

*The Life of the Apostle Peter*  
Study # 27

**The Souls at Pentecost**  
**Part II: The Results of Pentecost**  
(Acts 2:42-47, selected)

**I. A Serious Faith**

**A. Their Practices (42)**

- 1. Faithful in Doctrine**
- 2. Faithful in Fellowship**
- 3. Faithful in Prayer**

**B. Their Power (43)**

**C. Their Persistence (42,46)**

**D. Their Praise (47A)**

**E. Their Prospering (47B)**

**II. A Serious Fellowship**

**A. Sharing of Things (44-45)**

**B. Sharing of Themselves (selected)**

- 1. They Studied Together (42)**
- 2. They Worshiped Together (42)**
- 3. They Ate Together (42)**
- 4. They Prayed Together (42)**
- 5. They Pulled Together (44)**
- 6. They Praised Together (47)**
- 7. They Reached Out Together (47)**
- 8. They Reaped Together (41,47)**

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Prayer (1:24)**
- 2. Preaching (1:15; 2:14)**
  - Bible based. (2:16, 25)**
  - Christ focused. (2:22 ff.)**
- 3. Serious Bible Study (2:42)**
- 4. Serious Unity (2:44)**
- 5. Readiness to Hear the word (2:37)**
- 6. Obedience to the Word (2:42)**

**“In the Temple”**

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.

With these words this marvelous chapter comes to a close. Luke pointed out the everyday nature of the church's meetings. Believers were gathering both in the temple (that is, in large groups, possibly for apostolic teaching) and in their homes (at least to celebrate the Lord's Supper and, presumably, for fellowship, the sharing of needs, and prayer).

A common misconception about the first Christians (who were Jews) was that they rejected the Jewish religion. But these believers saw Jesus' message and resurrection as the fulfillment of everything they knew and believed from the Old Testament. At first the Jewish believers did not separate from the rest of the Jewish community. They still went to the temple and synagogues for worship and instruction in the Scriptures. But their belief in Jesus created great friction with Jews who didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Thus, believing Jews were forced to meet in private homes for communion, prayer, and teaching about Christ. By the end of the first century, many of these Jewish believers were excommunicated from their synagogues.

**There is nothing  
more unchristian  
than a solitary  
Christian.  
John Wesley**

**ALIVE AND GROWING**

The Jerusalem church experienced both qualitative and quantitative growth. Eager for this same result, many church leaders flock to church growth seminars. It would be wiser to concentrate on church health. Why? Because it is the nature of a healthy organism to grow. When a church body emphasizes strong worship and solid biblical teaching in an atmosphere of true fellowship mixed with consistent evangelism, it will be healthy. And a healthy Christian community will attract people to Christ. What are you doing to make your church a healthy place that will draw others to Christ? *LIFE APPLICATION COMMENTARY*