

Our experiences often determine the way we see things. Thus, our views have the potential to say more about us than about what we are actually viewing. The Christian faith presents a unique way to see the “reality of life.” C. S. Lewis wrote, “I believe Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because *I see it*, but because *by it I see everything else*.”

Early Christians knew their views had been shaped by their culture, and they wanted to be redeemed from their *corrupt generation* (Acts 2:40). They wanted to change the direction of their lives (repent). They saw *baptism* as a sign of God’s forgiveness and a definite step of commitment to a new life in Christ Jesus (Acts 2:38, 41). Even though baptism immersed them in water, baptism did not saturate them with the principles of the gospel. They came out of the waters of baptism thirsty for the way to make the most of their faith in Jesus.

The Old Testament people of God sought to keep the presence of God before them at all times (*Psalms 16:8*). These New Testament believers in Christ Jesus wanted to soak up the presence and power of God.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*  
Acts 2:42

Their gatherings saw the living Christ a living reality as they shared the Savior’s resurrection power at work in their lives.

What do these new Christians have to teach us?

### 1. We Are Changed Through Exposure to God’s Word

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching*

v. 42

People were *hungry* to learn all they could about God. God’s food for our spiritual growth is found in Scripture. Paul’s second letter to Timothy says *Preach the Good News...tell people what they need to do. Tell them when they are wrong. Encourage them with great patience and careful teaching.*

2 Timothy 4:2 New Century Version

### 2. We Are Changed Through Fellowship with God’s People

*They devoted themselves... to the fellowship*

v. 42

The Christian life is designed to be lived in union with other believers.

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...*

Hebrews 10:24, 25

The world throws temptation our way every day. As we gather, we are to encourage one another in holiness and faithfulness.

### 3. We Are Changed Through Renewal of Our Vows

*They devoted themselves... to the breaking of bread*

v. 42

Eating together involved the renewal of their faith vows in the *breaking of bread* or what we call the “Lord’s Supper.” *Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of one loaf.*

1 Corinthians 10:16, 17

No matter how we *position* ourselves around the table, we all find *level ground* at the foot of the cross. Did the Lord’s Supper at the end of a meal, cause people to *be careful what they said* during the meal?

Did taking the Lord’s Supper frequently cause people to *confront their sins* more often?

### 4. We Are Changed Through Conversations with God

*They devoted themselves... to prayer*

v. 42

Their prayers sought to unite their lives with the All-Powerful God. Together they opened their lives to God and trusted the Savior with their joys and struggles. Their community became “one in Christ Jesus” because they dared to trust each other before Christ. They literally discovered the answer to Jesus’ prayer. *I pray for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.*

John 17:20, 21

Later the apostle Paul wrote *for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

The growing gathering of the faithful allowed each to widen his/her imagination regarding the wonder-working power of God. Like Mary, they discovered *nothing is impossible with God*. *Luke 1:37*

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