



December 2, 2015
Acts 2:42 - 3:26
Pastor Gary Hamrick

Exegetical Study

1. **Acts 2:42-47** - *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*
 - a. The Foundation of the Early Church
 - i. Pastor Gary said, “**Acts 2:42** is foundational to everything that we do here at Cornerstone Chapel. And frankly, it’s my opinion that it should be fundamental to what every church does, but I’m not sure that it is.”
 - ii. God’s Word
 1. They devoted themselves to teaching the Word of God, which at that time were the Scriptures that make up the Old Testament.
 - a. There are more than 300 prophecies about the first coming of Jesus Christ, and there are more than 3,000 prophecies concerning his second coming.
 2. Pastor Gary said, “As the apostles were explaining the Scriptures, [particularly to the Jews at first, they were explaining how Jesus could be found throughout the Scriptures]. ... As for the apostles’ teaching, Paul, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote about two-thirds of the New Testament, [plus other writers like Peter, John, and Matthew]. [All of these writings make up the New Testament.] ... We have the [complete Word of God], which is why we put a heavy emphasis on teaching the Bible... because it

was one of the first and most fundamental things about the early Church. And if we want to follow as closely as we can to the pattern and example of the early Church, [we need to focus on the Word of God].”

iii. Fellowship

1. The Greek word for fellowship is *koinonia*, and it has a greater meaning than just casual acquaintances; it speaks of a relationship through the common bond of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.¹
2. People met “*in the temple courts*” and “*in their homes*,” which speaks of corporate and small group meetings.
3. Pastor Gary said, “The significance of having fellowship on a small group level is important. ... You will never get to know someone and share common experiences, and pray for each other, and encourage each other, and dig out Scripture with each other... if you’re just passing from one service to the next. ... We need to be intentional about this.”

iv. Communion

1. Breaking bread together is a reference to communion, which some churches call the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist (a Greek word that means thanksgiving).²
2. A communion service helps us remember what Christ has done on the cross, and the bread and the juice represent his body and his blood.

v. Prayer

1. Pastor Gary said, “Prayer [should be an important] part of our lives, and it should be an important [part] of the life of our church. Prayer is probably the most underutilized privilege that we are given. ... I’ve never met a person who told me that they have prayed too much... It’s always the opposite. We always know that we should pray more. We always know that we should seek the Lord more, and more than just because we have needs. We should come and seek his face in order to [just] listen.
2. The Jews had three prayer times each day: 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., and each time they spent one hour in prayer!
 - a. The Jews’ model for prayer included fifteen minutes of **meditation** on God, thirty minutes of **petition**, and fifteen minutes of **adoration**. (Emphasis added)
 - b. **Matthew 21:13** – “*‘It is written, [Jesus] said to them, ‘ ‘My*

¹ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G2842&t=NIV>

² <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G2169&t=NIV>

house will be called a house of prayer...' " " ³

b. God did miraculous signs and wonders, added people to the church, and saved souls, and these produced in people the following things:

i. The fear of God – [Acts 2:43](#)

1. Pastor Gary said, “Fear is a tricky thing, because if you fear God in the wrong way, you will never approach him, and you’re going to be afraid of him, [as though] he’s always out to harm you. [A] healthy kind of fear is awesome reverence and respect and holy fear of God because he is pure and perfect and mighty and glorious in all of his ways. ... If you have a healthy understanding of grace then, you will also have a healthy understanding of the fear of God. ... [This isn’t] a crippling fear; it [needs to be] a reverential kind of fear.

ii. Generosity toward others – [Acts 2:45](#)

1. Pastor Gary said, “This is not a verse that encourages socialism. ... The church was made up exclusively [of Jews] in the first ten years... [In the first century you would] have been instantly shunned and rebuked and alienated from your family. Your family would disown you. Orthodox Jews [then and now, especially Hasidic Jews... would hold a funeral service for anyone who embraced Christianity]! ... They pooled their resources together for survival. ... This isn’t a pattern [for all Christians].”

a. The Bible teaches us to have a good work ethic.

i. [2 Thessalonians 3:10](#) – “... *If a man will not work, he shall not eat.*”

ii. [1 Timothy 5:8](#) – “*If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*”

iii. Friendship within the church – [Acts 2:44, 46](#)

iv. Worship of God – [Acts 2:47](#)

2. [Acts 3:1-10](#) – “*One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, ‘Look at us!’ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and*

³ Jesus quoted [Jeremiah 7:11](#)

began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

- a. This account records the first miracle in the early Church.
- b. [Acts 4:22](#) tells us that this man was over forty years old.
- c. Many Bible scholars believe the gate Beautiful is the Golden or Eastern gate, which faces the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley.

3. [Acts 3:11-26](#) - *“While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: ‘Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has gloried his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people. Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”*

- a. In [Acts 3:23](#), Peter quoted from [Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19](#).
- b. In [Acts 3:25](#), Peter quoted from [Genesis 22:18; 26:4](#).
- c. Peter seized the opportunity to boldly preach the gospel, and [Acts 4:4](#) tells us that many people came to faith in Jesus!
 - i. [Acts 4:4](#) - *“But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.”*
- d. Peter gave a similar message in [Acts 2](#).

- e. Peter's message helps us understand three wonderful things that happen for everyone who repents and believes.
 - i. The Lord will completely wipe away the record of our sins!
 - 1. [Isaiah 43:25](#) - *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."*
 - 2. The Lord is not forgetful, but the remarkable truth is that he will never hold our sins against us when we repent.
 - ii. The Lord will bring times of refreshing, peace, and contentment.
 - iii. The Lord will come into our lives.