

Acts 2:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Analysis

Praising God, and having favour with all the people—The early church's joyful worship and generous community living attracted public goodwill despite later persecution. **The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved** (ὁ κύριος προσετίθει... τοὺς σωζομένους)—Luke emphasizes God's initiative in salvation ('the Lord added') while using a present participle ('being saved') suggesting ongoing process. The church's growth was both supernatural (divine adding) and natural (community witness). 'Daily' growth reflects sustained evangelistic fruitfulness, not isolated campaigns. This summary statement (vv.42-47) establishes Acts' pattern: Spirit-filled community leads to bold witness resulting in conversions and opposition.

Historical Context

The Jerusalem church grew from 120 (1:15) to 3,000 (2:41) to 5,000 men (4:4) within months. This explosive growth occurred despite no evangelistic infrastructure—simply authentic community and Spirit-empowered witness. Public favor was temporary; persecution erupted by chapter 4. The church met in temple courts and homes simultaneously.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'adding to the church' inform your understanding of evangelistic methods?
2. What elements of Acts 2:42-47 community life are reproducible today versus culturally specific?

Interlinear Text

αἰνοῦντες	τὸν	θεὸν	καὶ	ἔχοντες	χάριν	πρὸς	ὅλον	τὸν
Praising	G3588	God	and	having	favour	with	all	G3588
G134		G2316	G2532	G2192	G5485	G4314	G3650	
λαόν	ὁ	δὲ	κύριος	προσετίθει	τοὺς	σωζομένους		
the people	G3588	And	the Lord	added	G3588	such as should be saved		
G2992		G1161	G2962	G4369		G4982		
καθ'	ἡμέραν	τῇ	ἐκκλησίᾳ					
daily	G2250	G3588	to the church					
G2596			G1577					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:5 (Parallel theme): And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (Salvation): For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Acts 2:39 (References God): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 2:41 (Parallel theme): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Romans 14:18 (References God): For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Acts 11:24 (References Lord): For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Acts 13:48 (References Lord): And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Romans 9:27 (Salvation): Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Romans 8:30 (Parallel theme): Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Luke 2:52 (References God): And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.