

Hollies Baptist Church

Morning Worship September 1, 2013

Is Our Church A Birdbath or Fountain? Acts 1:8 and 2:41-47

A personal plan for God's love to flow from God's people to God's world.

Impact the world with the truth and love of Jesus Christ

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The early church *flowed* from Jerusalem.

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there **were added unto them** about three thousand souls.

I. Growing Churches Are Made of Growing Christians

Notice the "passive" work of the early church.

A. received the word gladly (the word for pleasure could be used for pleasure of the senses...even lust...they had genuine pleasure to be in the word)

...did you ever have to tell your child to eat their dessert so that they could have their vegetables?

B. baptized

A genuine bold identification with Christ ...

you are on display, **vulnerable** and exposed on the day of your baptism

The overflow begins with the

1. word of God gladly received and craved by his redeemed people.
2. his people involved in a totally sold-out walk with him...dead to the world and alive in Jesus!

II. Growing Churches continue to grow or they die

Act 2:42 And they **continued** stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

A. stedfastly

intently studying the word

B. doctrine...teaching

We need to be an equipping place...new skills will give birth to new ministries and a greater sense of purpose

C. fellowship...the union of workers in the gospel...partnership

D. breaking of bread...taking meals together....and the Lord's supper

E. prayers...prayer is the water in the body of Christ

III. Growing Churches Are Amazing Places

Act 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

- A. fear permeated
- B. wonders and signs...by apostles

IV. Growing Churches Are Sharing Places

Act 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Act 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

- A. were together (one heart...answer to Jesus' prayer)
- B. shared
- C. sold things they owned and used money from their skills to fund ministry

V. Growing Churches Are Happy Places

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and **singleness of heart**,

- A. they had a daily encounter with God and each other
- B. they ate together...together

VI. Growing Churches Are Popular Places

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- A. praise permeated their place
- B. had a good reputation
- C. the Lord trusted them enough to give them new life

Notes