

Acts 2:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Analysis

They continued stedfastly (ἵσταν προσκαρτεροῦντες)—The imperfect tense denotes ongoing, habitual practice; 'proskarterountes' means devoted persistence despite obstacles. Luke lists four priorities: **the apostles' doctrine** (authoritative teaching grounded in eyewitness testimony), **fellowship** (koinōnia—shared life including material goods, v.44), **breaking of bread** (the Lord's Supper and/or communal meals), and **prayers** (corporate intercession). This four-fold pattern defined early church rhythm and remains normative for Christian community. Steadfast continuance, not spectacular experience, marks Spirit-filled living.

Historical Context

Describes the 3,000 converts' immediate post-Pentecost practice in Jerusalem. These new believers, many from abroad, required instruction in Christian doctrine and integration into community. 'Apostles' doctrine' preceded New Testament writing—initially oral teaching later crystallized into Scripture. Daily temple attendance (v.46) continued alongside distinctly Christian observances.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Which of these four elements (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer) is weakest in your church experience?
2. How does 'continued stedfastly' challenge modern consumer approaches to church?

Interlinear Text

ἵσαν	δὲ	προσκαρτεροῦντες	τῇ	διδαχῇ	τῶν		
they continued	And	stedfastly		doctrine			
G2258	G1161	G4342	G3588	G1322	G3588		
ἀποστόλων	καὶ	τῇ	κοινωνίᾳ	καὶ	τῇ	κλάσει	τοῦ
in the apostles	and	G3588	fellowship	and	G3588	in breaking	G3588
G652	G2532		G2842	G2532		G2800	
ἄρτου	καὶ	ταῖς	προσευχαῖς				
of bread	and	G3588	in prayers				
G740	G2532		G4335				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:25 (Kingdom): Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Acts 1:14 (Prayer): These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

1 John 1:3 (Parallel theme): That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:7 (Parallel theme): And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Acts 2:46 (Kingdom): And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

1 John 1:7 (Parallel theme): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Ephesians 6:18 (Prayer): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Colossians 1:23 (Parallel theme): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Colossians 4:2 (Prayer): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Ephesians 2:20 (Parallel theme): And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;