

**Acts Part 4 – From Organic To Organized**  
**Pastor John Carmichael**

**Acts 2:37-47**

**[Act 2:42 NASB95] 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

- **The church was built upon more than mystical experiences.**

**What helped the church go from that experience to an established church?**

**There are four aspects of the church that helped them go from the outpouring to an ongoing establishment of the church.**

**I. Devoted to apostles' teaching.**

- a. Acts 4:2; 5:25,28, 42; 15:35; 18:11; 20:20; 28:31 (last verse in Acts is preaching and teaching.)
- b. [Act 15:35 NASB95] 35 But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.
- c. [Act 18:11 NASB95] 11 And he settled [there] a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
- d. [Act 20:20 NASB95] 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
- e. [Act 28:31 NASB95] 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.
- f. Bible teaching and preaching will consist of new revelation and constant reminders.
- g. Teaching and preaching was central to the life of the church in Acts. Church history would verify that teaching and preaching has been part of the growth and development of the church.
- h. Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you to value and receive teaching and preaching of the Bible.

**II. Devoted to fellowship.**

- a. Stanley Horton, "God never saves us to wander by ourselves.
- b. [Act 2:46 NASB95] 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
- c. [Eph 4:11-12 NASB95] 11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- d. More than meeting together. There was a partnership.
- e. Unity in purpose. Not just the Apostles were committed.

**III. Devoted to the breaking of bread.**

- a. The Lord's Supper and table fellowship. Paul possibly stopped it in 1 Corinthians 11:22.
- b. [Act 2:46 NASB95] 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart
- c. [1Co 11:20-22 NASB95] 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

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**IV. Devoted to prayer.**

- a. [Act 1:14 NASB95] 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with [the] women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- b. [Act 3:1 NASB95] 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth [hour,] the hour of prayer.

- **What devoted are you to the teaching, fellowship, communion, and prayer as a church?**
- **Are these important to you as part of the church? Or are you a lone ranger?**