

# 4

## RESTORATION & REFRESHMENT

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ACTS 2:42-3:26



Jesus has returned to heaven before the very eyes of the astounded disciples. Matthias has been chosen to replace Judas. The Holy Spirit has descended upon the earth with great power and in ways that cannot be explained away by the religious leaders. Thousands are coming to Jesus. The believers of Jesus are together in love and fellowship, meeting each other's needs. Yet, instead of the world rejoicing and embracing with open arms all the good things the Lord is doing, resistance begins to build.

### THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST AT WORK (2:42-47)

1. In Acts 2:42, Luke describes what some have regarded as the four marks of the church<sup>1</sup>: the *apostle's teaching*, the *common life*, the *breaking of bread*, and the *prayers*. How do these marks depend on each other? What risk does the church face if any one of these is absent or neglected?
2. How else did the early church Christians express their common life in practical ways (2:43-47)?

#### KOINONIA

*Koinonia* (from the Greek *koinos*, 'common') refers to the fellowship we share as a Christian community (2:42). Our fellowship is rooted in our shared Savior, Jesus Christ, and is seen and felt as we share our possessions to meet one another's needs as generously as Jesus did in order to meet ours.

<sup>1</sup>The **CHURCH** is important to us because it is important to Christ. Christ founded the church (Matt 16:18), purchased it with his blood (Acts 20:28), and intimately identifies himself with it (Acts 9:4). The church is the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12, 27), the dwelling place of his Spirit (Eph 2:18, 22), and the chief instrument for glorifying God in the world (Ezek 36:22-38; Eph 3:10). It is God's instrument for bringing both the gospel to the nations and a great host of redeemed humanity to himself (Luke 24:46-48; Rev 5:9).

3. In light of Luke's description of the church's life together, in which aspect(s) does our church need to grow? How can you help?

## A MIRACULOUS HEALING (3:1-10)

Luke began his 2<sup>nd</sup> volume on the Acts of Jesus of Nazareth by stating his intention to record the things Jesus *continued to do and teach* after his resurrection (1:1-2). He's told us "many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles". Acts 3:1-10 gives us a dramatic example.

4. In 3:3, the beggar asked for money, but Peter and John met a different need. According to 3:8-13 and 4:4-14, what purpose did his physical healing serve?
5. Why didn't Peter and John just give him money or offer him salvation in Jesus? How might 3:1-10 inform our understanding of our mission as a church?

## THE MESSAGE OF THE MIRACLE (3:11-26)

6. Make a list of the titles Peter gives to Jesus in his sermon. How do they help us understand Peter's good-news message?
7. According to 3:19-26, what three blessings result from repentance and turning to God? How have you seen those results of repentance in your own life?

### REPENTANCE

The New Testament word for 'repentance' means a radical change of mind and heart for new views and values that show Jesus is Lord. It is always presented in Scripture as the path of restoration to God's favor. Its absence leads to ruin. Repentance is not a work we do but a gift Jesus gives to all who believe on his name.