

Back to our early Christian roots...when asked the question why there is less or no active participation in the church by the faithful? I answer, I do not know why but I hope each one is trying their best to be a church that Jesus calls us to be. And then, I remind people and myself of the forgotten story of the lived experiences of the early Christian community found in Acts of the Apostle 2: 42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Do we do this in our present time? I believe this is the question we need to ask ourselves every day. The answer is then, go back to our early Christian roots.

The early Christian community devoted themselves to apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. Thus, the church turns out to be a **learning church**, when they devote themselves to the apostle's teaching. They sat at the feet of the apostles and were hungry for the Word of God. It calls for the total commitment to the teaching of the apostles. Learning Church is a submissive Church, i.e. submission to the authority of the Word. As a result, the Church becomes a Spirit-filled Church.

It becomes a **loving church**, when they devote themselves to fellowship. They shared everything in common. There was no division. Every member is called to bear witness to the common life of the church. We share giving what we have, and we share receiving what others have. Fellowship calls for spiritual and material sharing. It calls for love and concern for one another. Christian fellowship is Christian sharing, Christian caring and Christian bearing.

It became a **worshipping church**, when they devoted themselves to the breaking of bread. Their fellowship was expressed not only in sharing with each other but also in coming together in worship. Worship was both formal and informal. Formal means official breaking of bread and informal means prayer in their homes. Home is the place where they experience God. Worship is done both inside and outside the temple. This worship was both joyful and reverent.

It became an **evangelistic church**, when they devoted themselves to prayer. The Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit who created a Missionary Church. New people are added to the community because of their good examples. All the members of the Christian community are coming together as one family. The Lord added people daily and adding numbers is the symbol of evangelization and mission. A Spirit-filled Church is a missionary Church. A Spirit-filled person is a missionary person.

In the Spirit-filled Church, we can see an uninterrupted growth, because of four reasons: they are related to the apostles in **submission**, they are related to each other in **love**, they are related to God in **worship** and they are related to the world in their **outreach**. Let us go back to our early Christian roots and be a Spirit-filled Church.

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