Restoring the Spirit of the Early Church  
Acts 2:41-47

Introduction:
A. We recognize the importance of restoring New Testament Christianity.
   1. Speak fondly of the “restoration movement” in this country.
   2. Have generally succeeded in restoring doctrine, worship and structure of early church.
B. We will not restore NT Christianity and growth until we restore the spirit of the early church.
C. The Jerusalem church exemplifies the spirit that we need to restore.

Discussion:
I. The Spirit of Steadfastness (v. 42).
   A. Steadfast in worship and work (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).
   B. Steadfastness of purpose and action too often missing.
      1. Shows up in haphazard attendance.
      2. Shows up every phase of church work.
      3. Shows up in our daily devotion to God.

II. The Spirit of Reverence (v. 43).
   A. “Fear” (phobos) in sense of reverence and respect. (Cf. Eph 5:33 KJV, ASV, NKJ).
   B. Irreverence rampant in many worship services and Bible classes.
      1. Show little regard for the One being worshiped.
      2. Show little regard to the dignity of the occasion — funerals get more respect.

III. The Spirit of Togetherness (v. 44).
   A. Together spiritually and physically (v. 46).
      1. Were together in temple (place of worship).
      2. Were together from house to house.
   B. Few have time or inclination for this today.

IV. The Spirit of Sacrifice (v. 45)
   A. Willing to sacrifice all they had.
      1. Money (goods) (cf. 4:32-34).
      2. Time (v. 46).
      4. Life itself (Stephen)
   B. Contrast that with today.
      1. Will sacrifice little time or money benefit church.
      2. Basically throw the Lord the crumbs of their time and money.

V. The Spirit of Evangelism (v. 47).
   A. No daily additions without daily evangelism.
   B. A spirit that compelled them to speak (4:18-20).
   C. A spirit not confined to preachers (apostles) (cf. 8:1,4).
   D. A spirit that did not demand a church-organized effort.
      1. Did more than just what was planned and supported collectively.
      2. Each person felt a need to share the good news of the gospel.
      3. By contrast, we wait for special efforts of church, then do not support them.

Conclusion:
A. Let us work to restore NT Christianity — in its entirety.
B. Let us catch the spirit of the early Christians — grow as they did.
C. Let each begin where they began (vv. 37,38,41).