

# Believers Praise God

September 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Precepts**

# Opening Question

Are you willing to sacrifice and share for the improvement of the entire church body? What are some elements of what makes a great church?

## ACTS 2:32-33 (NLT)

32 “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.”

## ACTS 2:37-39 (NLT)

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

## ACTS 2:40-42 (NLT)

40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

## ACTS 2:43-45 (NLT)

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

## ACTS 2:46-47 (NLT)

46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—

47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The church assumed the responsibility of meeting the needs of its less fortunate members. Should our modern-day churches assume this responsibility? If so, how should this ministry be funded? Should this ministry be more than just a “giveaway” program? If so, what programs would you suggest?
2. Lifestyle and active evangelism were key elements of the early church. Do you believe that every Christian is called to active evangelism, or are some people called on just to let the light of their lives shine?



# APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

Spend some time this week contemplating the lives of the early Christians. Think about their devotion to learning doctrine, their commitment to the church, and the willing sacrifices they made for each other. Ask God to point out areas where you and your church may need to improve. Then determine to work on those areas. Be prepared to share your experiences with the class next week.