

“And they continued steadfastly”

What should new Christians do?

Acts 2:40-47

Introduction

1. Baptism should always be viewed as the very beginning – **Romans 6:3-4** – it is not the finality, completion, the whole.
 2. To become a Christian is to start a journey, such that truly never ends, but finds its eternal activity in heaven.
 3. New Christians should be encouraged to walk faithfully and grow but often wonder what their new life should look like.
 4. The start of the church gives some activities that new Christians can immediately engage in, grow in, and should continue in steadfastly – **Acts 2:40-47**
- I. Grow in God’s Word
- A. Knowledge
 - a. **“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42).**
 - i. The apostles’ doctrine is the revelation Christ gave to us which makes up the New Testament.
 - ii. This is scripture that is necessary for us to be who God calls us to be – **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
 - b. **2 Peter 3:18** – we need to grow in grace and knowledge.
 - c. **Ephesians 5:8-10, 17** – now that we are children of light, we need to continue to find out how the Lord wants us to be living.
 - B. Practice
 - a. Continuing steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine requires growth in knowledge but means more than simply knowledge.
 - b. **2 Peter 1:5-8; 3:18** – the virtues listed for us to grow in is a part of growing in grace and knowledge – this involves the activity in these matters.
 - c. God doesn’t just want you to know His word but actively apply it to your life – **1 John 2:6** – walking as Christ.
- II. Engage with God’s People
- A. Fellowship
 - a. **“And they continued steadfastly in...fellowship” (Acts 2:42)**
 - b. Fellowship is sharing and participating with God’s people in the spiritual things God has provided for them.
 - c. **1 John 1:7** – when we walk in the light of God’s word, we have fellowship with others who do the same.

- d. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – the worship assembly is a central place for this activity of fellowship – requires our participation, not just presence.
- B. Breaking of Bread
 - a. **“And they continued steadfastly in...the breaking of bread” (Acts 2:42)**
 - b. This is the same **“breaking of bread”** – **Acts 20:7** – in reference to the Lord’s Supper.
 - i. **“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’” (Matthew 26:26)**
 - c. This memorial is not only a privilege to partake in, but something vital to our new walk as Christians – **1 Corinthians 11:17, 23-26** – the activity is meant for their betterment in remembering Jesus’ sacrifice.
 - i. **“you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes”** – **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** – God’s children need to have their present anchored in the past and the future – **Hebrews 6:19-20**
 - ii. The Lord’s Supper anchors our present to the cross of Christ so that we remember the purchase price of our redemption, as well as our commitment to be united to His death.
 - iii. The Lord’s Supper anchors our present to the future as the proclamation of His death is a perpetual activity until His second coming where we will not simply proclaim Him, but be with Him forever. The very activity anticipates a future event, according to Paul.
- C. Prayers
 - a. **“And they continued steadfastly...in prayers” (Acts 2:42)**
 - b. Prayer is a great privilege for children of God – **Revelation 5:8; 1 John 3:22**
 - c. Prayer is vital to a Christian’s continued victory – **Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18**
 - d. Engaging in public prayer with others is a blessing God has provided for our edification and encouragement – **1 Corinthians 14:15-17; James 5:13-18**
- D. Daily Service and Exhortation
 - a. **Acts 2:43-46** – when one is baptized into Christ they are baptized into the household of God, becoming part of an entire family who have been blessed in the same way – this leads to care, service, and love for each other.

- b. This new relationship is characterized by love – **1 Peter 1:22-23** – it is not only a blessing, but a duty.
- c. We need our brethren, and they need us – **Romans 12:4-5**
- d. Daily exhortation – **Hebrews 3:12-15**
- e. Acts of love and service – **1 John 3:16-18**

III. Share the Good News

A. Have Favor with All the People

- a. **Acts 2:47** – while not everyone treated Christians well even from the start, many people recognized their virtuous ways.
- b. Jesus grew in favor with men – **Luke 2:52**
- c. We need to live our faith before others, and treat them the way Christ would have us to – **Matthew 5:13-16; 22:37-40**

B. Share What You Know With Others

- a. **Acts 2:47** – the Lord continued to add people to the church.
- b. The addition of souls to the church did not continue in any way foreign to Christ’s original plan – **Matthew 28:18-20** – disciples make disciples.
- c. The fact that I’ve obeyed the gospel means I have something I can share with others – **Acts 8:34-38** – if you believe... what do you believe? Since you believe it, can’t you tell someone?
- d. Since we decided to follow Jesus we should be doing what Jesus came to do – **Luke 19:10**

Conclusion

1. New Christians need to be active no matter their age.
2. This is important for their maintenance of joy, and their growth in Christ.
3. God can use the new Christian every bit as much as He can use the mature Christian – though in different ways.
4. If you have recently decided to follow Jesus, keep doing so with all your might!