

# Acts of the Apostles

## Peter—the 1st Sermon on the Resurrection!

2:31-33

**31** Seeing what was to come, he [David] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah....

**32** GOD HAS RAISED THIS JESUS TO LIFE, and we are all witnesses of it.

**33** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



Saint Peter, circa 1612  
by Rubens (1577–1640)

chapters

- 1 Stand by Me
- 2a You Light Up My
- 2b *He's Alive*
- 2b United
- 3 Placed
- 4a Emboldened
- 4b Accountable
- 5 Worthy
- 6 Serving
- 7-8 Baptizing
- 9a Calling
- 9b Healing
- 10-11 Including
- 12 Praying



# Happy Father's Day



Sometimes the STARS just line up ...

Sometimes the Planets just line up ...

Something AMAZING takes place ...

AGT – America's Got Talent has  
morphed into a **GIFT to Humanity**

When or IF a contestant gets the  
**GOLDEN BUZZER**, they are  
automatically pushed into the **FINALS**

**DURING** the **BREAK**—Live TV *off*—  
audience members can sing or shine

**THEN** an 11-year-old girl  
**STEALS** the Show



Woodville  
First Baptist  
Our Church  
*UNITED?*



# United

*alternate lesson title . . .* **Peter—the “Preacher?”**



**St. Peter by Rubens**



**St. Peter by Michelangelo**  
altar wall of Sistine Chapel  
part of large scene of Last Judgment



# Church United

## Peter—the “Preacher?”



St. Peter by Rubens



- ✓ Peter’s longest message in Acts ... most important too
- ✓ I suspect Peter’s was surprised by his own boldness
- ✓ ALL that had come before – NOW the Spirit FILLED
- ✓ Perhaps Peter felt like Jeremiah (20:9)

But if I say, “I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,” his word is  
in my heart like a fire,  
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;

*indeed, I cannot.*

- ✓ Perhaps Peter recalled when Jesus said in Luke 19:40  
“If the people be silent, even the ROCKS will CRY OUT”
- ✓ So many irrefutable PROOFS ... Peter’s clarity SHINES

**Don Francisco**

**Recorded this in 1977**

**I remember well when it  
hit the Christian airways ...**

**A magnificent ballad ...**

**In this video—*PETER***



# Early Church

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary</i>
June 2	1	Stand by Me	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	You Light Up My Life	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	Unified, Devoted, Shared . . .
June 23	3	Placed	Peter Speaks after Healing Lame Man
June 30	4a	Emboldened	Peter Speaks to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	Accountable	Ananias & Sapphira
July 14	5	Worthy	Peter Arrested, Gamaliel
July 21	6	Serving	Seven Chosen & Stephen
July 28	7-8	Baptizing	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	Calling	Paul Blinded, then SEES
Aug 11	9b	Healing	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	Including	Peter's Vision— <i>EAT</i>
Aug 25	11-12	Praying	Peter Freed from Prison



# Early Church in Acts—Very *UNITED*

June 16, 1858, 1,000-plus delegates met in the Springfield, Illinois, statehouse for the Republican State Convention.

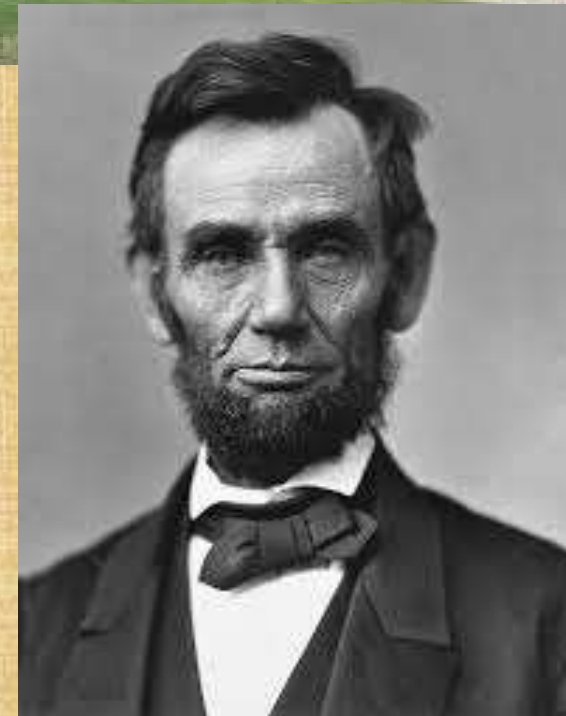
At 8:00 p.m., their candidate for the U.S. Senate rose to speak

Abraham Lincoln began:

**Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention.**

**If we could first know *where* we are,  
and *whither* we are tending,**

**we could then better judge *what* to do,  
and *how* to do it....**

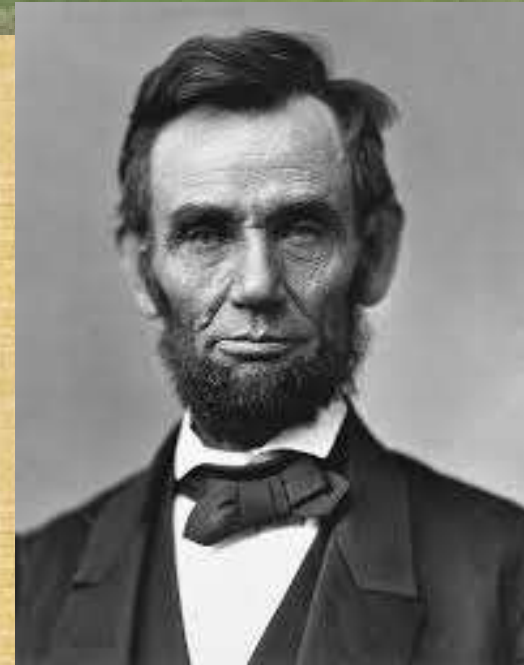




June 16, 1858, 8 p.m. – Abraham Lincoln on slavery

We are now far into the *fifth* year,  
since a policy was initiated,  
with the *avowed* object, and *confident* promise,  
of putting an **END** to slavery agitation.

Under the operation of that policy,  
that agitation has not only, *not ceased*,  
but has *constantly augmented*.



June 16, 1858, 8 p.m. – Abraham Lincoln on slavery

In *my* opinion, it *will NOT* cease,  
until a *crisis* shall have been reached, and passed.

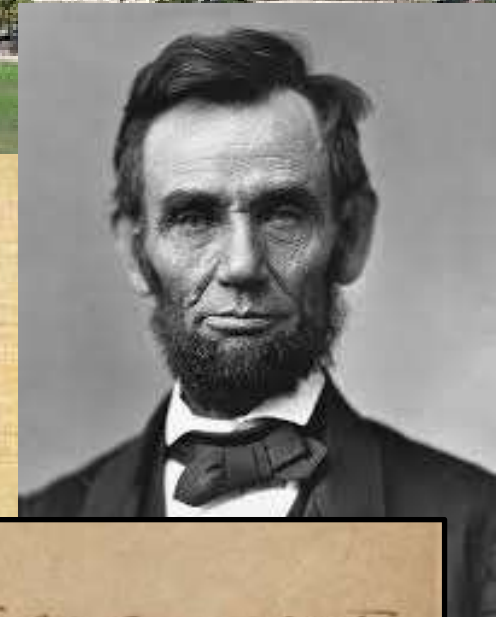
“A house divided against itself **CANNOT** stand.”

I believe this government cannot endure,  
permanently half *slave* and half *free*.

I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* –  
I do not expect the house to *fall* –

but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other....



*bits of the real question—*  
“A house divided against itself can not  
stand”

# House Divided

Give examples of a house divided

▶ Who likes division?

▶ Who likes conflict?

▶ Why fight?

▶ *Don't give me "T'is our nature"*

**Spoiler Alert** – there will not be a *full* answer this side of heaven



*hint, hint ... whisper ... usually,  
conflict involves PAIN*



**sometimes  
conflicts**

**can be  
pretty**

**BIG**





*Paul W. Tibbets  
Col. USAF  
Pilot, The Enola Gay*

**pain**

**Can  
be  
pretty**

**BAD**





**Resolution  
can come  
HEAVY**

***unified?***



**really good for the winner**

# Early Church Began ***UNIFIED*** ... in Peace

## Chapter 2

**14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection**

**41 Baptized – 3,000 Added to “Their Number that Day”**

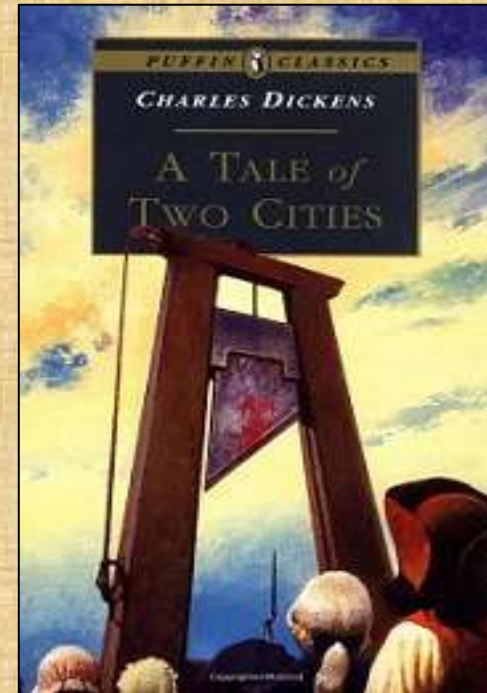
**42-47 Unified, Devoted, Shared, Broke Bread—“Lord Added”**

It was the best of Times, it was the worst of Times,  
it was the age of Wisdom, it was the age of Foolishness,  
it was the epoch of Belief, it was the epoch of Incredulity,  
it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness,  
it was the spring of Hope,  
it was the winter of Despair....



**French Revolution got Napoleon & the guillotine**

**American Revolution got Washington & a Constituion**



from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)

## **2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection**

**A REVOLUTION was underway in Jerusalem – Church Triumphant!**

**14 Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice ...**

**“Fellow Jews ... listen carefully....**

**15-16 not drunk.... the prophet Joel:**

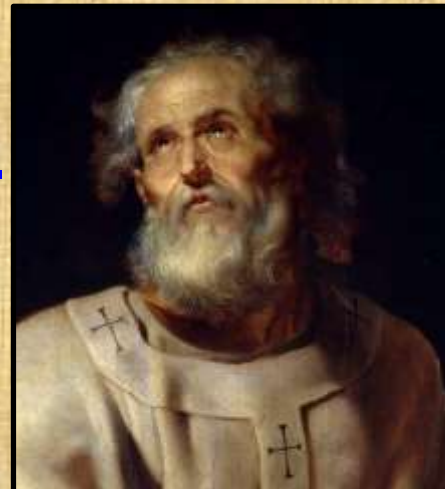
**17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.**

**Your sons and daughters will prophesy,**

**your young men will see visions ... old dream dreams.**

**18 Even on my servants, both men & women,**

**I will pour out my Spirit in those days ... prophesy.**





## **2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection**

**19 I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

**20 The sun will be turned to darkness ... moon to blood  
before the coming of the great & glorious **Day of the Lord.****

**21 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'**

**Peter—disciple & apostle with a LONG history  
with His Lord & Savior**

**Imagine IMAGES of the last four years FLOOD his mind**

**Peter has to speak ... MUST speak ...**

**Or even the Rocks will Cry Out**





**2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection**

**22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this:**

**Jesus of Nazareth was**

**a man accredited by God to you by miracles ...**

**you KNOW**

**23 ... God's deliberate plan ...**

**wicked men put him to death...**

**Peter's history included his VIVID recollection**

**Of the cruel crucifixion ... and**

**his own three-fold denial**





## 2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection

24 But God raised him from the dead,  
freeing him from the agony of death, because it was  
impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

25-27 David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand....

my heart is glad ... my body also will rest in hope,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life....

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently

“*Confidently*” INDEED – history has been BURNED

**into Peter's SOUL**







## **Article VI. The Church.**

**A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.**

**Mat 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27;  
Acts 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom 1:7; 1Co 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12;  
Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Php 1:1; Col 1:18; 1Ti 3:1-15; 4:14.**

Augustus H. Strong, *Systematic Theology: A Compendium ...Designed for ... Theological Students* (Griffith & Rowland Press, 1907; 1,166 pgs) – download **FREE** here:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=Uq4PAAAAIAAJ>

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# Our Church



## **2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection**

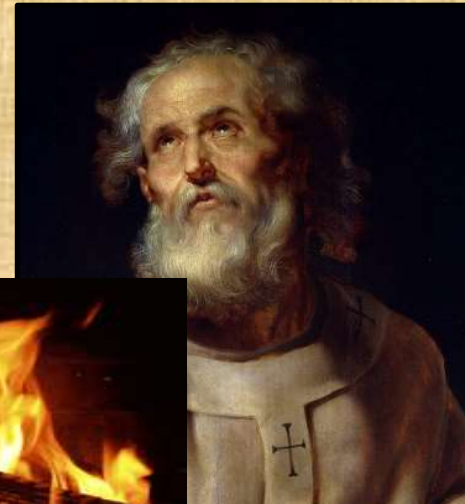
**29** “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

**30** But he [David] was a prophet & knew God had promised him ... place one of his descendants on his throne.

**31** Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

**32** God has raised this Jesus to LIFE, and we are all witnesses of it.

**Peter was on FIRE**





## 2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection

32 God has raised this Jesus to LIFE,  
and we are all witnesses of it.

33 Exalted to the right hand of God ... received from the Father  
... Holy Spirit ... poured out what you now SEE & HEAR.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, yet he said,  
“The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand....

36 “Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this:

God has made this Jesus, whom YOU CRUCIFIED,  
both Lord and Messiah.”

37 When the people heard this,

You understand ... all the believers were  
*FILLED* with the Holy Spirit—especially Pete



## 2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection

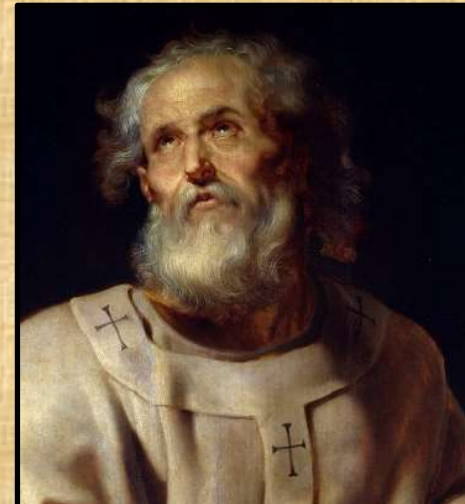
37 When the people heard this,  
they were cut to the heart and said to Peter ...  
“Brothers, what shall we do?”

Read ... and reread this chapter ...

### What is “**The Message**”?

- ✓ How Jesus was crucified and ROSE from the DEAD ...
- ✓ How Jewish leaders crucified Jesus
- ✓ How Jesus was glorified and
- ✓ How ALL saw him raised from the Dead—**ALIVE**

# ALIVE





## 2:14-40 Peter's Sermon on the Resurrection

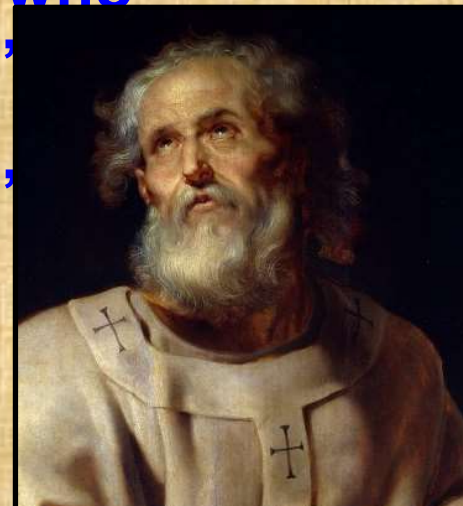
37 When the people heard this,  
they were cut to the heart and said to Peter ...  
“Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.  
And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who  
are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many OTHER WORDS he ... pleaded with them,  
“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

What “**SINS**”? – among others, they **CRUCIFIED** Jesus



## **2:41 Baptized – 3,000 Added to “Their Number that Day”**

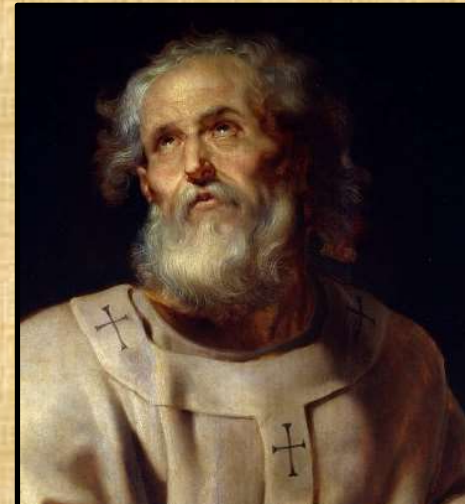
**So those who accepted his message were baptized,  
and that day about 3,000 were added to them.**

**And they devoted themselves**

- 1 to the apostles’ teaching,**
- 2 to the fellowship,**
- 3 to the breaking of the bread, and**
- 4 to the prayers.**

**What was the “Apostles’ teaching”?**

**Read Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1&2 Peter**





# Church BORN – Acts 2

Apostles' Teaching

Fellowship

Breaking of the Bread

Prayers

Love

Forbearance

Faithfulness

Joy

Kindness

Gentleness

Peace

Goodness

Self-control

*What happened?*

**Against such things there is no law.**

Galatians 5:22-23

**Fruits of the Spirit**



**Gifts of the Spirit**

**Tools to produce fruit**

# Church Begins – Acts 2:41-42

How shall we live?

Inventory fruit?

Possible? Are these all?

Can one *analyze* fruit?

Should we?

Love

Joy

Peace

Forbearance

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

**Against such things there is no law.**

**Galatians 5:22-23**



# Character—Sum of Virtues

**Navy Core Values:** Honor ~ Courage ~ Commitment

**Plato's Four Virtues:** Wisdom, Self-Restraint, Courage, and Justice

**Aristotle added to Plato's 4:** Generosity, Truthfulness, Wit, Magnificence, Friendliness, Greatness of Soul

**Apostle Paul's 20 virtues:** 1. Love, 2. Compassion, 3. Kindness, 4. Humility, 5. Gentleness, 6. Patience, 7. Tolerance, 8. Forgiveness, 9. Gratitude, 10. Wisdom, 11. Peace, 12. Righteousness, 13. Joy, 14. Endurance, 15. Hope, 16. Goodness, 17. Faithfulness, 18. Self-Control, 19. Purity, 20. Understanding

**Ben Franklin's 13 Virtues:** 1. Temperance, 2. Silence, 3. Order, 4. Resolution, 5. Frugality, 6. Industry, 7. Sincerity, 8. Justice, 9. Moderation, 10. Cleanliness, 11. Tranquility, 12. Chastity, and 13. Humility

For **31 LISTS** of virtues from  
31 separate persons/organizations

[www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Character.pdf)

*Character Counts—Freemasonry Is a National Treasure and a Source of Our Founders' Constitutional Original Intent* (2010): [www.PreciousHeart.net/fm](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/fm)



# Church Begins – Acts 2:41-42

## The Analyst is *IN*

Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis

eHarmony.com

Minnesota Multiphasic Inventory

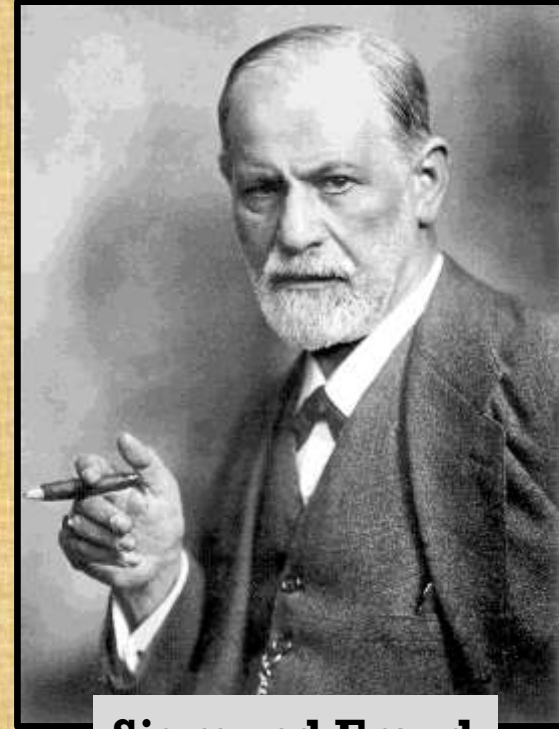
... *ad infinitum* ... *ad nauseum* ...

Likely 1,000s

of course, *study to show thyself approved!*

2 Timothy 2:15

*the point being ....*



Sigmund Freud



Lot of ways to look at Virtues and Fruits of the Spirit

... a lot of ways to look at **Christian Love**

# Church Begins – Acts 2:41-42

Apostles' Teaching  
Fellowship  
Breaking of the Bread  
Prayers

Love

Forbearance

Faithfulness

Joy

Kindness

Gentleness

**Fruits of the Spirit**

Peace

Goodness

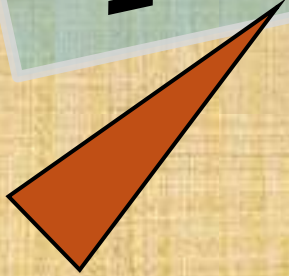
Self-control



Doing these results in

**Against such things there is no law.**

Galatians 5:22-23



**Gifts of the Spirit ... are**

**Tools to Produce Fruit**





## **2:43-47 Unified, Devoted, Shared, Broke Bread—“Lord Added”**

**43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.**

**44-45 All the believers ... everything in common.... sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.**

**46 Every day they continued to meet ... courts ... homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,**

**47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.**

**And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

**Because He's ALIVE**







**2:43-47 Unified, Devoted, Shared, Broke Bread—“Lord Added”**

**Church BORN in Acts 2 – as Unified *as it ever shall be***

**Until that Day of the Lord ... when Christ returns ...**

**What place do YOU have in the UNITY of Your Church?**



**Because**

**He's ALIVE**

