

EASTER

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: RITA BAIRD

DATE: APRIL 13TH, 2025

The Holy Spirit Establishes the Blueprint for the Church

Acts 2:42-47

NOTES:

Review:

The resurrected King delivers the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-11)

Acts 2:32 *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."*

Acts 2:37 *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."*

Spirit baptism is central for Luke since every blessing in the disciple's life grows from Holy Spirit uniting us with Jesus (and one another!)

1Cor. 12:12 *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

The first Christian community establishes the blueprint for all future communities to follow.

Acts 2:42 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Essential components for the church:

1. Apostolic teaching centered on our life with Jesus
2. Folks fully contributing to, and participating in, each other's lives
3. Opportunities for connection, encouragement, and generosity
4. Commitment to drawing close to God through prayer together

Following the blueprint produces a radical way of life, characterized by...

1. ... reverent recognition of God's truth and power.

Acts 2:43 *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*

2. ...a manner of living marked by unity and selflessness.

Acts 2:44 *And all who believed were together and had all things in common.
⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

3. ...joyful engagement in communal worship and community influence.

Acts 2:46 *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,^{47a} praising God and having favor with all the people.*

The result of following the blueprint: An effective and contagious witness!

Acts 2:47b *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1. Take some time to evaluate how we are doing as a church. Are we following the blueprint established in Acts 2:42? In what areas are we thriving? In what areas are we struggling? In what ways are you personally contributing to/participating in the life of the church?

2. Identify people in the church (the Altamont or others you have attended) who have impacted your life by their faithful service in the body of Christ. Write them a note of gratitude, thanking them specifically for their influence.

3. Easter is next week! Who are you going to invite?

SONGS

*CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS
HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD
REIGN ABOVE IT ALL*

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$43,052.57
2025 Giving vs Need: \$103,297.98 Below Need
Altamont Expansion Fund (4/7): \$225,374.04

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

JOIN THE VBC FAMILY ROSTER



ALTAMONT PROGRESS REPORT

vbc.online/altamontprg