



Daily Devotional

Acts 2: 42-47

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the

apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵ They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶ Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷ They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. (Common English Bible)

How long has it been since you thought of church in descriptors like awe and wonder and signs? Or found yourself steeped in warm presence of the Holy Spirit?

The picture Luke paints of the early Christian church is pretty awe inspiring – when these words are read aloud in service on Sunday morning the “if only” response is palpable.

Clouds of disappointment, disillusionment and dissatisfaction permeate the sanctuary as we begin to recognize how far we have drifted from the joy shared by those early Christians.

If only that sense of awe would come over me . . . *If only* I could see the many wonders and signs God performs . . . *If only* I could find the courage to gladly give part of what I have . . . *If only* I could be brave enough to share God's goodness with people I meet . . .

But you can experience the mighty acts of God and you could give more of what you have and you can share your testimony, your conversion story, and your love of God with people you meet!

You just have to want to. “All the believers were united and shared everything.” (vs. 44),

The words from today's scripture reading give us a keen sense of what the early church was. It was authentic – the real deal. We can do that. We can take on its authenticity. The real deal. We can!

Let's Pray: Take my heart home Lord. To that place where all that I have is Yours and all that I am is defined by my relationship with You. Lead me in the way of those first Christians so that I can share Your goodness and light everywhere I go. **Amen.**

By Patty Nance, Pastor
Pendleton & Hermiston First United Methodist Churches