

AND SO IT CONTINUES

47a ... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people' Acts 2:47a

NUGGET – This is like what happened with Jesus coming in to Jerusalem. Remember the triumphal entry? What happened – all the people, save most of the religious and secular authorities, were rejoicing and happy and praising God for the coming of the Messiah. And yet what comes next is Holy Week and the Passion of Christ. It is the most despicable, and yet the single most indispensable, event in human history since the fall of man into sin.

And here in these verses in Acts we seem to see a similar set of circumstances like when Jesus arrived that last time in Jerusalem. Everyone is happy and rejoicing. We are seeing the growth of the church. And it appears to us as idyllic because the description says that they were 'enjoying the favor of all the people'. And yet, what is to come soon is persecution and eventually the displacement of the Christians as well as most of the Jews in the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans. In other words this is not permanent.

The point is that what we see described in these verses ([43-47](#)) is not a blueprint but a snapshot. Of course those who lived at that time could tell you how much joy there was but they could also tell you of the heartache and sadness that followed.

But through both joy and sorrow what we will see on this journey through Acts is a blueprint. And that blueprint in [verse 42](#) – describes the devotion of the followers to:

- the teaching of the apostles
- the fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- and prayer

These are the things that remain constant. These things don't change even though circumstances and public opinion do change. These are the things that God used to bring about the growth that we see in the nugget verses. And it's what He continues to use throughout history down to today. This is how *they* were Hearing, Sharing and Living the Gospel.

But let's not diminish what happened in these weeks and perhaps months as it's described. (*Though we know from reading through Acts that there will come division and deceit, unrest and poverty to the church*) This is the initial bursting forth of the gospel from the one person to another. This is the time of growth and laying down the roots of the Church. It is the building-up of the church of Jesus Christ that we are witnessing.

Jesus is using this time to build His church on the [confession of St. Peter](#) that – Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is the Gospel of God. And that is the only thing that gives the growth, always has, always will.

APPLICATION -

1. Do a survey of your daily schedule or routine. What sort of time is in there that is devoted to 'the teaching of the apostles' and to prayer? Consider adding a scheduled time of devotion into your daily calendar.
2. Do a second survey, of your checkbook. What resources, devoted to the support of 'the fellowship and the breaking of bread,' are seen there? Again consider how that might be improved to reflect the gifts God has given to you.

PRAY – Above all, ask God to guide you in how to use the time and resources He has gifted you with so that the devotion and joy God takes in *you* is reflected in your life.