearts - they delighted in obeying God.
- We are not free from the ethical requirements of the law - we are free from the curse of the law because through Christ's death, and by grace alone, our sins have been atoned for and we've been washed by the blood of the lamb. And we are free from the burden of the law because, now that we are filled with the Spirit, the law is upon our heart and so that God's law is a delight, not a chore. (*Romans 8:3-4*)
- The early Christians were hungry for God's Word and longed to be together:
 - *the apostles' teaching* - taught daily in the temple courts
 - *the fellowship* - devotion to the community, prioritized being together
 - *the breaking of bread* - meals together, bread and cup representing the body and blood of Christ
 - *the prayer* - they faithful met together at set times for prayer
 - *devoted* - they had a passion and commitment to grow in the truth, to be together, and to seek God together
- *were together and had everything in common...they sold property and possessions* - the early church gave to meet the needs of everyone and support the ministry of the apostles - they were all in - action, heart, and soul - and they were happy to do it.

The tithe in the Old and New Testaments.

- Old Testament - the Law of Moses commanded all Israel to tithe - it was evidence of being "all in."
- New Testament - when the Spirit came to the early church, they gave far above a tithe - continued tithing to the temple, plus supported the Apostles' ministry and the poor.
- *Genesis 28:20-22, 1 Corinthians 9:13-14, Luke 10:7*

Our Response

A Spirit-filled community joyfully exceeds the Law of Moses in every way – living with greater purity, and giving with greater generosity.

- As we obey in faith, God will bless our lives. As we give generously, God will bring increase in our lives.
- *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*