

Humility And Faith

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. I believe that there are at least six aspects to this process of sanctification, with the third and fourth of these learning to live by humility and faith through devoting ourselves to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Living in humility: devoting ourselves to the breaking of bread.

- a) Remembering that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died in our place (1Co 11:23-32).
- b) Breaking bread daily even in our homes for mutual confession and forgiveness (Ac 2:46).

2. Living by faith: devoting ourselves to prayer.

- a) Learning to trust in God by praying about everything (Ph 4:4-7).
- b) Learning to pair confession and prayer for each other (Ja 5:13-16).

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read Micah 6:6-6. Talk with each other about what you feel God requires of you.
- 2) Read Acts 2:42-47 and James 5:13-16. Break bread with someone this week.
- 3) Read Philippians 4:4-7. List your concerns and pray with thanksgiving this week.

Conclusion

Have you thought that a lifestyle of faith was too complicated and difficult? God requires only that we “do justly, love mercy and walk humbly” with Him (Micah 6:8).

012708hcte