

Devotion: A Normal Christian Life

Acts 2:40-47

Grace Fellowship Church / Dave Wernz / June 9, 2019

I. The 4 devotions describe the normal Christian life

Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and **the fellowship**, to **the breaking of bread** and **the prayers**.” Devotion isn't complicated: loyalty + affection = devotion

Don't confuse devotion with obligation. This isn't a list of “ought-tos” or “shoulds.” Affection is the key here. Your heart needs to be in it for us to call it devotion.

Sometimes devotion shows up in one huge life changing event, but most often it plays out in a thousand tiny decisions and sacrifices.

II. The purpose of a normal Christian life is worship

Worship is knowing who God really is and loving all that you know about Him!

Isaiah 43:6-7 “...bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.”

All of God's known activities can be traced back to this single, driving motivation of being universally seen for who He truly is and rightfully adored for all of it.

1. Our God is worthy to be worshiped
 - a. Known fully
 - b. Loved completely
2. The 4 devotions in Acts 2 (apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers) are the basic ingredients for a life of worship
3. Our life of worship fulfills a dual purpose
 - a. It shows God's worth-it-ness
 - b. It reveals a portion of God's character and person to anyone watching
4. This is God's plan for revealing Himself and saving the world
 - a. There is no plan B
 - b. We need the Holy Spirit to work the plan

God is actively saving the world through His people living out a lifestyle of worship that will simultaneously reveal His character and affirm His worth-it-ness to the watching universe, thus fulfilling the ultimate purpose of existence.

III. A lifestyle of worship is inconvenient and worth it

Acts 2:44-46 “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes...”

God didn't send His only Son to die for you and then the Holy Spirit to live inside of you so you could have access to supernatural power to make your life more comfortable, easy, and safe! He gave us the Holy Spirit because we need all the help we can get to be the worshipers He created us to be!

A. Uncomfortable impact

1. Their devotion messed up their calendars
2. Their devotion interrupted their cash flow
3. Their devotion jeopardized their private property and personal space
4. Their devotion dominated their relationships and conversations

Our uncomfortable inconveniences will probably not be identical, but our devotion should impact similar categories. Remember, Acts is a lot about description not prescription.

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”

~*What's Wrong With The World* by G.K. Chesterton

Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

B. Guaranteed results

1. Joy in you
2. Praise for Jesus
3. Salvation for many

Luke 9:24 “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

We were created for a life that shouts to the universe for eternity, “He is worth it!”

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

1. What are you devoted to right now?
2. Which of the 4 Devotions from Acts 2:42 is most/least evident in your life today?
3. What is the small decision or sacrifice you plan to start with this week?
4. Which “uncomfortable impact” is most inconvenient for you?
5. Has there ever been a specific way you have showed that God is “worth it?”