

“INSIDE, UPSIDE, and OUTSIDE”

What Should I Do—Part 6

Acts 2:42–47

**What we believe in our hearts will define how we live and who we become.
What we believe matters!**

**Key Idea: I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God’s purposes
in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world.**

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:42–47

1. What’s on the Inside?

A. Teaching

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

—2 Timothy 2:2

AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

—Mark 12:30

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 12:2

Accurately teaching the Word of God is **the basis** for any growing church.

You can’t grow on what you **don’t know**.

“Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.”

—Spurgeon

B. Fellowship

You can lose **the joy** of fellowship when you’re not participating.

C. Breaking Bread

Where do all Christians come together? **At the cross.**

The cross is our **symbol of unity.**

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

—1 Corinthians 10:16–17

D. Prayer

For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete.

—2 Corinthians 13:9

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding

—Colossians 1:9

Praying individually and together is **critical** to what’s happening on the inside of the church.

2. What’s the Upside of the Inside?

A. It’s an awesome church.

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

—Acts 2:43

Now as He [Jesus] approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, “Do not weep.” And He came up and

touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!"
—Luke 7:12–16

B. It's a church of miracles.

At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.
—Acts 5:12–16

God has performed one of the greatest miracles in the universe—He **made you a new creature!**

C. It's a sharing church.

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.
—Acts 2:44–45

Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints
—2 Corinthians 8:1–4

D. It's a joyful church.

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart praising God and having favor with all the people.
—Acts 2:46–47

Our unity has **impact**.

3. Take the Upside to the **Outside**

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:47

The only One capable of true conversion is **God Himself**.

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

—Romans 10:9

Application—What Should I Do?

1. **Fellowship with other believers** to keep your relationship **with God strong**.
2. **Fellowship with other believers** to keep your relationships **with others strong**.
3. **Fellowship with other believers** to accomplish **God's will** on earth.

Don't go it alone.

We're doing this already, but **as a church let's recommit** and say this is what we will do:

- **Teach** the Word of God
- **Fellowship** with one another
- **Break bread** together
- **Pray** individually and together

The church is worth fighting for. Jesus died for the church, and nothing will overcome it.

He [Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

—Matthew 16:15–18