

Introduction: Following the ascension of Jesus to the 'right hand of the Father', Acts 2 records the Holy Spirit being 'poured out' on the gathered believers, and the Church was born. People's lives were changed as they began to walk in a new way of life, growing and learning to walk with God and with one another by the leading and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY..." (v.42) The new believers were "continually in", earnest about, and involved in the pattern that made up their new way of life.

I. Patterns of New Testament Life - *"And they continued in..."*

- A. **THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE** - They were soundly taught;
 - 1. Emphasis on the Word of God as the fountainhead of all life;
 - a. The authoritative basis for our life; foundational principles
 - 2. Under authoritative teaching - the apostles had been taught by Jesus
 - 3. Doctrine - not just accumulation of theological ideas
 - a. practical application of truth, livable truth
 - b. understanding the Word of God and how to live it out...
- B. **FELLOWSHIP** - (koinonia) - Things shared in common - they shared in life...
 - 1. Basis of our "sharing together" is Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Openheartedness - graciousness, transparency, mutual support and care
 - 3. Openhandedness - practical caring for one another
- C. **BREAKING OF BREAD** - They were spiritually nourished...
 - 1. Lord's Table, Communion
 - 2. Eating together...participating in life as members of the same body
 - a. "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:5). {see also 1Cor.10:17, 12:12, 12:20}
- D. **IN PRAYERS** - They were seeking God in prayer...
 - 1. Prayer is essential to growth and advance
 - 2. Personal times, gathering times..."pray without ceasing" (1Thes.5:17)
- E. Continuing to continue..."**with one accord**"... (v.46-47)
 - 1. "in the temple" and "house to house"
 - 2. "praising God" - an outward sign of the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - 3. "having favor with all the people" - impacting their culture...
 - 4. Fruitfulness - "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (v.47).

II. "And they ate their food with gladness" (v.46-47)

- A. Characteristic of N.T. life - **Eating together** (v.42,46).
 - 1. There is **spiritual dynamic** related to eating together.
- B. Significant times during meals in the life and ministry of Jesus...
 - 1. The miracle power of God released as Jesus fed multitudes on various occasions.
 - 2. Jesus initiates the "Lord's Supper" following a meal together with His disciples (Luke 22).
 - 3. After the "road to Emmaus," Jesus breaks bread with the men and their eyes are opened to know Him (Luke 24:13-31).
 - 4. After His resurrection, Jesus comes to His disciples and asks "*Have you any food here?*" (Luke 24:41).
 - 5. We see a similar instance reported in John (21:5,21-15) when Jesus told his disciples where to catch some fish and then said "*Come and eat breakfast*".