



Decade of Availability Prophetic Praise & Prayer

Church: *Being to each other what
He has been to us!*

The church as it was meant to be in
Acts is made up of people who
were devoted to four things.

Acts 2:41-47 (NKJV)

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Teaching

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Fellowship

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Breaking Bread

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Prayer - Praise

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

A. Teaching vv. 42; 43 (See message # 7) The Church is "...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Eph. 2:20

B. Fellowship vv. 42; 44-45 (See Message #8) In the Church there is, "...one body, and one spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all..." Eph. 4:4-6.

C. Breaking of Bread (See message #9) vv. 42; 46

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.

He who comes to Me shall never hunger,

and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

D. Praise and prayer vv. 42; 47 (Today's Message # 10)

The early church was a praying and praising Church. Praise and prayer in the book of Acts can be described as 'prophetic praise and prayer.'

1. What is prophetic praise and prayer? I am using 'prophetic' here as contrasted with 'programed.' At Pentecost the church received a 'prophetic' commission. This was not something that could be programed, rather it was inspirational, spontaneous, and Spirit directed.

-Spontaneous praise at Solomon's Porch Acts 4:24

-Spirit directed prayer for Tabitha Acts 9:36-42

-Inspired intercession for others Eph. 1:15-19

-Spontaneous passion for others Eph. 3:14-21

2. What is programed praise and prayer? The Old Testament is full of both prophetic and programed praise and prayer—mostly in the book of Psalms. These songs or psalms started out as 'prophetic' and then became a part of the tradition of the Jewish people.

-The Halal Psalms 113-118 were sung by the Jews coming out of exile and sung as part of the feast of Tabernacles and other celebrations. These Psalms were processional and often sung with instruments (See Psalm 150:3-5).

3. What is the balance of prophetic and programed prayer?

Prophetic Praise and Prayer

Response to God's presence and provision
In response to the Spirit's leading
In the market place—or any other place
Praying the Word as it comes to your mind
An attitude of prayer—living the Lord's prayer

Programed Praise and Prayer

Directed prayer for God's presence and provision
Planned prayer walk (Spiritual warfare)
The church gathered Mark 11:17
Praying through the Bible
A habit of prayer—praying the Lord's prayer

4. What will result from spirit directed prophetic and programmed praise and prayer?

-Favor: The early church experienced great favor with the people but not with the city and religious leaders. That is still often the case.

-Church growth: Only God can grow His church. But the natural result of a church that prays and praises God is that it will grow.