

DEVOTED

Disciplines That Deepen Our Delight In God

Devoted — Mission

Key Idea:

In the New Covenant, God has poured out His Spirit on all believers to empower them so that as they grow in their delight in Him, the Gospel and its blessings will be spread throughout the world.

Key Texts:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

Key Points:

- **The New Covenant Gift of the Spirit Is Given to All Believers** — Peter's teaching notes that Pentecost is the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy: the Spirit is poured out on all flesh — sons and daughters, young and old, servants and free. Every distinction of the ancient world is washed away. All who repent and believe receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, without exception.
- **The Spirit's Power Is the Foundation of All Devotion** — The devoted life described in Acts 2:42 was not the result of extraordinary self-discipline. It was the fruit of the Spirit's empowering presence. Everything in this series — the Word, fellowship, the Lord's Table, prayer — flows from the Spirit's work drawing believers into deeper communion with God.
- **All Believers Are Empowered and Sent as Witnesses** — Acts 1:8 is not a commission for the spiritually elite. The same Spirit poured out on all believers empowers all believers to be witnesses — from their own Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. We are living in "Acts 29," continuing the same Spirit-empowered mission until Jesus returns.
- **Pentecost Fulfills God's Covenant Promise to Abraham** — God promised to bless Abraham so that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:2-3). That promise finds its fulfillment not in the Old Covenant but in Jesus, the True Seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16), through whom the blessing of the Gospel reaches all nations. All who are in Christ are Abraham's heirs — blessed to be a blessing (Galatians 3:6-9; 3:26-29).
- **A Devoted Community Naturally Overflows in Mission** — Acts 2:42-47 shows that a Spirit-filled community growing in delight in God naturally attracts those outside the faith. Their joy, generosity, and love created favor with all the people, and the Lord added to their number daily. Devoted disciples become a blessed community that blesses the world.

Discussion Questions:

- This teaching landed on Pentecost Sunday, bringing the “Devoted” series full circle back to the Spirit-filled life where it began. How has your understanding of the spiritual disciplines changed or deepened over the course of this series? What has been the most significant shift for you?
- Acts 2:16-18 emphasizes that the Spirit is poured out on all flesh — sons and daughters, young and old, servants and free. Why is this radical universality of the Spirit’s gift so significant? What barriers or hierarchies does it still challenge in the Church today?
- Bret argued that the devoted life of Acts 2:42 was not the result of unusual self-discipline but of the Spirit’s empowering presence. How does this reframe the way you think about your own spiritual growth and the disciplines in this series? What is the difference between striving in your own strength and being empowered by the Spirit?
- Acts 1:8 commissions all believers — not just clergy or those with particular gifts — as witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. How do you personally understand your role in God’s mission? What has held you back from seeing yourself as a Spirit-empowered witness?
- Bret traced the gospel mission back to God’s covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” How does understanding evangelism as the fulfillment of this ancient promise change how you feel about sharing the Gospel? What does it mean that we are heirs of that promise?
- Galatians 3:27-29 says that in Christ all the old distinctions — Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female — are removed, and all are Abraham’s offspring and heirs of the promise. How should this vision of unity in Christ shape the witness and culture of our church community?
- Acts 2:42-47 shows that the early church’s devoted community life — their joy, generosity, and love for one another — gave them “favor with all the people,” leading to daily growth. In what ways do you see the quality of our community life as either an invitation or an obstacle to those outside the faith?
- Bret offered the practical encouragement: “Relax — the power is in the Word and the Spirit, not your words.” How does this free you from the pressure of feeling like you need to have all the answers before you can share your faith? What would it look like to rely on the Spirit’s power rather than your own eloquence?
- The blind man in John 9 simply testified: “I was blind, and now I see.” Bret pointed to this as a model: you don’t need to answer every scholarly objection — you need to share what God has done for you. Who in your life most needs to hear your personal story of what God has done? What is holding you back from telling them?
- Philemon 1:6 suggests that sharing our faith actively deepens our own delight in God. Have you experienced this — that participating in mission increased your own joy? What does it tell us about the Christian life that growing inward in devotion and growing outward in witness strengthen each other?
- As this series concludes, look back at the five disciplines — the Word, fellowship, the Lord’s Table, prayer, and mission. Which discipline has grown most in your life during this series? Which one is the Spirit calling you to pursue more intentionally in the season ahead? What is one specific step you will take this week?

For Further Study:

For other teachings and resources to grow in your devotion to mission, take a look at the following:

- Meditate this week on the eight practical tips for growing in devotion to mission from the teaching, and ask the Spirit to show you which ones most apply to your life right now.
- Read Galatians 3:6-29 slowly, tracing how Paul connects the promise to Abraham, the work of Christ, and the gift of the Spirit into one unified story of gospel blessing for all nations.
- Study Colossians 4:2-6 this week — the passage underlying the teaching's emphasis on prayer as the essential foundation of faithful gospel witness.
- Re-read Acts 2:42-47 as a whole and reflect: in what ways does your own life, and the life of our church community, reflect the Spirit-filled pattern of this passage? Where is there room to grow?
- Visit the church website to explore teachings organized by [series](#), by [Scripture](#), or by [topic](#) for a deeper study of [the means of grace](#), [evangelism and missions](#), [baptism and filling with the Spirit](#), and [the Holy Spirit](#).