

ACTS 2 CHURCH MODEL: SPIRIT-FILLED LOVE

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The church in Acts Chapter 2, (referred to as the A2 Church) although under extreme persecution **IMPACTED their culture** and God added to their numbers daily those being saved.

They **DEVOTED themselves** to the Apostles' teaching, breaking bread, fellowship, and prayers. They went to the temple daily and house to house with **simplicity of heart.**

In last week's Bible study, we discussed the 7 disciplines of the A2 Church as found in Acts 2 and 4:

1. SF Doctrine (Apostles teaching)
2. SF Fellowship
3. SF Worship
4. SF Prayer
5. SF Unity
6. SF Giving
7. SF Love

Love, the Motivation of Our Lives

1 Corinthians 13:1 (TPT)

13 If I were to speak with eloquence in earth's many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn't express myself with love, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal.

John 13:34-36 New International Version (NIV)

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this TYPE OF LOVE everyone will know that you are my disciples."

1 John 4: 7-10; 16-21 (Passion Translation)

Everyone who loves is fathered by God and experiences an intimate knowledge of him. **8** The one who doesn't love has yet to know God, for God is love. **9** The light of God's love shined within us when he sent his matchless Son into the world so that we might live through him. **10** This is

love: He loved us *long before we loved him*. It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins.

16b God is love! Those who are living in love are living in God, and God lives through them. **17** By *living in God*, love has been brought to its full expression in us so that we may fearlessly face the day of judgment, because all that Jesus now is, so are we in this world. **18** Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love's perfection drives the fear of *punishment far* from our hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of *punishment* has not reached love's perfection. **19** Our love for others is *our grateful response* to the love God first demonstrated to us. **20** Anyone can say, "I love God," yet have hatred toward another believer. This makes him a phony, because if you don't love a brother or sister, whom you can see, how can you truly love God, whom you can't see? **21** For he has given us this command: whoever loves God must also demonstrate love to others.

John 15:9-12 (TPT)

9 "I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts. **10** If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love. **11** My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy that I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness!

12 "So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you. **13** For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.

1 Peter 1: 22-23 (AMP)

22 Since by your obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves for a sincere love of the believers, [see that you] love one another from the heart [always unselfishly seeking the best for one another], **23** for you have been born again [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable *and* immortal, *that is*, through the living and everlasting word of God.

Questions to consider as believers to check our “Spirit-filled Love”:

1. **IS the manner** in which I love people sincere or is it out of obligation? Is there any manipulation or motive behind our love or is it filled with the Holy Spirit which seeks to demonstrate God’s love in the earth in 2020?
2. Am I willing to GROW in my love toward others and love people IN THE SAME manner as Jesus loves me?
3. Am I willing to allow the Holy Spirit to challenge me to a place of loving others in a way that is costly - giving them the best of my love in a manner that THEY need - not simply loving others in a manner that best suits me.

Practical applications when social distancing is being mandated:

1. Calls, texts, FB messaging - regularly, especially beyond your normal friend circle.
2. WRITE A LETTER AND TELL ONE PERSON EACH DAY FOR A WEEK WHY YOU LOVE THEM.
3. Reaching out to your neighbors regularly - is there any need - ESPECIALLY toilet paper? Could you grocery shop for anyone around you who is in a compromised state?
4. Consider those who are self-employed and may need an extra touch - a friend of mine cancelled her house cleaner but paid her anyway, as she knows she is totally supported by the families she cleans for.

John 15:13 The Passion Translation (TPT)

13 For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.