

Devotions of a Healthy Church
Nate Akin – Guest Speaker
5.5.24

Text: Acts 2:41-47

Main Idea: God uses the devotion of the local church (the faith community) to advance His Kingdom

Devotion 1: Devoted to the Gospel (V. 41)

*The gospel is for our justification and sanctification. Thus, the gospel creates more and deeper disciples. So, we must know how to apply it to our lives.

Devotion 2: Devoted to the Bible (V. 42)

* The Bible is our sufficient authority for life, faith, and doctrine.

Devotion 3: Devoted to prayer (V. 42)

Samuel Chadwick: *The one concern the devil has is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray*

Devotion 4: Devoted to the Church (to one another) (V. 43-46)

A) Mean church membership

B) Unity (V. 44)

C) Care (V. 45)

D) Worship (V. 46)

E) We must then be in each other's lives daily

One commentator said the result of the early church's life together: *“Just like their Lord, this young community of faith was now growing in wisdom and favor and stature with both God and man”*

Devotion 5: Devoted to multiplication (V. 47)

* We must share the gospel and make disciples

Aristides in the 2nd Century: *“Now the Christians O king, by going about and seeking have found truth, for they know and trust in God the Maker of heaven and earth who has no fellow, from Him they receive those commandments which they have engraved on their minds and which they observe in the hope and expectation of the world to come, they refuse to worship strange gods, and they go their way in all humility and cheerfulness, falsehood is not found among them, they love one another, the widow’s needs are not ignored, and they rescue the orphan from the person who does him violence, he who has gives to him who has not unbegrudgingly and without boasting...they do not call brothers those who are bound by blood ties alone, but those who are brothers after the Spirit and in God...If they find poverty in their midst and they do not have spare food they fast two or three days in order that the needy might be supplied with the necessities. Every morning and every hour they praise and thank God for His goodness to them, and for their food and drink they offer thanksgiving. Such O’ king is the commandment given to the Christians and such is their conduct.”*