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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the  
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

## Every Day

A Message for Adults

Week of Sunday 9 July, 2017 A.D.  
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 15 Tammuz, 5777

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- **Text:** Acts 5: 42 ASV

Every day, at home, cease not to teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ.

- **Text:** Acts 2: 42 ASV

Continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers.

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- It's been less than two months since the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, after which for forty days Jesus appeared to the disciples and others. He delivered His Great Commission one more time to His disciples (Acts 1:8), then ascended back to heaven. About 120 disciples reentered Jerusalem and gathered to pray. They selected Matthias to replace Judas. The Holy Spirit descended (Acts 2:1). Peter, restored from his fearful denial of Christ, begins to preach one of the most powerful sermons in the

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history of the church. Peter is bold as he preaches Christ and expounds multiple Old Testament passages. That day some three thousand souls are added. The Church of God at Jerusalem is set afire!

- What are four essential ingredients to setting the Church of God afire?
- 1. Biblical Preaching and Teaching

The pattern of the early church is to be “continually devoting themselves” to biblical

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teaching and preaching, which brought them spiritual life in Christ and nourished that life.

- 2. Fellowship

This fellowship, or partnership, is founded upon the common denominator of Jesus Christ. They are enlisted into a group and a cause far bigger than their own selves and their own lives.

- 3. Christ-centered Worship

Breaking bread” is an early church way of

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referring to the Lord's Supper. They followed and practiced this ordinance frequently.

- 4. Fervent Prayer

Immediately, the church is birthed, and just as a newborn child spontaneously begins to breathe and inhale oxygen, so the new church reflexively began to pray.

- What are four essential indicators of a fellowship afire?

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- 1. Spiritual Dynamics

Through wonders and signs (v 43). Every church on fire is marked by a sense of awe and wonder at what the Lord is doing.

- 2. Sacrificial Giving

All—not some—gave sacrificially (v 44–45). They naturally sold their property to meet the needs of other Christians.

- 3. Single-minded Unity

Unity in the early church is true of all churches

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that God is working (v 46).

- 4. Soul Winning

Healthy, vibrant fellowship naturally grows, just as a healthy child naturally grows (v 47).

- You are part of something far bigger than yourself. It preceded you. It goes back to eternity past, when God purposed to save sinners. It flowed through the early church and has been spreading for two thousand years. You must pledge yourself to fulfilling God's plan



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for His kingdom.

- **Text:** Romans 13: 1-2 ASV

Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God.

Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment.

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- The Christian religion was designed to extend throughout the world. Yet it contemplated the rearing of a kingdom amid other kingdoms, an empire amid other empires. Christians professed supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ; he was their Lawgiver, their Sovereign, their Judge. It became, therefore, a question of great importance and difficulty, what kind of allegiance they were to render to earthly magistrates.
- The kingdoms of the world were then pagan

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Kingdoms. The laws were made by pagans, and were adapted to the prevalence of heathenism. Those kingdoms had been generally founded in conquest, and blood, and oppression. Many of the monarchs were blood-stained warriors; were unprincipled men; and were polluted in their private, and oppressive in their public character. Whether Christians were to acknowledge the laws of such kingdoms, and of such men, was a serious question, and one which could not but occur very early. It would

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occur also very soon, in circumstances that would be very affecting and trying. Soon the hands of these magistrates were to be raised against Christians in the fiery scenes of persecution; and the duty and extent of submission to them became a matter of very serious inquiry.

- Many of the early Christians were composed of Jewish converts. Yet the Jews had long been under Roman oppression, and had borne the foreign yoke with great uneasiness. The whole

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heathen magistracy they regarded as founded in a system of idolatry; as opposed to God and his kingdom; and as abomination in his sight. With these feelings they had become Christians; and it was natural that their former sentiments should exert an influence on them after their conversion. How far they should submit, if at all, to heathen magistrates, was a question of deep interest; and there was danger that the Jewish converts might prove to be disorderly and rebellious citizens of the empire.

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- Nor was the case much different with the Gentile converts. They would naturally look with abhorrence on the system of idolatry which they had just forsaken. They would regard all as opposed to God. They would denounce the religion of the pagans as abomination; and as that religion was interwoven with the civil institutions, there was danger also that they might denounce the government altogether, and be regarded as opposed to the laws of the land.
- There were cases where it was right to resist

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the laws. This the Christian religion clearly taught; and, in cases like these, it was indispensable for Christians to take a stand. When the laws interfered with the rights of conscience; when they commanded the worship of idols, or any moral wrong, then it was their duty to refuse submission. Yet, in what cases this was to be done, where the line was to be drawn, was a question of deep importance, and one which was not easily settled. It is quite probable, however, that the main danger was, that the early Christians

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would err in refusing submission, even when it was proper, rather than in undue conformity to idolatrous rites and ceremonies.

- In the changes which were to occur in human governments, it would be an inquiry of deep interest, what part Christians should take, and what submission they should yield to the various laws which might spring up among the nations. The principles on which Christians should act are settled in this chapter. Be subject. Submit. The word denotes that kind of



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submission which soldiers render to their officers. It implies subordination; a willingness to occupy our proper place, to yield to the authority of those over us. The word used here does not designate the extent of the submission, but merely enjoins it in general. The general principle will be seen to be, that we are to obey in all things which are not contrary to the law of God.

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*You are invited to join us!*

*We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching  
and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and  
prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*

*We study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at  
6:30 p.m.*