

"Believers Praise God"

Introduction

The early Christian church embraced their new found beginnings by acting in unity with respect to Christian doctrine, fellowship, communion, and prayer. These foundations of the early church led to continual praise and worship of God. We too should celebrate God in unity and with reverence.

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Understand** the role of Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives
- **Discern** how the Holy Spirit inspires believers to share a life of worship
- **Plan** opportunities for people to begin a relationship with Jesus through our ministries

Scripture

Acts 2:32-33, 37-47 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 134

About Today's Lesson...

The historical context behind the development of the early Christian church is fascinating to say the least. Christianity developed in the midst of a healthy mixture of religious cults within the Roman world. Astrological beliefs and magical practices thrived. Roman emperors were deified. Those who embraced Christianity were often scorned. Some Gentiles mocked the disciples of Christ by calling them "Christians" while others scornfully labelled this new movement the "Way". But despite the social, economic, and political adversities of the time, the new Christian church continued to move forward. The work of the Holy Spirit was not to be denied.

Today's lesson undoubtedly draws our attention to the work of the Holy Spirit. Leading up to today's scriptural passage, Jesus has ascended to heaven and the first Pentecost has taken place. The apostles have received the Holy Spirit as promised and are speaking in other tongues. The nearby crowd can't believe their ears, some even thinking the apostles are drunk. But Peter preaches a sermon to the contrary and tells them of the prophecies that foretold the work of the Holy Spirit. Upon hearing Peter's words, the people desired to "get right with God" by repenting and being baptized. They were also unified in their worship and freely shared with those in need. The Christian church began to grow.

As we contemplate the role of Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives, let us be mindful that we are now empowered with the same Spirit that guided and spoke to the prophets of old. Let the Comforter be an inspiration to you as you live and share a life of worship that is pleasing to God.

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