



# Together with Glad Hearts

**Acts 2:42-47**

*Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor*

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Acts 2:42-47 shows that, from the beginning of the church, believers in Jesus Christ gathered as a devoted community of worshippers and an empowered community of witnesses.

Those who believed the truth about who Jesus is and what He has done were **added** to:

The body of believers (Acts 2:42, 47)

The Lord Himself (Acts 5:14, 11:24)

The early Christian church shows the pattern that a local church should be:

1. **A devoted community** of worshippers who grow in love and service and maturity.

Teaching Truth

Sincere Fellowship

Corporate Prayer

2. **An empowered community** of witnesses who are used by God to testify of His gospel (Acts 2:43, 47).

The word for *glad* in Acts 2:46 is the same Greek word that is translated *joy* in Luke 1:44 and Jude 24. It is an exuberant joy!

### Questions to Consider

1. In what way(s) are you experiencing isolation during this current crisis?
2. What does Genesis 2:18 tell us about man's need for human interaction?
3. How does the language of conversion in Acts 2:41 and 2:47 emphasize the community aspect of what it means to be a believer in Jesus Christ?
4. What are some other New Testament passages which show that teaching truth, sincere fellowship, and corporate prayer should be regular elements of life in a local church?
5. Why is the teaching of truth, especially about the person and work of Jesus Christ, so absolutely central to all that a local church is called to do?
6. The phrase "breaking of the bread" may be an early reference to the Lord's Supper, but it was clearly understood in the minds of early believers to mean what? Prior to coronavirus, when was the last time you fellowshiped over a meal with other believers? Is this something you may seek to prioritize more after coronavirus?
7. Why should we not see Acts 2:45 as mandating an economic policy or endorsing a governing philosophy? But, what can we learn from these descriptions of sharing in the early church?
8. How engaged have you been in praying with other believers from your local church? Is that an area that you may need to prioritize more in the future?