

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

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## Study 6: Portrait of a Healthy Church

**READ** Acts 2:42-47 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The Lord Jesus had promised Peter that after His resurrection He would build His church and the gates of hell should not prevail against it (Matt 16:18). The response to Peter's sermon was astounding (Acts 2:14-36). As a result, the Lord began building His church by adding 3,000 souls. As the church began to meet together, there was a similar outcome as "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (2:47). The question we must answer is, "What were the conditions under which the Lord was pleased to build His church?"

**Big idea:** Christ builds His church through a God-fearing body devoted to learning, loving, worshipping and witnessing.

### Questions:

1. Do you think the church is for believers or unbelievers? Why?
2. What do you think is meant by the "apostles teaching" and what is our equivalent today (see 1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 2:2; 3:16)?
3. What does being "devoted ... to the fellowship" (v. 42) practically look like (vv. 44-46) in the early church?

What are some contemporary challenges we face in imitating this early church community?

What unchanging principles and practical applications can we gain?

4. "The breaking of bread" (vv. 42, 46) most likely refers to the Lord's supper. How does regular remembrance of the Lord's death stimulate worship and sacrifice?
5. What areas do you think HBC needs to grow in? How can you contribute to this?
6. Should we expect conversions daily (v. 47), or weekly, or is this unusual? What in us would hinder God sending revival?
7. The four conditions God used to build his church were: (1) growing in Christ through His Word, (2) loving others through radical generosity, (3) worshipping God and (4) witnessing to the lost. Is it possible to get out of balance on any of these four conditions? What might this look like?

Notice the reverence experienced by this community toward God: "and awe came upon every soul" (v. 43). How does this attitude stimulate those four conditions through which Christ builds His church?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Praise:** God that the success of Christ's church is not ultimately dependent on man  
**Thank:** God for His grace displayed through the sacrifice of His people to each other  
**Pray:** for a deeper devotion to God's Word, God's people and God's world