

Restoring the Spirit of the Early Church

Acts 2:41-47

Introduction:

- A. We recognize the importance of restoring New Testament Christianity.
 - 1. Speak fondly of the “restoration movement” in this country.
 - 2. Have generally succeeded in restoring *doctrine*, *worship* and *structure* of early church.
- B. We will not restore NT Christianity and growth until we restore the spirit of the early church.
- C. The Jerusalem church exemplifies the spirit that we need to restore.

Discussion:

I. The Spirit of Steadfastness (v. 42).

- A. Steadfast in worship and work (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).
- B. Steadfastness of purpose and action too often missing.
 - 1. Shows up in hap hazard attendance.
 - 2. Shows up every phase of church work.
 - 3. Shows up in our daily devotion to God.

II. The Spirit of Reverence (v. 43).

- A. “Fear” (phobos) in sense of reverence and respect. (Cf. Eph 5:33 KJV, ASV, NKJ).
- B. Irreverence rampant in many worship services and Bible classes.
 - 1. Show little regard for the One being worshiped.
 - 2. Show little regard to the dignity of the occasion — funerals get more respect.

III. The Spirit of Togetherness (v. 44).

- A. Together spiritually and physically (v. 46).
 - 1. Were together in temple (place of worship).
 - 2. Were together from house to house.
- B. Few have time or inclination for this today.

IV. The Spirit of Sacrifice (v. 45)

- A. Willing to sacrifice all they had.
 - 1. Money (goods) (cf. 4:32-34).
 - 2. Time (v. 46).
 - 3. Freedom (5:17).
 - 4. Life itself (Stephen)
- B. Contrast that with today.
 - 1. Will sacrifice little time or money benefit church.
 - 2. Basically throw the Lord the crumbs of their time and money.

V. The Spirit of Evangelism (v. 47).

- A. No daily additions without daily evangelism.
- B. A spirit that compelled them to speak (4:18-20).
- C. A spirit not confined to preachers (apostles) (cf. 8:1,4).
- D. A spirit that did not demand a church-organized effort.
 - 1. Did more than just what was planned and supported collectively.
 - 2. Each person felt a need to share the good news of the gospel.
 - 3. By contrast, we wait for special efforts of church, then do not support them.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us work to restore NT Christianity — in its entirety.
- B. Let us catch the spirit of the early Christians — grow as they did.
- C. Let each begin where they began (vv. 37,38,41).