

Living By Truth And Love

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

Acts 2:42-47

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47, ESV)

Introduction

The contents of this passage—Acts 2:42-47—were common knowledge and passed along by those who were there in Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost when 3000 men plus women and children received the Gospel, were baptized and became part of the Church at Jerusalem. What we are observing here is the second of three steps of the sanctification process. The first step happens when we believe in message of Jesus Christ, repent, are forgiven, receive the Holy Spirit and are positioned in Christ as God's children. While the third step will happen after the return of Christ when even our physical bodies are transformed, this second step—the practical process of growing in holiness—is a lifelong process. The first and second aspects of this process are learning to live by truth and love through devoting ourselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the fellowship.

1. Living by the truth: devoting ourselves to the teaching of the apostles.

a) We need to learn to fear God in order to become wise (Proverbs 1:7)

b) We need to renew our minds with the truth of God (Romans 12:1-2).

2. Living by love: devoting ourselves to the fellowship of believers,

a) We learn to follow Christ by learning how to love (John 13:34-35).

b) We learn to be witnesses of Christ in our lives, relationships and words.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1) Read Acts 2:42-47. How can your lifestyle become more like the Early Church?

2) Read John 13:34-35. Why is living according to love important?

3) Read John 17:14-19. What was Jesus praying and why was it important to us?

Conclusion

God puts us in Christ and sends His Spirit into us when we believe in the Gospel. And God is the one who will resurrect these earthly bodies of ours and transform them so we can live with Him forever. In between these two events we must cooperate with God in the practical process of growing in our sanctification.

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