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Acts 2:42

# Peter's Sermon

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Now when they heard this, they were cut (pierced, pricked, to stab, to be greatly pained or deeply moved) to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

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Then Peter said to them, "Repent (change of mind, relent), and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive (what) the gift of the Holy Spirit."

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“For the promise (of the Holy Spirit) is to you and to your children (Israel), and to all who are afar off (Gentiles), as many as the Lord our God will call (election, God's sovereignty in salvation).”

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And with many other words he testified and exhorted (*parakaleō*) them, saying, “Be saved (or, “Save yourselves” – to keep safe, deliver, preserve, rescue from danger, destruction or peril, make whole) from this perverse (depraved, wicked, crooked, stained with filth, impure, foul, polluted) generation.”

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What now?

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The church has been born!

What now?

They began to teach them how to live by faith.

# Living by Faith

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What is faith?

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Now faith (*pístis*) is the substance (to place under, the basis, foundation, that which underlies the apparent) of things hoped for (confident expectation, to abide still, to expect fully), the evidence (proof, conviction, assurance, supreme confidence) of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

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# Living by Faith

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On the Job Training

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Matthew 10:5-42

# Living by Faith

# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way

# Living by Faith

## The Early Church Began the Same Way

And they (3,120) continued steadfastly (to be devoted, to persevere and not faint) in the apostles' doctrine (teaching, tutoring) and fellowship (*koinōnía*), in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

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Then fear (profound reverence, honor, and respect; dread, terror) came upon every soul, and many wonders (mighty words, miracles) and signs (attesting miracles which lead to something out of and beyond themselves) were done through the apostles.

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Now all who believed (to have faith in, trust) were together, and had (how many) all things in common (belonging to several).

Acts 2:44

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Acts 2:44

This is “continued with one accord” in real time.



# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way

and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Acts 2:45

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Acts 2:45

This is what “had all things in common” really means.

# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way

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How much faith would you have to have to live like  
the early church did?

# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way

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Would it be easier if you were suffering persecution?



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Would it be easier if you didn't have so much stuff?

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Others?

# Living by Faith

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Would it be easier if you were suffering persecution?

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Would it be easier if you loved and trusted more?

Others? Or, Jesus?

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## The Early Church Began the Same Way

So continuing daily (how) with one accord (of one mind, of unanimous consent) in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness (of exuberant joy, with exultation, to rejoice with song and dancing) and simplicity (singleness, sincerity, purity of intention, without guile or duplicity) of heart,

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praising God and having favor (grace, good will, loving-kindness) with all the people (both saved and unsaved). And (as a result) the Lord (election – showing His sovereignty in salvation) added to the church (how often) daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

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Would you like to live like the early church did?

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Would you like to live like the early church did?

Does the thought of seeing people saved daily  
overcome your fear of sharing your stuff with others?

# Living by Faith

## The Early Church Began the Same Way

Would you like to live like the early church did?

Does the thought of seeing people saved daily overcome your fear of sharing your stuff with others?

If not, what does that say about our focus in life?

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## The Early Church Began the Same Way

Would you like to live like the early church did?

Does the thought of seeing people saved daily overcome your fear of sharing your stuff with others?

If not, what does that say about our focus in life?

What would it take for you and me to live like Christ commanded, in an attitude of trust and dependence on Him alone?



# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way

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Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Acts 4:34-35

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# Living by Faith

The Early Church Began the Same Way  
Because They Believed the Words of Jesus

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The Early Church Began the Same Way  
Because They Believed the Words of Jesus

“But (condition) seek first (1) the kingdom of God and (2) His righteousness, and (promise) all these things (life, shelter, money, clothes, food – Matt. 6:25-32) shall be (what) added (not just given) to you.”

Matthew 6:33

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Because They Believed the Words of Jesus

“**But** (condition) **seek first** (1) **the kingdom of God and**  
(2) **His righteousness, and** (promise) **all these things**  
(life, shelter, money, clothes, food – Matt. 6:25-32)  
**shall be** (what) added (not just given) to you.”

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But why doesn't that happen with us today?

Where is our trust...not just of each other, but of Him?

What's missing in our life that wasn't in theirs?

Persecution

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What happens when the church is persecuted?

What happens to the faith of Christians  
during that time?

