



Jason K. Boothe

The Marks of a Spirit-Empowered Church

A Gospel Reflection on Acts 2:42-47

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Immediately after Pentecost, the newborn church in Jerusalem displayed a beautiful portrait of what happens when the Holy Spirit grips a people in Gospel grace. Acts 2:42-47 gives us a divine snapshot of what a Spirit-empowered church looks like.

The early believers devoted themselves with stubborn persistence to four essential things: the apostles' teaching (the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection), genuine fellowship (*koinonia* – deep sharing in the life of Christ), the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper), and prayer. Their devotion was energized by the power of the Holy Spirit, whose power was poured out in full measure on the Day of Pentecost

A holy awe came upon every soul as God's presence was powerfully felt among them, confirmed by signs and wonders through the apostles. This wonder flowed from the gospel that had already seized their hearts.

Their unity produced radical generosity. They held all things in common, selling possessions and distributing to those in need, compelled by the love of Christ. This generosity was the fruit of grace, not guilt, the result of faith working by love.

Day by day they worshiped together in the temple and broke bread in their homes with glad and generous hearts, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. Their joy was the natural overflow of souls satisfied in Christ.

Most importantly, the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Growth was not the result of clever programs or marketing, but the sovereign work of God building His church.

What does this mean for us today? We must resist chasing the latest church-growth fads and instead devote ourselves to the same essentials: the faithful teaching of Scripture, authentic Christian fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and earnest prayer. Such a church life cannot be manufactured by human effort—it is the fruit of the gospel taking root in regenerated hearts empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, let us examine our own hearts. Has our devotion to God's Word waxed cold? Do we make meaningful fellowship with one another a serious priority? Are our possessions truly surrendered to the King who bought us with His blood, or do they possess us in our pursuit of more and more? May the same Spirit who empowered the early church fill us with a love for God's Word, fresh awe and reverence for God's working power, joyful generosity, and bold dependence on God in all things!

Let us pray that the Lord would deepen our devotion, renew our wonder, and add daily to our number those who are being saved for the glory of Christ alone.



*At the heart of Redeemer's ministry is the pastoral leadership of **Jason K. Boothe**, who serves as pastor of Redeemer Church in Piketon, Ohio. Known for his warm, Gospel-centered preaching and careful exposition of Scripture, Pastor Boothe consistently points listeners to the finished work of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the Christian life. His ministry emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ, the comfort of God's promises, and the assurance believers have through faith alone. Through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, he seeks to help ordinary people see the extraordinary grace of God at work in His Word and in their daily lives.*

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