

“BEING” NOT JUST “DOING” CHURCH
Good Soil Church – Part 2
September 15, 2013

A “good soil” church is a fellowship where people hear the Word, act on it and produce its fruit.

Acts 2:41-42 (NIV) “Those who accepted his (Peter’s) message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

A “GOOD SOIL” CHURCH PATTERN...

1. Devotion to DISCIPLINE one another.

Acts 2:42a (NIV) “They devoted themselves to the **apostles’ teaching**...”

An authentic church is one that is gathered around the Bible, learning from it, discussing it and debating it.

2. Devotion to CONNECTING with one another.

Acts 2:42 (NIV) “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to **fellowship**...”

Koinonia means being as committed to each other as we are to Christ.

3. Devotion to EATING with one another.

Acts 2:42 (NIV) “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the **breaking of bread**...”

4. Devotion to PRAISING with one another.

Acts 2:42 (NIV) “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**.”

Prayer is the way we access God’s power and provision to accomplish what He asks.

John 15:8 (NIV) “This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.”

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF A “GOOD SOIL” CHURCH?

1. Spiritual POWER.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) “Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and miraculous signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 3:10 (NLT) “When they (the people) realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!”

By far the greatest way we witness God’s power is in the supernatural transformation of a person’s heart.

2. Sacrificial GIVING.

Acts 2:44-45 (NIV) “All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

3. Simple JOY.

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV) “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

If we work to keep the condition of our hearts like the “good soil” we will be joyfully bearing fruit.

Church is not about the numbers but LIFESTYLE.

John 13:34-35 (NIV) “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”