

Hospitality That Changes Lives — Part 3

When God's People Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42–47

Introduction: Fellowship and sharing create thriving Christian community. Acts 2:42–47 comes immediately after Peter's Pentecost sermon, the crowd's conviction, repentance, baptism, and the addition of about three thousand souls; Luke is not merely showing us how a meeting ended, but how a redeemed people began to live. In Acts 2, we see fellowship is not coffee and small talk. Fellowship is shared life. *Fellowship is the gospel life made visible.*

I want you to see four marks of a thriving Christian community and my prayer is, we will strive to adopt all four right here in our church.

I. Devotion to truth and prayer (Acts 2:42–43)

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

A. This is a branding-

Boice is exactly right when he says that a Spirit-filled church is a Bible-studying church

B. This is a beginning –

1. Jesus commanded -Matthew 28:19–20 — *“Teaching them to observe all things...”*
2. Paul instructed - 2 Timothy 4:2 — *“Preach the Word...”*
3. Author of Hebrews warned - Hebrews 10:24–25 — *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves...”*

Truth and prayer go together, that's why the Apostles later said... Acts 6:4 — “We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Wouldn't it be something if people said of our church, “They really love the Bible. They really pray. And when you are among them, you get the sense that God is there”?

II. Distribution to the needy (Acts 2:44–45)

“All who believed were together... and divided them among all, as anyone had need.” This isn't communism or socialism.

A. This gospel generosity – sharing and caring for one another

1. Goods were not evenly distributed but were given as needs arose.
2. Sharing was temporary, voluntary, and motivated by love not coercion. Acts 5:4 — *Ownership still acknowledged prior to giving.*
3. They were showing the gospel reached their hearts, wallets, schedules and stuff.
 - Galatians 6:2 — *“Bear one another's burdens...”*

- 1 John 3:17–18 — *“Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed...”*

A thriving church is a church where burdens do not stay private forever! *Somebody notices. Somebody calls. Somebody brings dinner. Somebody writes the check. Somebody drives the car. Somebody shows up.* 2 Corinthians 8:13–15 — *“That there may be equality...”*

III. Delight around the table (Acts 2:46)

A. Two settings – one body -“Breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.”

These believers did not reduce Christianity to a weekly attendance habit. They lived it daily.

B. Hospitality is not a side ministry for Christians

- Luke 24:30–35 — *Jesus revealed in the breaking of bread.*
- Acts 20:7 — *Church gathered to break bread.*
- 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 — *“As often as you eat this bread... proclaim the Lord's death...”*

A thriving Christian community delights around the table.

IV. Display before the world (Acts 2:47)

A. Notice the order - “Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily...”

Charles Stanley's observation is helpful here: the “one anothers” of the New Testament find concrete expression in a passage like Acts 2.

B. This was not theory. This was Christian truth embodied.

- John 13:34–35 — *“By this all will know that you are My disciples...”*
- Matthew 5:16 — *“Let your light so shine before men...”*

Do you see it? The church's life together is part of the church's witness to the world.

A thriving church that breaks bread together and bears burdens together becomes a display of the gospel before the world.

Conclusion: Acts 2:42–47 only happens because Acts 2:37–41 happened first. People repented, believed, were baptized, and were added.

The church that breaks bread together exists only because Christ's body was broken for us.