

Class 4: Devoted: The family of God.

Fellowship and the building of unity; the reality of family life – problems, perceptions, needs, wants, disagreements, weakness, grace, mercy, good will, wisdom, perseverance, and trust in God. Paul: choosing to do things to try to improve relations, acquiescing to do things to improve relations with people who have a wrong impression of him; keeping the focus on what is most important without ignoring the realities of life.

1. Review from Class 3; What is the role of the Spirit in my life?

2. Devotion: Ac 2:41-47 - Defines character of the Church

Proskartereo: to persist in a thing, apply diligently to it; to endure, to persevere, to be strong or firm towards anything, to be constantly occupied or engaged in; to be continually in with or near any person or thing. 2:42, 45

Devotion is an individual choice; in what ways are you devoted?

3. The Holy Spirit in my life: God devoted to me

Eph 1:3-14

Helps us/directs us/makes us bold to speak Ac 1:8; 2:17-18; 4:8, 31; 6:10; 8:29; 11:12; 13:2; 16:6; 19:6; 28:25; Lk 1:41-42, 67; 2:25-35; 4:14-15, 18, 12:11-12; 1 Cor 2:13; 12:8

Encourages us – Ac 9:31

Gives us power/energy – Eph 3:16; 2 Tim 1:7

Gives us joy, peace and hope – Rom 15:13

Enables us/helps us to serve – Rom 7:6; Php 3:3

Pours his love into our hearts; helps us love: Rom 5:5; 15:30; 2 Tim 1:7

Changes our desires and actions – Rom 8:13; Php 2:13

Draws us close to God – Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:6

Enables us to think, evaluate & understand spiritually: 1 Cor 2:9-16; Col 1:9

He has fellowship with us – 2 Cor 13:14

He intercedes for us – Rom 8:26-27 (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25)

He leads us – Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18 see also Mt 4:1; Lk 4:1

Appoints/Sends out – Ac 13:2-4; Ac 20:28

Gives/Distributes gifts: Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:4-11, 27-31; 1 Cor 14; Eph 4:7-13

Confirmed the message with signs, wonders & miraculous gifts – Mk 16:16; Ac 2:22, 32-33; 8:6-13; 14:3; Rom 15:18-19; Heb 2:4

History bears witness to this confirmation: Origen (185-254)

“The Holy Spirit gave signs of His presence at the beginning of Christ’s ministry. And after His ascension, He gave still more.

But since that time, these signs have diminished, although there are still traces of His presence in a few who have had their souls purified by the Gospel, and their actions regulated by its influence. 4.614.

That the time of confirming the message has passed does not mean that God has lessened his devotion to us, just that we are in a different period – similar to process in OT

4. The Holy Spirit in my life: Me Devoted to God

Acts 6:3-5 – Stephen: how did they recognize him as someone full of the Holy Spirit prior to his being able to do miraculous signs? Philip?

What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? What is not? Gal 5:22-26; Gal 5:19-21

The Spirit works with us to transform us – 2 Cor 3:17-18

1 Sam 10:6-7 Saul anointed (see also 1 Jn 2:20) God does his part, then we need to do ours

God is a God of process

Ez 37 – how did they come back to life

1 Pt 2:2 – grow up

Logikos – also used in Rom 12:1; rational, requires us to engage our brains

Devoted to the Apostles teaching

Read Scripture, Listen to Scripture, Study Scripture Dt 17:18-20; Rev 1:3;
Pray for understanding and wisdom Col 1:9; Jas 1:5
Memorize Scripture Dt 11:18, Ps 119:11, Pr 4:5, Heb 8:10
Meditate/Dwell on/Contemplate scripture Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; Ps 119:97-99
Talk about/share scripture and how it applies to you; Journal; Teach Dt 11:18-20 Heb 5:12
Speak to one another in Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs *Eph 5:19*

Devoted to the Fellowship

1 Jn 1:6 – The quality of our fellowship together extends from our fellowship with God
How would you describe your time in fellowship?
What is your purpose when you come to fellowship?
Eph 3:15-16; Heb 3:13; 1 Th 5:13; Eph 4:1-3
Personal Devotion: 1 Cor 6:19-20
Devotion together: 1 Cor 3:16-17

Fellowship and our individual life

Consider one another: Rom 14:1-15:3; 1 Cor 8:1-13' 1 Cor 10:23-33
Freedoms and Responsibilities: 1 Cor 10:23-24; 1 Cor 10:31
Paul's Example: 1 Cor 9:19-23; Ac 21:20-26; Eph 4:3

Devoted to the Breaking of Bread

Remembering Jesus: 1 Cor 11:23-26; 2 Tim 2:8
Remembering his sacrifice: Mt 26:26..; Mk 14:22...; Heb 10:10
Renew my commitment to/dependence on Jesus – Jn 6:25-59; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Heb 12:1-2
Discerning the body of the Lord – 1 Cor 11:27-34
Celebrating salvation, rebirth, return of Jesus

Devoted to Prayer

Devote yourself to prayer Rom 12:12
By means of all prayer and petition, pray at every time in the Spirit, Eph 6:18
Jas 5:16; Php 4:6
Various methods for structuring prayer; 5-fingers; ACTS
Individual Prayer; Small Group Prayer; Church Prayer
Pray using scripture – Ac 4:23-31
Prayers in Acts: Ac 1:14, 24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4, 6; 7:59; 8:15; 9:11, 40; 10:2, 9, 30; 11:5; 12:5, 12; 13:3; 14:23;
16:13, 16, 25; 20:36; 21:5; 22:17; 28:8

Devoted to Giving Financially

Gave to anyone as they had need Act 2:45
Barnabus sold a field and gave the money to the church Ac 4:36-37
Ananias & Sapphira also sell a field Ac 5:1-11
Nadab & Abihu Lv 10:1-11; Korah offers incense Nm 16:1-50; Achan keeps spoils Jsh 7:1-26

What Lessons should we take from this?

1. Devotion to God requires financial sacrifices – Mt 6:24
2. My financial giving is spiritual in nature; the Holy Spirit is intimately involved and aware of the attitude of my heart and the thoughts in my mind.

Devoted to giving Financially: Ac 2:45; NT examples: as needs arose, special collections

OT demonstrates both special collections and regular giving

Tabernacle; Temple; Tithing; Regular Sacrifices & Offerings

It was the regular sacrifices and offerings supporting priests and Levites in their full-time services

Had to correct those who took advantage of Church giving – 2 Th 3:7-15

Giving is a test of gratitude