

## Sunday Morning Message

June 4, 2017

*Glad to Do It – (Don't Let Your Faith Get Old, Don't Let Your Love Grow Cold)* [Preached on Pentecost Sunday]

Text – Acts 2:41 - 47

Congregational Reading – Acts 2:46 - 47

### Introduction

We have studied Acts 2 many times and from many different angles through the years, but this time I want to take a fresh look at this passage along with some related Scriptures, this time focusing on the fact that this young church in Jerusalem were a happy group of people.

Notice the word “glad” is used in this passage twice. (vs. 41 and 46)

Illustrate – Today Deanna and Lexi are getting baptized. They are not getting baptized because God will punish them if they don't. They know that the act of being baptized has nothing to do with their salvation. They simply just want to do it because they love the Lord and want to please Him. The Lord, of course, also wants them to get baptized, but He is not forcing them. He is asking them to do it and they are glad, happy, to comply.

As I was thinking about their willingness to be baptized, I began to see a bigger picture. Deanna and Lexi are not just happy to follow the Lord in believer's baptism, they gladly want to anything and everything that is associated with their new faith.

Preachers love new believers. Why? Because they are the easiest people to pastor. They rarely complain about trivial things. They never argue about doctrine; they are very teachable. And, they are very willing to do anything the Lord asks them to do. They want to serve.

Illustrate – Me at Ocean County – mowing the lawn, setting up the chairs, working in the parking lot, leading Boys Brigade. I gladly did it all.

We often talk about revival. We want revival. And, when we talk about revival we usually always go to Acts 2. But what made this revival in Jerusalem the great revival it was. The Church at Jerusalem was brand new, made up of newly saved people.

Why is it that after we have been saved for a number of years, we start to complain about a lot of things, we argue about stuff that doesn't matter, and we lose our willingness to serve?

Is it just because our faith was no longer new? Could it be that we let our walk with the Lord get old and stale?

Through this message, I want to encourage you to not let your faith get old, and not let your love for God and His Church get cold. You may be an older Christian, but you don't have to be an "old fart". Don't let your faith get old. \*

The context of our passage today involves Peter's message at Pentecost. There were 120 believers all gathered together on the Day of Pentecost when suddenly the Holy Ghost descended and they were all filled with the very presence of God.

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ today, the Holy Ghost of God will also enter into you and become a very big part of your life:

*"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," (Ephesians 1:13)*

The Apostle Peter preached a wonderful, Spirit-filled message about the Lord Jesus Christ, and many people in Jerusalem believed the Word of God and placed their faith in Jesus. They believed the gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. They no longer trusted in their old religion or in their good works, they trusted Christ and they were saved. They were no longer a lost sinner, headed for Hell; they were saved and on their way to Heaven. They were born-again, or born anew, into God's family.

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)*

These people were excited about their faith, and they were happy (glad) to do anything that the Lord wanted them to do.

Transition. Let's look at what this large group of new believers were glad to do. (Illustrate – glad to do it)

### **1 They were glad to follow the Lord in believer's baptism.**

Verse 41 tells us that about 3000 people were baptized that day.

They followed the Lord because Jesus was baptized Himself. (Matthew 3:13 – 17)

They wanted to do it because Jesus asked them to.

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Baptism in the Bible is only by complete immersion in water and is only for believers.

It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Turn to Acts 8:26 – 40 - Notice that the Ethiopian Eunuch was glad to be baptized. Later on, in the Book of Acts in chapter 16, Lydia and her family were saved and happy to be baptized; also, the Philippian jailor was saved and he and his family were glad to get baptized.

Saved people ought to be thrilled to follow the Lord in believer's baptism.

Illustrate – Dr. Bowen, our missions' director at college used to tell us that a person who refused to get baptized was either not saved, or was in rebellion to God.

Baptism is something you only do once, but the rest of things we see here are things that we should continue to do until the Lord takes us home to Heaven.

## **2 They were glad to get together to study the Word of God. (v. 42 – “Apostles’ doctrine)**

Don't let your love for the Word of God get old.

*"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:14-17)*

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)*

*" These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)*

Come to every service, every Bible study. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn the Word of God.

Illustrate – Bible Study at Tony P's house; Vacation surrounding 5 churches in South Carolina and Florida.

## **3 They were glad to fellowship with each other. (v. 42 – “and fellowship”; v. 46)**

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

*"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." (Proverbs 27:17)*

Bible fellowship always includes prayer (“and in prayers”). We should pray with each other and for each other.

Illustrate – my first prayer meeting at Ocean County.

#### **4 They were glad to give. (vs. 44 – 45; Acts 4:32 – 37)**

They supported work of their local church; they supported the poor in their local church; and, they also gave to meet the needs of other struggling churches.

Turn to 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 16 – The churches of Macedonia – Thessalonica, Berea, and Philippi – all supported the poor saints at Jerusalem.

#### **5 They were glad to tell others about Christ. (v. 47)**

We ought to be glad to go out and tell others about the Lord. We ought to be thrilled to share the gospel with our family, friends, and neighbors.

Illustrate – Yesterday, about twenty of us went out and handed out some Father’s Day invitations along with John and Romans. Many of the people who went out were new believers. I’ve observed that the majority of new believers will willingly come out soul winning with us; but, I have also observed that many will stop going when it gets old.

**Conclusion - “For the love of Christ constraineth us;” (2 Corinthians 5:14)**

When you and I first experienced the love of Christ, it constrained us and filled us with a desire to do whatever God wanted us to do. It wasn’t a chore. Nobody had to guilt us, or twist our arms to do things – we were glad, thrilled, to do it.

Are you still glad to do it, or did your love grow old?

Jesus told the Church at Ephesus that they had lost their first love. Have you?

Don’t let your love and service for the Lord get old. Do you remember when your faith was new?

Do you remember when you couldn’t get enough of church? When you used to love to be around God’s people? You didn’t want to leave.

Do you remember when you used to love to give back to the Lord? When special offerings weren’t a burden to you?

Do you remember when you used to bring visitors with you to the church all the time? You used to talk to everybody about the Lord.

Keith Green – “My eyes are dry, My faith is old, My heart is hard, My prayers are cold, And I know how I ought to be, Alive to You and dead to me.”