

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH: LIFE // Acts 2:42-47

Morning message from the series, The Spirit-Filled Church

This week's installment of our study of *The Spirit-Filled Church* discusses what it means to live a spirit-filled life. The local church is comprised of individuals, and the spiritual condition of each individual directly impacts the health of the church as a whole. If we want a spirit-filled church, we must be spirit-filled individuals.

In Acts 2:42-47, we see the picture of a healthy, spirit-filled church. While there are several characteristics that identify a healthy church, we will focus on one in particular: a healthy church is one that is *growing*. Growth in a church cannot happen apart from God. It is only through God and the work of the Holy Spirit that growth occurs.

Main Idea: Growing Christians make for growing churches.

FOUR MARKERS OF A GROWING CHURCH:

1. Hunger for the Bible. (v. 42)

If we simply ask God for a hunger for the Bible, he will create the appetite. As we see in this example in Acts, when we grow in our hunger for the Bible, we also grow in our desire to pursue spiritual disciplines.

2. Power in the Pew (v. 43)

The church in Acts recognized God's supernatural work in the church and in their own lives. Their eyes were open to God's work. A growing church pursues holiness, recognizes the presence of Jesus (divine gravitas), and possesses missional urgency.

3. Fever for the Fellowship (v. 44-46)

Acts 2 depicts a church that desires to be together. They hunger for the Bible, want to see God move, desire to be together – they are doing life together in all ways! A growing church hungers to be, serve, learn, and grow in fellowship with one another.

4. Water in the Baptistry (v. 47)

The type of growth exemplified by the church in Acts is what we would call "Kingdom Growth." This kind of growth refers to people becoming Christians, finding salvation in Christ, or moving from darkness to light.

As we seek to be a spirit-filled church, we are reminded that the health of the church depends largely on the spiritual health of the individuals within the church. In order to be a spirit-filled church, we must be a spirit-filled people with lives totally surrendered to God's control. Let us join together in praying that God would do what only he can in our church and in our lives: help us grow through the work and power of his Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you hunger for the Bible? Have you ever asked God to create in you an appetite for his Word?
2. In what ways have you seen God's supernatural presence and work in our church?
3. What does it mean to you to know that that your spiritual condition has a direct impact on the health of the church?