

October 1, 2023  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**Fellowship: S1E3 – Modeling The Early Church**  
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**Acts 2:42-47**

**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. **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.

**Key Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Idea: The unity and attraction of the early church was found in the regularity and routine of their relationships.**

**1. The early church practiced an every day faith.**

**2. Gladness, sincerity and praise were magnetic characteristics of the early believers.**

**1. The early church practiced an every day faith. Vs. 46 Every day** they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

- The first century believers used relationships as their tool to turn rote religion into radical faith.
- The faith of the first-century church was not confined to their sacred spaces; it was a constant presence in their daily actions, attitudes, and affairs.

**2. Gladness, sincerity and praise were magnetic characteristics of the early believers. Vs. 46b**

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.

- **Gladness, sincerity, and praise were manifestations of the Holy Spirit.**
  - Gladness, sincerity, and praise were not a personality trait of the early church, but a supernatural and spiritual infusion of God's spirit-filled nature.
  - **Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
    - **Gladness:** ἀγαλλίασις, -εως, ἡ (ἀγαλλιᾶω), **not used by secular writers;** exultation, extreme joy: [Luke 1:14, 44](#); [Acts 2:46](#); [Jude 1:24](#); [Hebrews 1:9](#) (from [Psalm 44:8](#) ([Ps. 45:8](#))) oil of gladness with which persons were anointed at feasts ([Psalm 23:5](#)), and which the writer, alluding to the inaugural ceremony of anointing, uses as an emblem of the divine power and majesty to which the Son of God has been exalted.
  - **The nature of God is contrary to the Pagan culture:**
    - **Colossians 3:5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

**Practical Takeaways:**

- 1. Practice Everyday Faith.**
- 2. Cultivate Gladness, Sincerity, and Praise.**

**Small Group Questions:**

1. **Everyday Faith:** In the early church, they practiced an "every day faith." How can we integrate our faith into our daily lives in practical ways? What are some challenges we face in doing so, and how can we overcome them?
2. **Characteristics of Gladness and Sincerity:** The early believers were known for their gladness, sincerity, and praise. How do these characteristics reflect the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives? How can we cultivate these qualities in our own lives and within our church community?
3. **Community and Unity:** The early church had everything in common, and they met together regularly. What can we learn from their sense of community and unity? How can we foster a similar sense of togetherness and mutual support in our church or small group?
4. **Relevance to Today:** How does the early church's model of fellowship and faith apply to our lives today? Are there specific situations or challenges in our modern context where we can apply the principles discussed in the sermon?
5. **Impact on Outreach:** The sermon mentioned that the early church's practices attracted others to the faith. How can our lives and fellowship as a group be a witness to those around us? What can we do to make our faith and community more appealing to those who may be seeking spiritual connection?