**BEHAVIORS THAT LEAD TO BLESSINGS**

**Acts 2:42-47**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44* *Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46* *Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.* *Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:42-47)

**THE BIG IDEA: God’s people experience the blessings of God when they are devoted to His Word, to fellowship with other believers, to breaking bread and praying together.**

***THE EARLY CHURCH DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO:***

**THE APOSTLES TEACHING**

* *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching…”* (Acts 2:42a)
* **The Apostles weren’t teaching their opinions or pep talks; they were expounding on God’s Truth about God’s Kingdom Agenda now given to us in the Scriptures.**
* *“But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching.”* (Titus 2:1)
* **Without sound biblical teaching we end up with social gatherings void of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

***THE EARLY CHURCH DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO:***

**FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER**

* **“The communal nature of the church is reiterated throughout the New Testament and is illustrated by the fact that the epistles, or letters, were written to churches or in reference to churches.” –** Tony Merida
* *“They devoted themselves…to the fellowship…”* (Acts 2:42b)
* **“A disconnected Christian is a disobedient Christian.”** – Tony Evans
* *“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”* (Acts 2:46-47a)
* **We can find joy and support in an imperfect church because we realize we are imperfect people serving a perfect God together.**
* *“And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)
* *“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.”* (Proverbs 27:17)
* **There are more than 50 “one another” passages in the New Testament instructing us on how, and how not, to treat each other. God meant for us to be in this together.**

***THE EARLY CHURCH DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO:***

**THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND PRAYER**

* *“They devoted themselves…to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.”* (Acts 2:42c)
* **Sharing in the Lord’s Supper (Communion) and prayer with each other deepens our bond to one another as we serve on mission for the Lord.**
* *“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts.”* (Acts 2:46)

***THE EARLY CHURCH DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO:***

**RADICAL GENEROSITY**

* *“Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.”* (Acts 2:44-45)
* **Displaying radical generosity to fellow believers and to God’s work shows that the Spirit of God is living in us and leading us.**
* *“If anyone has this world’s goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God’s love reside in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.”* (1 John 3:17-18)
* **The early church understood the blessing of giving generously because they understood God deserves our best.**
* *“Don’t neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.”* (Hebrews 13:16)

***THE EARLY CHURCH DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO:***

**EVANGELISTIC LIVING**

* **The reason the early church grew daily is because every Christian understood and embraced the call to personal evangelism.**
* *“Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)*
* **Evangelism is the call of every Christian, not just the Pastors.**
* *“When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’”* (Matthew 9:36-38)
* **If we want to see the results of the 1st century Church, then we have to do what they did.**
* *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’”* (2 Corinthians 5:20)