

**Sermon Text:** Acts 2:42-47

**Sermon Title:** The Empowered Church

**Main Idea:**

I want to motivate you to dream big dreams for the local church by showing you the powerful, transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church which led them to become a community that devoted themselves to learning from the apostles, partnering together for the cause of Christ, enjoying the gospel, and prayer and that God used to change the world.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why should we have big dreams for the local church?
- What are some wrong ways to think about having big dreams for the local church?
- What does this passage reveal about the priorities of the early church and how does this compare to many believer's priorities?
- What do you think are some obstacles in our culture to really being faithful followers of Christ the way this passage describes?
- What does it mean to be devoted to the apostles' teaching in the context of today's church?
- In what ways can we practice true fellowship as described in this passage?
- How does the breaking of bread (potentially both meals and the Lord's Supper) serve as a reminder of the gospel in a church community?
- Why is corporate prayer important? What does this have to do with believing Jesus is the Savior? How do you think the church is doing in terms of praying for one another? How can we encourage more of it?
- How does the generosity of the early church challenge modern Christians in their approach to possessions and community needs?
- What evidence do we see today of God working through His church in ways similar to the early church?
- What steps can we take as individuals and as a church to ensure we rely on the Holy Spirit's power rather than human-driven strategies?
- How can this passage motivate us to move beyond the "status quo" in our faith and commitment to the local church?

**Sermon Notes:** This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.