

**Turn in your Bible to Acts 2:36-47**

Acts 2 is God's 'birthing' of the church—that Jesus said He would build & Satan cannot destroy (Matt. 16:18).

**The church that we see birthed in Acts 2 was a life-giving Church.**

What is a "Life-giving" church? What does it do? What does it not do? How does it affect people?

What are its purposes and objectives? What are the people like who are a part of a 'life-giving' church?

**Read Acts 2:36-47**

Acts 2:41 reveals that the church God birthed was a life-giving church: over 3,000 people found life in Christ.

Acts 2:42 notes that it was devoted to 4 things: Apostolic teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread & prayer.

This morning we want to see the significance of what it meant for them to be devoted to the breaking of bread.

The phrase '*breaking of bread*' probably referred to the church's practice of sharing the Lord's Supper often.

2:46 notes that they meet together in a large assembly at the temple and also in small groups in their homes.

When they would meet in homes, they would often eat a meal together and then partake of the Lord's Supper.

The reason for their observing the Lord's Supper often was that they were totally dependent on Jesus Christ.

Another way of saying this is that the early church TREASURED JESUS:

**Life-giving churches treasure Christ.**

**1. Life-Giving Churches are Spirit-filled NOT drunk with alcohol.** Acts 2:1-21 God-Praising

2:1 **Pentecost:** 50 days from Firstfruits (Jesus' resurrection).

Jesus appeared alive for 40 days (1:3) & ascended (1:9) NOW 10 days after Jesus' ascension--Spirit comes!

Passover Redemption: Sin paid, Judgment passed over Jesus' death

Unleavened bread Sanctification: Sin is evil, Jesus' body did not decay

Firstfruits Resurrection: Promise of more to come: Jesus rose from the dead

Pentecost Origination: Start of the harvest Jesus' established church by Spirit

2:1 **Disciples waited together...** in obedience to Jesus' command (1:4-5)

2:2-3 **Baptized by the Spirit—MIGHTY RUSHING WIND 1 Cor. 12:13** Made members of Jesus' body=church

2:4 **Filled with the Spirit...spoke in tongues** (tongues=known, understandable languages)

2:6,12 Crowds bewildered, amazed, perplexed...How & Why are they praising God in different languages?

2:13 Some mocked...They are drunk...

2:14 **Peter's answer:** NOT drunk but God is fulfilling His prophetic words in Joel 2:28-32: Poured four His Spirit!

**Life-giving churches are filled with Spirit-filled believers who give supernatural Praise:**

With unlearned languages they praise God...

In the midst of difficulty/persecution (4:8) they praise God...

**Eph. 5:18-21 Giving God thanks for all things—even the tough, difficult things, trusting Him for it? ARE YOU SPIRIT-FILLED?** Prerequisite: continuous conscious choice of your need, submission, ASK!

**2. Life-Giving Churches are bold-witnessers of Christ NOT men-pleasers.** Acts 2:22-41 God-Proclaiming

**God planned the events of Jesus' death/resurrection: God is for sinners because of His gracious love for them.**

2:22-23 God did mighty works through Jesus. God sent Jesus by His own plan/purpose.

4:27-28 God appointed Heord/Pilate/Gentiles/Israel to accomplish His purpose—God predestined to occur

**Mankind crucified Jesus: God doesn't love us because we are lovely--we are sinners deserving God's judgment**

2:23 You crucified and killed Jesus through the hands of the Romans

2:36 this Jesus whom you crucified

3:13-15 You delivered over & denied Jesus in Pilate's presence & asked for a murderer and killed the Author of Life

4:10 ...Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified

5:30 You killed by hanging Him on a tree

**God raised Jesus up from the dead: God through Christ paid for man's sin & cancelled the power of death.**

- 2:24 God raised Jesus up
- 2:32 God raised Jesus up
- 2:36 God made Jesus both Lord and Messiah
- 3:15 God raised Jesus up
- 3:26 God raised Jesus up
- 4:10 God raised Jesus from the dead
- 5:30 God raised Jesus from the dead

**God's offer: His love is to be proclaimed to all: God saves only those who repent and trust Christ**

2:37-41 Cut to the heart=convicted...What? Repent...believe in Christ...be baptized... forgiveness & the Spirit

**2 Tim. 1:7-10** Are you ashamed of Christ? Do you want to please Christ or people in your life?  
Do you want people's acceptance or their salvation?

**ARE YOU A BOLD-WITNESS FOR CHRIST?**

**3. Life-Giving Churches live 'in-community' NOT in isolation/independence. Acts 2:42-47 God-Expressing**

2:43 They were in awe=fear of what God was doing supernaturally through them!

2:44-45 They spent time together and shared their stuff!

Stuff=possessions: holding with open hands=stewards not owners!

Stuff: we naturally look up (to those with more) with envy and criticism

rather than look down (to those with less) with generosity and thankfulness.

2:46-47 They were worshipping together in the temple and in their homes...

To live in community together we must be: accepting, appreciating, & affirming.

**Phil. 2:3-4** Do you think highly or critically & condemningly of others?  
Do you compare your strengths with others weaknesses?

**ARE YOU 'IN-COMMUNITY'?**

**4. Life-Giving Churches expect to be God's channel NOT insensitive. Acts 3:1-20 God-Revealing**

3:1-7 Peter/John were led by the Spirit to be a channel of God's healing to this man.

There were other times that Peter/John did not supernaturally (by the Spirit) heal the sick.

3:8-10 The miraculous caused a stir—the crowds took note and wanted to know what was going on...

Is God causing a stir through your life to those around you?

3:11-26 Peter boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ, crucified because of our sin but raised by God to save all who believe

**Luke 9:10-17** Disciples saw what they had rather than seeing what they had could become in Jesus' hands.

1. Lord, send the people away so they can find what they need.

2. Lord, use us to meet the people's need--we don't have enough, but You can meet their needs through us.

**ARE YOU EXPECTING GOD TO DO THE SUPERNATURAL THROUGH YOU? PRAYING?**