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“The Marks of a Spirit-filled Church”
Acts 2:42-47
SERIES: Stretch Your Nets (Acts) – #9

WBC Sermon Notes 28/03/2021
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**Introduction**
What would you consider are the marks of a Spirit-filled church? Spectacular worship, a packed out church, people speaking in tongues? In Acts 2, the Jerusalem church was unequaled in its spiritual attractiveness and effectiveness. For this church to survive in Jerusalem was no small feat. To change lives, to stem corruption, and to witness to hostile Jews in a Roman province was no small challenge. *What was the power that drove this church, with so many young Christians?*

The multitude had come under deep conviction (v37) and the Apostle Peter challenged them to repent and be baptized (v38). Baptism was a traumatic step for any Jew, but they put their stake in the ground. Commitment to Jesus implied commitment to the ‘Jesus community’ – the church (v41), and those who embraced the message were baptized.

The church should be concerned not just to make ………………………. who get eternal benefits, but about making Spirit-filled ………………………………..………… who are on mission with God (Matthew 28:18-20) !!

**Reading: Acts 2:37-41**

**What are the marks of a Spirit-filled church?**What does the presence and power of the Holy Spirit practically look like?

**1. The first mark: ENLIGHTENED……….……………………… (v42a)**

God opened their minds. They were hungry for the …………………………!
Being filled with God’s Spirit and being filled with the ………………………….
go together!

* Colossians 3:16-17

Where the Spirit of God reigns, a love for God’s ……………………… reigns.
The backbone of a healthy Christian life is …………………….
A Spirit-filled church is always going to be a ………………. - ………..………. church.

* 1 Peter 2:2

John Phillips: “Experience must always be tested by our doctrine,
 not doctrine by experience”

The Apostles …………………….. became the unchanging, unshifting foundation, the bedrock of the church.

* 1 Corinthians 3:11

Martyn Lloyd Jones on the Christian’s desire for the Word:
*“Wanting to listen to the WORD is inevitable if men and woman are born again and have become Christians. A baby has an instinct for milk. He wants it! He is alive and wants the mother’s milk, and rightly so. The point is clear. One simply cannot be a Christian and have no desire for a knowledge of this truth -- it is impossible.”*

A Spirit-filled church is a L………………………….. church!

**2. The second mark: ENERGISED……….……………………… (v42b)**

Lives became Christ-shaped.

The Apostle’s teaching and ……………………………….. are closely related.

The word for fellowship – “KOINONIA” - speaks of a unity in the Spirit and the bond of peace.

This kind of fellowship never happened before Pentecost, when the Spirit came upon believers. The word “koinonia” never occurs in the Gospels.

The idea of fellowship: sharing or having in common.

Two sides of the fellowship coin:

* It speaks of what we SHARE ……………… - together
* 2 Corinthians 13:14
* 1 John 1:3
* It speaks of what we SHARE ……………… - together

Fellowship in giving

* 2 Corinthians 8:4 – fellowshipping in an offering
* 2 Corinthians 8:5 Why was that?
*“And not only did they do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us, because it was the will of God.”*

A Spirit-filled church is always a ………………………….. CHURCH.

**3. The third mark: ENGAGING……….……………………… (v42c)**

The deeper they dug into the ……………….. of God, the higher their hearts soared in worship.

* John 4:42

A Spirit-filled church is a ……………………………………. CHURCH.

**4. The fourth mark: EMPOWERED………………………… (v42d)**

A Spirit-filled church is a ……………………………………. CHURCH.

**5. The fifth mark: ENRICHED……….…………………..… (v44-46)**

* Matthew 6:19-34

A Spirit-filled church is a ……………………………………. CHURCH.

**6. The sixth mark: ENFLAMED……….…………………..… (v47)**

A Spirit-filled church is a ……………………………………. CHURCH.

**Where the Spirit reigns, we relate:…**

* To the WORD – in ……………………….
* To EACH OTHER – in Koinonia – …………………….
* To GOD in …………………….. and ………………………
* To the KINGDOM in …………………………
* To the WORLD – in …………………………………….