

## Acts- Church Afire! “The First Church, Acts 2:42-47”

Sermon Summary & 5-Day Devotional Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 By Rev. Paul Hudson

### Sermon Summary

This sermon presents a clear and timeless blueprint for a Spirit-filled, flourishing church based on Acts 2:42-47. Coming just after Pentecost, the passage describes the birth of the church, which grew from 120 to 3,000 people in a single day—not through strategy or spectacle, but through the power of the Holy Spirit working among devoted believers. While modern mega-churches are often criticized, the sermon emphasizes that size is not the issue; spiritual vitality is. Without the Holy Spirit, even the most impressive church becomes spiritually empty.

The early church was marked by deep devotion, not casual participation. Acts 2 identifies five core functions that shaped its life: teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer, and evangelism. These functions form the essential blueprint for any church that desires to thrive. A church that is faithfully devoted to these practices and empowered by the Spirit cannot die.

First, the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching—what we now understand as the whole Bible, both Old and New Testaments, interpreted through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit brings Scripture to life, revealing the resurrected Christ and producing transformed lives. Second, they practiced true fellowship (*koinonia*), which involved sharing resources, burdens, joys, and lives—not merely social interaction. Generosity and mutual care were central to their community. Third, worship stood at the heart of church life through communion and praise. The breaking of bread replaced the old sacrificial system and centered worship on Christ’s saving work. Fourth, prayer functioned as humble dependence on God, inviting His peace and guidance into every situation. Finally, evangelism flowed naturally from the church’s Spirit-filled life. By living as salt, light, and the fragrance of Christ, the believers gained favor with the people, and God added to their number daily.

In conclusion, the sermon calls the church today to return to this Spirit-empowered blueprint—devotion to Scripture, genuine fellowship, vibrant worship, faithful prayer, and unforced evangelism—so that the church may truly live afire.

### Key Takeaways

#### **-A church can grow big and still be Spirit-filled.**

The first church became a mega-church in one day—not through hype or politics, but through faith-filled believers empowered by the Holy Spirit. Size isn’t the problem; spiritual vitality is the issue.

#### **-The church lives or dies by what it is devoted to.**

The early believers weren’t casually interested—they were devoted to teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer, and evangelism. A church cannot flourish if its devotions drift from this Spirit-given blueprint.

#### **-The Apostles’ teaching is the whole Bible centered on Christ.**

The early church didn’t follow personalities or opinions; they devoted themselves to Scripture—Old and New Testaments interpreted through Jesus. The Holy Spirit turns biblical teaching from dead text into living truth.

#### **-True fellowship is shared life, not surface connection.**

Biblical fellowship (*koinonia*) means generosity, shared burdens, shared joy, and real friendship. When the church truly cares for one another, the Spirit’s power is released among the people.

#### **-Spirit-empowered churches naturally reach the world.**

Evangelism in the early church wasn’t forced—it flowed from worship, prayer, community life, and favor with the people. When the church becomes salt, light, and the fragrance of Christ, God adds to their number daily.

# 5-Day Devotional

## Day 1 – Devoted to the Word

### Scripture: Acts 2:42

The early church was not built on personalities, preferences, or popular ideas—they were devoted to the apostles' teaching. This teaching was rooted in everything Jesus said and did, and it formed the foundation of what we now have as the whole Bible. Scripture was not treated as optional or supplemental; it was central to their life together.

What made their devotion powerful was the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit revealed the risen Christ through the Word, turning teaching into encounter and information into transformation. When believers devote themselves to Scripture, the Bible becomes more than a religious book—it becomes the living voice of God shaping hearts and lives.

### Reflection:

*How devoted am I to God's Word, and how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to listen more closely?*

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## Day 2 – Devoted to Fellowship

### Scripture: Acts 2:44–45

Biblical fellowship goes far beyond casual conversation or social connection. The early church practiced *koinonia*—a deep sharing of life, resources, burdens, and joys. They saw one another as family, not competitors, and generosity flowed naturally from love.

This kind of fellowship required sacrifice and vulnerability. They gave not because they were forced to, but because the Spirit had united their hearts. When the church lives this way, no one is forgotten, and the love of Christ becomes visible through everyday acts of care.

### Reflection:

*Who is God calling me to love more intentionally within the church community?*

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## Day 3 – Devoted to Worship

### Scripture: Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 11:26

Worship in the early church was centered on Jesus—especially through the breaking of bread in communion. Each time they gathered at the table, they remembered Christ's sacrifice and proclaimed His death and resurrection. Worship kept the gospel at the center of their shared life.

## 5-Day Devotional

Along with communion, they praised God with glad and sincere hearts. Worship was not about performance or style, but about gratitude, surrender, and joy. When the church worships together, hearts are lifted, faith is renewed, and God is honored.

### **Reflection:**

*Is my worship rooted in gratitude for Christ's sacrifice, or has it become routine?*

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## Day 4 – Devoted to Prayer

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42; Philippians 4:6–7

Prayer was a constant rhythm in the life of the early church. Through prayer, believers acknowledged their dependence on God for direction, provision, and strength. Prayer kept them humble and reminded them that the church belongs to God, not to human effort.

In prayer, they brought their anxieties, needs, and hopes before the Lord. God responded with peace and guidance, guarding their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. A praying church is a trusting church—one that leans fully on God.

### **Reflection:**

*What am I carrying that God is inviting me to bring to Him in prayer today?*

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## Day 5 – Devoted to Mission

**Scripture:** Acts 2:47; Matthew 5:13–16

Evangelism in the early church was natural and Spirit-led. As believers lived with joy, generosity, and integrity, they gained favor with the people around them. Their lives became a testimony, and God added to their number daily those who were being saved.

They brought the presence of Christ into everyday spaces—public gatherings, homes, and community life. By living as salt, light, and the fragrance of Christ, the gospel became both visible and compelling. The mission of the church flowed from who they were, not just what they said.

### **Reflection:**

*Where has God placed me to be salt and light this week?*