

## Four Marks of the Spirit-filled Church

### Acts 2:42-47 ESV

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1) The spirit-filled church is a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

2) The spirit-filled church is a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

3) The spirit-filled church is a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

4) The spirit-filled church is a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

*And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved!*



EMPOWERED  
WITNESSES



By Dan Eckley 9/18/2021

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**Open:** Look up the definition of “devoted.” What are some things you are devoted to—and why?

**Read & Discuss:** Acts 2:42-47.

1. We’re told in verse 42 that these early believers were “devoted” to participation in the life of their church family. What do you imagine motivated them to live this way? How devoted should a Christian be to his or her local church community? Why?
2. Verse 42 describes various practices of the early church. How would you put each of these practices in your own words?
3. We’re told the early church was devoted to “fellowship” (v. 42). How might *fellowship* be different from *socializing*? (See also *Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:24-25*.) What’s necessary in order for Christian fellowship to occur? What aspects of life today work against Christian fellowship? How might we overcome these?
4. What in this passage suggests the early church was characterized by joy? What can we do to help cultivate such an attitude in our church family?
5. The work of the Holy Spirit in these early believers changed their attitude toward the importance of personal possessions. How do you see that reflected in this passage? What should this look like in the church today?
6. According to verse 47, these believers had “favor with all the people.” What aspects of their lifestyle might have caused them to have favor with their neighbors? Is it possible for Christians today to enjoy such favor in our community—and if so, how?
7. Verse 47 says it was God who “added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” If growth is God’s work, why do we still need to strategize for ministry? How do we avoid thinking growth is of our doing, while still maintaining a responsibility to participate?

**Application:** What are some specific things that you *personally* could do to help Neighborhood Church become more like the church family we see in Acts 2:42-47?

**Prayer:** Pray that Neighborhood Church would become a fruitful, Spirit-filled community of believers.

## **Acts 2:42-47.**

<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (ESV)