

“CLOSER TO GOD SERIES”

GET CLOSER
TO GOD



**EIGHT PRACTICES THAT WILL CHANGE
YOUR LIFE**

I. TURN FROM YOUR SINS (VS. 38A)

Verse 38 says, “Repent.”



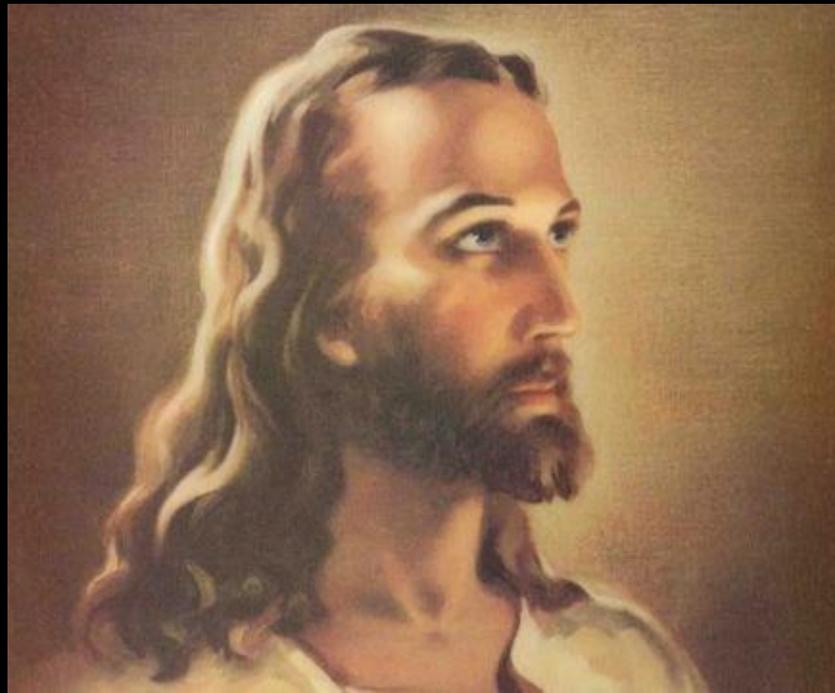
“Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed.”

James 5:16

II. TRUST IN JESUS (VS. 44)

“And all those who had believed.”

Verse 44



Verse 36

“both Lord and Christ.”

Verse 22

“a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him.”

Verse 23

“you nailed (Him) to a cross.”

Verse 24

“God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death.”

III. DECLARE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM (VS. 38B)

Verse 38

“Each of you be baptized in the name of
Jesus Christ.”



Mark 1:5

“They were being baptized by in the Jordan River confessing their sins.”

Baptism is a symbol of death and resurrection.

Romans 6:4

“We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

1. FORGIVENESS OF SIN-

Verse 38

“for the forgiveness of your sins.”

2. RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT -

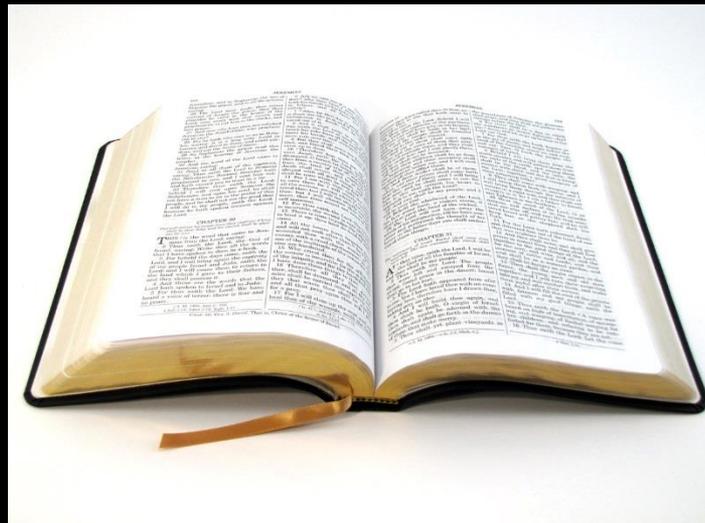
Verse 38

“And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

IV. LEARN GOD'S WORD (VS. 42A)

Verse 42

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching/doctrine.”



“The teaching of the apostles...would have included such subjects as (Jesus’) resurrection, the Old Testament Scriptures, the Christian witness, and their own reminiscences of Jesus’ earthly ministry and teachings.”

John Polhill

V. SHARE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR STUFF (VS. 42B, 44-45)

Verse 42

“They were continually devoting themselves...to fellowship.”



Verse 44

“They had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”

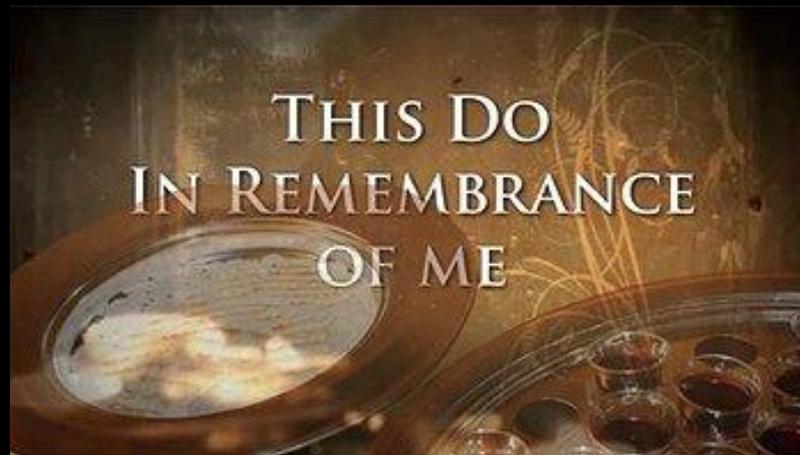
Acts 5:4

“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control?”

VI. CELEBRATE CHRIST'S SACRIFICE (VS. 42, 46B)

Verse 42

“They were continually devoting
themselves to...the breaking of bread.”



Verse 46

“Day by day...they were breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.”

VII. PRAY CONTINUALLY (VS. 42)

Verse 42

“They were continually devoting themselves...to prayer.”



THE PRAYERS

Daniel 6:10

“He continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God.”

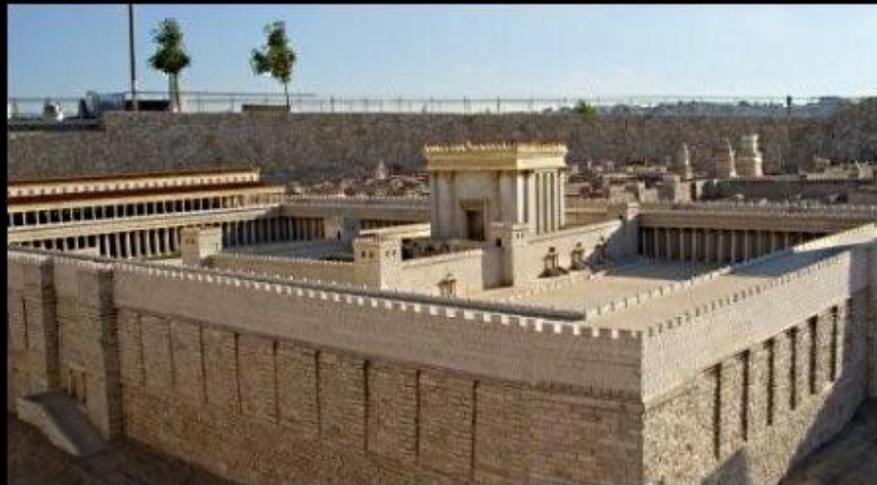
Acts 3:1

“Now, Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.”

VIII. THEY WORSHIPPED REGULARLY AT GOD'S HOUSE (VS. 46A)

Verse 46

“Day by day continuing with one mind in
the temple.”



“The temple provided the largest available open space in Jerusalem and a natural place for teaching. The massive Jerusalem Temple—easily one of the largest in the empire—could host vast crowds in its courts and surrounding areas. The Temple Mount comprised about 1,527,920 square feet, that is about, 35 acres.”

Craig S. Keener, Acts, p. 1031.

“The members of the Jerusalem church continued to worship in the temple until they fled the city.”

Craig S. Keener, Acts, p. 1032.

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS FOLLOWED 8-LIFE CHANGING PRACTICES:

- 1. They turned from their sins**
- 2. They trusted in Jesus**
- 3. They declared their faith in Jesus through baptism**
- 4. They learned God's word**
- 5. They shared their life and their stuff**
- 6. They celebrated Christ's sacrifice**
- 7. They prayed continually**
- 8. They worshipped regularly at God's house.**