

# From Experience to Endurance

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Acts 2:42 AMP

42 And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers.

The supernatural experience accompanied by steadfast earnestness becomes something that endures.

## I. The Supernatural Experience

They had the Acts 2 experience

1. Hunger – you have to want it – I Corinthians 14:1 - Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy ([a]interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching).
2. Faith – you have to believe it – they stayed there for many days just because they believed His Words – Galatians 3:5
3. Sacrifice – you have to go after it... Jesus told them to wait... they continued in prayer... Luke 6:12 - Now in those days it occurred that He went up into a mountain to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God.

## II. The Steadfast Endurance

1. Doctrine – Acts 17:11 – “Now these [Jews] were better disposed and more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they were entirely ready and accepted and welcomed the message [ concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God] with inclination of mind and eagerness, searching and examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
2. Fellowship – Corporate meetings & conversational gatherings – Acts 20:20 – “How I did not shrink from telling you anything that was for your benefit and teaching you in public meetings and from house to house”
3. Ordinance –
  - a. baptisms (Hebrews 6:2 - of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
  - b. Lords Supper (I Corinthians 11:20 - Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.
  - c. tithing (Hebrews 7:8 - Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.
  - d. fasting (I Corinthians 7:5, “Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”
  - e. church attendance – Hebrews 10:25, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
  - f. laying on of hands – James 5:14-15, “14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
  - g. praise worship – Ephesians 5:18, “18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

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4. Prayer – Ephesians 6:18 - 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- III. The Something That Endures – God doesn't want to start a thing, He wants to finish a thing
- I. The Fire should never go out – Leviticus 6:13 - A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.
- II. Fan that Flame – II Timothy 1:6 - That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [ with those of the elders at your ordination].

Conclusion:

He not just Alpha He is Omega...

Revelation 22:13 NKJV

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 1:6 NKJV

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;