

Supernatural Loving Community

The city of Jerusalem gave birth to the church - The hope of the world. Acts 2:1-41

- 120 prayed - Noise like a rushing wind - Tongues of fire - Filling of the Holy Spirit.
- 3,000 believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and became part of the fellowship.

The church: Defined by a single-minded devotion to a certain course of action. Acts 2:42

- **Devoted** *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching."*
 - God's Word is a priority in every healthy Christian's life. 1 Peter 2:2
- **Devoted** *"to fellowship"*: Partnership, sharing, commonality - Expect to sacrifice.
 - Depth of fellowship is possible through our connection to the Godhead. 1 Jn. 1:3
- **Devoted** *"to the breaking of bread"*: A unifying force - The Cross - Grace - Hope.
- **Devoted** *"to prayer"*: Jesus promised to hear them and show up in big way. Acts: 4:31

God's presence showed up in the city and everybody knew it - "a sense of awe." Acts 2:43

- Caution! (1.) Don't treat God like Santa Claus. (2.) Don't put God in a man-made box.

A supernatural loving community personally commits to costly fellowship. Acts 2:44-45

- *"they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all."*
- Sacrificial generosity: It's simply what we do because of Who we know. 1 Jn. 3:16-18

A Supernatural Loving Community: Experiences great joy - Impacts their world. 2:46-47

- Personally knowing God and experiencing vital fellowship produces joy. Act 2:46
- *"the Lord was adding...day by day those who were being saved."* Acts 2:47

Further Study and Pondering:

1. What part of the birth of the church most excites you? Most confuses you? Why?
2. Are you more likely to (1.) Treat God like Santa Claus? (selfishly exploit and use Him) or (2.) Put Him in a man-made box? (put limits on His power that He never intended)
3. Acts 2:42 - What do you think was key to the early church's continual devotion?
4. Further study on the primacy of Biblical truth: (Psalm 1:1-6; 119:105-112; Joshua 1:6-9; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 1:5-16; 1 Peter 2:1-3)
5. Personal evaluation: Do an honest appraisal of how important God's Word is to you.
6. Further study on authentic fellowship: (Rom. 12:16; 13:8; 14:19; 16:16-18; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:1-3; 4:25-32; 5:18-21; Phil. 2:1-8; Col. 3:9-17; 1 Thess. 4:9-12; 5:11-13; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:9-10; 5:5)
7. Prayer: Ask God to help you evaluate your connection to the Lebanon Free Church body. Are there corrections to be made or positive steps He's asking you to take?

Defined by Jesus - Committed to one another!