

Acts 2:41

So those who **received** his word were baptized, and there were added **that day** about three thousand souls.

Approximately 3000 decisions (→ baptisms) ... ???

- **God never does anything half-way.**
- **God deals with us in fundamental way (v. incidental)**

Acts 2:42

And they **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Devotion → *continued steadfastly*

- **Lots of decisions but limited devotion**
- **Not impulsive, nor merely emotional**
- **Saved → Now & forever following Jesus (x4)**

Acts 2:42-47

And they **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And **awe** came upon every soul, and many **wonders and signs** were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were **together** and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as **any had need**. ⁴⁶And **day by day**, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with **glad and generous** hearts, ⁴⁷**praising God** and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added** to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The local church is the visible **expression of life in Christ and the Kingdom of God in this present **age/world**.**

1) The Jesus Church is the expression of the **fulfillment of God's family plan.**

- **Adam & Eve**
- **Ethnic Israel (OT)**
- **True Israel (Jew + Gentile IN Christ)**
- **God: my people**

Gospel creates the Church:

- **For ME**
- **For GOD**
- **For US**

Me → God → We

- The Trinity
- Outworking of love
- Present sign of the Kingdom

2) The Jesus Church expresses true **spiritual sunshine**.

FACT: God dwells in a state of perpetual happiness & enthusiasm.

The Spiritual Sunshine:

- a) **Awe & Authority** (reverence; Presence)
- b) **Moral** Enthusiasm
- c) The **inexplicable** (*signs & wonders*)
- d) **Care & Generosity**
- e) Power to **overcome**

The Tools of the Devil: Repress & Silence

- Ignorance or overly conscious of him
- Self-conscious (past; fear; insecurity; pride)
- Social & Respectable (= fear of people; human praise)

The Spiritual Sunshine:

- a) **Awe & Authority** (reverence; fear of the Lord)
- b) **Moral** Enthusiasm
- c) The **inexplicable** (*signs & wonders*)
- d) **Care & Generosity**
- e) Power to **overcome**
- f) Great **thankfulness/gratitude**
- g) Spiritual **helpfulness**

- Build out C-H-R-I-S-T path/paradigm

- C-H-R-I-S-T path/paradigm
- Missions: local + world-wide
- Coram Deo giving
- 24/7 living

3) The Jesus Church expresses the **advancement of the Kingdom**.

- We are not on **defense**.
- We must avoid **contempt**.

- We must have a **mind to suffer.**
- We must remember: **Jesus has won!**