

# **Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World**

Lesson 1

Acts 2:42-47

September 12, 2021

## **Stronger Together**

### **Introduction**

“Time is what we want most and use worst.”—William Penn.

We are all guilty of wasting time. We all have our go-to vices, whether it’s scrolling your phone, binge-watching shows, or getting lost in a good book. The quote by William Penn is so true. We value time, but sometimes our priorities get mixed up. These are not bad things in and of themselves, but we as humans tend to over-prioritize these good things and turn them into what our time would say we value the most.

In our passage today, we see the fellowship of believers pursuing things of eternal value. It’s a convicting passage for all of us. We know what our time could be spent doing. Something that we want to prioritize yet never seem to have enough time.

This time in Christian history seems so idyllic. Simple, yet profound. It seems to be heaven on earth. It seems every Christian wants this, but we don’t know how to start to pursue it. These early followers probably thought the same thing and found that they couldn’t produce this kind of selflessness by themselves. It was only through the power of the Holy Spirit that they were able to do all this. We today have that same power. I encourage you to read today’s text because the Spirit enabled all this sacrificial giving and love for one another.

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

Pray and read Acts 2:42-47. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**What does the passage say?**

1. To what did the believers devote themselves?  
(Acts 2:42)
2. What was performed by the apostles? (Acts 2:43)
3. What does verse 44 have to say about all the believers?  
(Acts 2:44)
4. What did the believers sell to anyone who had need?  
(Acts 2:45)
5. Where did they meet? (Acts 2:46)
6. What was it they did in their homes? (Acts 2:46)
7. Who was it the Lord added to their number? (Acts 2:47)

## What does the passage mean?

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21. How was the early church storing up treasures in heaven and not treasures on earth? What are some examples of pursuing things that have eternal value?
2. Why is it important to meet together with other believers? (Genesis 2:18; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:25)
3. Verse 43 says that “everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.” What does the Bible say about how people will know we are Christians? (Matthew 5:16, 7:17-20; John 13:35) Why is this important to remember?

4. The text says, “the Lord” added to their number daily those who were being saved. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the lives of these Christians?  
(John 4:16-17; Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 5:22-23)

### **Applying the passage**

1. How does your life compare or contrast to the lives of the apostles and early Christians?

