

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – February 6 - 11
Doing Life Together – A Church Empowered

MONDAY: Matthew 10:20; Acts 4:7; Luke 1:41

KEY VERSE: Acts 4

OBSERVATION By the time we come to the fourth chapter of the book of Acts, we must realize that there are thousands of believers in Christ who are gathering together at Jerusalem. Here, in the latter part of Acts 4, we get a glimpse at the characteristics of the early, empowered church. In some ways this could be considered a “State of the Church Address.” These characteristics of the early church should be sought for today.

TUESDAY: 1 John 3:14; Jeremiah 32:39; Philippians 1:27

KEY VERSE: Acts 4:32

OBSERVATION: They had believed The common beliefs held by all brought unity to the early church. 1. They believed that Jesus died for their sins 2. They believed that Jesus had risen from the dead 3. They believed that Jesus had been exalted at the right hand of God 4. They believed that Jesus had commissioned them to go forth 5. They believed that He would return again

WEDNESDAY: Romans 8:9; Acts 1:8; Luke 24:48

KEY VERSE: Acts 4:33

OBSERVATION: The persecution the apostles suffered from the Jewish Sanhedrin drove them to their knees, and the Holy Spirit drove them to their feet. All saved men and women possess and can be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit. They witnessed with power. Witnessing is not something we do for the Lord; it is something He does through us if re filled with His Spirit. They witnessed of the Resurrection. Buddhists point only to a statue. Hindus point to thousands of objects. Environmentalists point to the planet Earth. But Christians point to a cross and an empty tomb.

THURSDAY: 2 Corinthians 13:4; Romans 15:19; 2 Corinthians 12:9

KEY VERSE: Acts 4:33

OBSERVATION: Grace means “undeserved favor or a forgiveness that is not earned.” In this verse the word grace means “favor.” They possessed the favor of God and He was blessing their preaching. They exhibited the favor of God The acknowledgment of and appreciation for God’s grace was their motivation in all they said and did.

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 2:45

KEY VERSE: Acts 34-35

OBSERVATION: God’s grace experienced inwardly is never far separated from an outward expression of God’s love. Giving was an expression of God’s love By giving to the needs of fellow believers, they demonstrated an understanding of the love God had shown to them by giving His only begotten Son. Giving was not because of obligation As we have had special projects over the years I have encouraged our members not to give if they felt pressured. Compelled giving is not a mark of a Spiritfilled believer.

SATURDAY: Philippians 1:5; Hebrews 10:25

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:42-47

OBSERVATION: Our text gives us a snapshot of a healthy local church, the first church after the Day of Pentecost. It was not a perfect church, since it was made up of people. We will later see some of the problems they encountered. But God was at work in their midst. As we have seen, Acts is the record of what Jesus continued to do and teach through His people after His ascension. On the Day of Pentecost, He called to Himself (2:39) 3,000 souls, so that the church began with 3,120 members! Now we read, “the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (2:47). Jesus Himself was at work in this church! This snapshot shows us the marks of a healthy church so that we can measure ourselves by it and seek to follow its example.