

Back to the Future Church

October 4, 2009 – Jeff Gunn

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47, NIV)

Ancient _____ and _____ for today's church.

"They devoted themselves..." –

- to _____ to (with strength)
- to be _____ to one
- to be steadfastly _____ to
- to continue all the time, to _____

¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer... (Acts 1:14, NIV)

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32, NIV)

²⁴Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. (Acts 1:24, NIV)

³⁸Peter 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. (Acts 2:38, NIV)

1. The ancient church was fully _____ to God and to one another.

There are four wildly important _____ the ancient church devoted themselves to pursuing:

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV)

- _____

¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:11-13, NIV)

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²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26, NIV)

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³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31, NIV)

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2. The ancient church's devotion was _____ on wildly important goals.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. (Acts 4:32-35, NIV)

3. The ancient church's devotion was _____ by God with amazing health and strength.

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Self-examine your devotion quotient. Is your personal relationship with Christ healthy and strong?
- Analyze the time you invest in the four "wildly important goals." In Christ, God has blessed you already. He will bless you more!
- Meditate on and memorize Acts 2:42.