

## **Favor; God's Divine Influence**

*Acts 2:42-47*

In one brief paragraph Luke gives us a summary of both the atmosphere and the activities of the early church. The activities are enumerated for us in verse 42 and those activities became the distinguishing mark of the believers' lives. The first mark of the church was a devotion to the apostle's doctrine (***Truth to be assimilated***) and that doctrine centered upon the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The most comprehensive activity was fellowship (***Ties to be appreciated***) which was evidenced by a sharing of both spiritual and material wealth. Another activity was the "breaking of bread" (***The Table where we appropriate***) which was Luke's expression for the Lord's Supper that was conducted as they went from house to house. Finally they devoted themselves to prayer(s) (***access to the Throne***) implying both the scheduled and unscheduled seasons of prayer. In addition to these we find a clear identification of the atmosphere in which these activities took place. There was the spirit of awe (reverence; **v. 43**), gladness (gratitude; **v. 46**), praise (worship; **v. 47**), and God's favor (grace; **v. 47**) that had impact on all people. In this spiritually charged atmosphere, the Holy Spirit was able to work and the Lord added daily to their number. Again, we emphasize that our responsibility as believers is to faithfully witness and God builds the church.

***The Spirit is present! It is an atmosphere of...***

- (1) Open declaration of faith
- (2) Visible and lasting commitment
- (3) Fellowship and response to need
- (4) Prayer and Praise