

The Results Of Pentecost

Acts 2:42-47



Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- It was created by the will of God and by the power of God
- God had not filled His creation with purpose describing it as formless, empty, darkness, desolated, deserted.

Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- So God begins to fill His creations with purpose
- Separating light and darkness, Separating space from earth, Separating water from land, Creating plants and creatures to fill His creation

Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- Lastly, God created mankind to take care of His creation and multiply over all the earth

Genesis 1:31 NIV God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning

- In essence God is saying, “This is what my creation looks like and needs to fulfill My purpose for it”.

On the day of Pentecost God created His church with the same care, devotion and detail that He did in Genesis

- This little group of believers grew from 120 to over 3,000 people in a single day
- The Apostles knew this band of believers was the body of Christ on earth
- They also knew this band of believers needed to be disciplined so they could mature and become strong disciples of Jesus

On the day of Pentecost God created His church with the same care, devotion and detail that He did in Genesis

- As we read the scriptures this morning, think about what these new believers in Jesus would need to know to begin maturing

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

These scriptures are a snapshot of the first days of the church of Jesus Christ

- The first thing to notice, there is no command to follow exactly what this new church did
- This was a very unique time for the church that cannot be replicated exactly the same
- We no longer have Apostles performing wonders and miracles
- God's Word is complete today

These scriptures are a snapshot of the first days of the church of Jesus Christ

- God needed these converts kept close and taught so they can spread the gospel to wherever they came from
- They met daily in the temple to be taught
- God took care of their needs by selecting those to sell their possessions – not everyone

These scriptures are a snapshot of the first days of the church of Jesus Christ

- He was also freeing those up to become missionaries to other areas – think Barnabas
- This is a unique time in the church, but there are principles that we can pull out from this time that are still necessary for any congregation to be the body of Christ where planted

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
- Luke tells us they “devoted” themselves
 - Devoted – To be + to remain steadfastly with someone
 - Carries the idea of motion or moving toward someone in a determined pace

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- What were the apostles teaching?
 - How to be a better parent, spouse, person?
 - How to grow a church?
 - How to get rid of anxiety, fear, anger?
- All of these have their place, but what is the focus in this teaching?
 - Me or us, mankind

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- The apostles had one goal and that was to teach these people about the person and work of Jesus Christ
 - Using the words Jesus had spoken to them
 - Using their eye-witness experiences
 - Using the Old Testament, showing the Messiah all throughout history

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- They needed to know who Jesus was, what Jesus had done, the Holy Spirit He has sent to them and the promises He has left them
 - It is all about Jesus and it still is

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- They would have heard
 - **John 14:6 ESV** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”
 - **John 17:3 ESV** And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- **John 1:1 ESV** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Out of an understanding of Jesus, we can begin to live out lives of purpose as God created for us

They placed a high priority on the teaching of the Word of God

- They were moving in the direction of devotion to the apostles' teaching
 - Not the apostles

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship
- **Colossians 1:13-14 NIV** 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- Not to fellowshiping but to the church of Jesus Christ and all those in it

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- Fellowship is Greek word, Koinonia
 - We have no English equivalent
 - The word means an intimate sharing of one's self with another completely
 - To have a oneness with another

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- To have a oneness with another
 - Oneness = the fact or state of being unified or whole, though comprised of two or more parts
 - Singleness, unity, harmony

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- To have a oneness with another
- **John 17:22-23 NLT** 22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.
- Notice we have a oneness with one another, with Christ and with the Father

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- Notice we have a oneness with one another, with Christ and with the Father
 - There is to be a oneness of common core beliefs, purposes and goals
 - It is through this unity of faith that the world will know that God sent Jesus and we are loved by God
 - There is only one God, one Messiah, one plan of salvation, one work of salvation, one faith

They became devoted to the Kingdom of the Son

- Just imagine how important this was and still is for us today
- 3,000 new converts with all their various teachings and beliefs
- It would have blown apart if they were not unified to “the fellowship”

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread
- Luke could be referencing sharing of meals together in home, but mostly they were devoted to the sacrificial death of Jesus by observing the Lord's Supper
- Mostly it is referencing the finished work of Jesus Christ

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- **1st Corinthians 10:16-17 NLT** 16 When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? 17 And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- KJV The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?
 - Communion (KJV) and Sharing in (NIV) is the word koinonia
 - Sharing together intimately

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- There is one cup of wine shared, one loaf of bread broken and shared
- All this to show “we are one body” with Christ as the head
- When you look at what is important in your life, nothing can have more significance than the work of Jesus Christ

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- It is not just to be remembered, but lived every day of our lives
 - It is the one thing that bring purpose and meaning to our lives
 - It is the one thing that is to define us most of all
 - It is to be the cornerstone of our lives

The cornerstone of their devotion was the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

- **Ephesians 2:19-20 NLT** 19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

They devoted themselves to fellowship with God through prayer

- **Acts 2:42-47 NIV** 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer
- Since we have a oneness with God, we must nurture that relationship by spending time with Him allowing Him to train how we think, live, respond to life

They devoted themselves to fellowship with God through prayer

- This is time in His Word as God talks to us
- It is time in praise and worship directed towards God
- It is a time of sharing our heart, questions, hurts, desires...ourselves
- So many times, our prayers are nothing more than asking God to do something we want but we fail to listen to what He is saying to us

They devoted themselves to fellowship with God through prayer

- We fail to seek His face
 - **Psalms 28:8 NIV** My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.
 - **Psalms 28:8 NLT** My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.”

They devoted themselves to fellowship with God through prayer

- **Romans 8:26-27 NLT** 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

What can we expect when these four guiding principles are woven into a congregation?

- A sense of wonder and excitement as we witness God working
- Joyfulness being in God's presence and seeing hearts and homes changed
- Sincere heart of knowing who you are and why you are

What can we expect when these four guiding principles are woven into a congregation?

- Favor with those not in the church as they witness our love for one another
- The Lord bringing others into His kingdom as they experience the wonder of a church on fire for Jesus

What can we expect when these four guiding principles are woven into a congregation?

- It doesn't start with a better pastor, better programs, bigger buildings, dynamic outreach programs...
- It starts with each of us dedicating ourselves to the Word of God, the unity of Fellowship, Remembering the work of Jesus and spending time nurturing our relationship with God through Jesus
- Will you dedicate yourself to this path today?

Old Hymn, "Lord, I'm Coming Home"

I've wandered far away from God
Now I'm coming home
The paths of sin too long I've trod
Lord, I'm coming home

I've wasted many precious years
Now I'm coming home
I now repent with bitter tears
Lord, I'm coming home

Old Hymn, "Lord, I'm Coming Home"

I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord
Now I'm coming home
I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy word
Lord, I'm coming home

Coming home, coming home
Nevermore to roam
Open wide Thine arms of love
Lord, I'm coming home

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