

A Devoted Church

Opening text: **Acts 2:42**

The church of Jesus Christ is advancing in an unprecedented scale.

Today, more than 2,000 years after its birth, there are 2.3 billion people in the world who consider themselves believers or followers of Jesus Christ.

The Christian organisation is by far the largest organisation on the planet earth.

The Christian church is bigger than China and the USA combined.

Nothing is bigger on planet Earth than the church of Jesus Christ.

How did this happen?

How did Christianity spread so far, so fast?

There are **4 foundational truths** that we need to continually and faithfully devote ourselves to for us, His church, to accomplish His work on earth.

Acts 2:42 (NASB)

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

They were continually devoting themselves...

a. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

We can be sure, however, that **the apostles' teaching** includes what they had *learnt from Jesus as well as a strong emphasis on the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.*

Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts devoted a great deal of attention to Jesus' teachings.

Read Luke 4:16-27, 42-44; 6:1-11, 20-49; 8:4-21; 9:1-6, 21-27; 43b-50, 57-62.

In His Great Commission, Jesus instructed His disciples to *make disciples, "teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you"* (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

b. They devoted themselves to fellowship.

Koinonia means fellowship or sharing.

"Biblical fellowship is uniquely a Christian concept."

– Pr. Neil M

Our fellowship becomes authentic when we are in right relationship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul used it to speak of the fellowship that Christians enjoy with Christ.

1 Cor. 1:9 “*God is faithful, through whom you were called into **the koinonia (fellowship)** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*”.

c. They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread.

When Luke speaks of “the breaking of bread,” he means the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord’s Supper is a soul-stirring experience because of the depth of meaning it contains.

It must be an integral part of Christian worship.

The Lord’s Supper is a remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice.

When Jesus said, “*Do this in remembrance of me,*” He indicated this was a ceremony that must be continued in the future.

1 Cor. 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

D. They devoted themselves to prayer.

It was top priority for the Apostles along with the study of the Word.

It is in prayer that we talk with the Lord and walk in continual awareness of His presence in us.

Devotion to prayer was the norm for New Testament Christians.

Why were those first Christians so devoted to prayer?

This is what they saw in the life of Jesus.

He spent quality time with the Father in prayer.

Paul encourages us in **1 Thess. 5:17** - “*Pray continually.*”

That is what God expects.

That is what Jesus taught.

That is what the New Testament church modelled.