

# Being a Healthy Church

God is calling us to Be the church. He desires for our church to be healthy. Take the time to read Acts 2:42-47. This little paragraph gives us great insight into what the early church looked like. Let's look at three characteristics of a healthy church.

**A healthy church is marked by continual devotion to the Lord.** Verse 42 speaks to being devoted to the Lord by being devoted to His Word. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..." This must be foundational because God has chosen to reveal Himself in His written Word. Another aspect of devotion to the Lord is commitment to corporate worship. The second half of verse 42 mentions "fellowship... breaking of bread... prayer." Fellowshiping with other believers, participating in the Lord's Supper, and prayer are integral parts of worshiping with your church family.

**A healthy church is marked by continual devotion to the Lord's people.** Verse 44 says, "And all who believed were together and had all things in common." This verse isn't just speaking of literally being together in the same room. It's addressing the importance of unity. There is a natural unity as we all seek to be devoted to the Lord. Along with this, there is a sense of sharing material things with one another as needed.

**A healthy church is marked by continual devotion to God's work in the world.** Verse 43 talks about everyone being in "awe" over what God was up to. This passage concludes with "And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." A healthy church doesn't just celebrate what God is doing within the four walls of their church building. Rather, its people seek to be part of what God is doing all around them and in the world.

## Discussion Questions

1. Which of the three areas is the strongest in our church and in your life?
2. Which do we most need to work on? How?
3. Is it possible to get out of balance on any of the three priorities? If so, how?