

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

**“LOOKING UP WITH STEADFAST DEVOTION”**

**Acts 2:40-47**

Our theme for this year is Our Dynamic Help from *Psalm 121:1-2*. For the last several weeks I have been speaking about looking up for our HELP. Last Sunday I spoke about Looking Up in Joy. Today I am concluding this series of messages and I want to speak about – **Looking Up With Steadfast Devotion** and that is what we see in this awesome section of Scripture.

We are reading about the Church of the Living God on the day of Pentecost and what happened to that local New Testament church. God’s Word was preached, there was powerful Holy Spirit Conviction, then repentance took place and then there was obedience – they were baptized. Now my focus today is found in *verse 42* and that is linked to *V-41*. Notice it say, “and they” which are these new believers, who now are **Looking Up With a Steadfast Devotion**. Now some translations use the word “devotion / steadfastly (KJV)” here in *V-42*. The word “devoted” has a rich meaning. It refers to “staying close, cleaving faithfully and continuing steadfastly.”

Now *verse 42* tells us four things that they devoted themselves to and let’s look at them this morning.

**I. THEIR DEVOTION WAS TO: THE TRUTH THAT EXALTS**

For us today, the “apostles’ doctrine/teaching” would be the Word of God, the Bible. The apostles taught the inspired Word from God. We now have it contained in what we call the Bible. Can it help us? Will it do anything for us?

The word for “doctrine” refers to “teaching” and is used of the act of teaching and the content itself. In order to grow in grace, these new believers needed to know God’s Word. The Bible and the Bible alone is the basis of our faith. (*Psalm 19:7-8*) The Scripture is from God and it is powerful! It is the truth! It is not “a” truth. IT IS “THE” TRUTH.

**Secondly as they were Looking Up Steadfastly in Devotion we see...**

**II. Their Devotion Led to: THE TIE THAT BINDS**

Now notice secondly that these new followers devoted themselves to was “fellowship.” The Greek word *koinonia* refers to a “common shared partnership.” How many of you know the song, “**Blessed Be the Tie that Binds**”? Here’s the first verse: “*Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*” Let’s be honest. It’s not always easy to be with other believers, is it? For many of us these lyrics are truer to life: “*To dwell above with saints we love, oh, that will be glory. But to dwell below with saints we know, well, that’s another story.*”

Thirdly....

**III. They Devoted Themselves: To THE TABLE THAT HUMBLER**

While many people are devoted to the table that fills, we should be devoted to the table that humbles. By this, I mean the **Lord’s Table. The Lord’s Supper. Communion.** *1 Cor. 11:23-28* tells us about The Table That Humbles.

Lastly...

**IV. They Devoted Themselves to: THE THRONE THAT BLESSES**

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in **prayers.**” This literally reads, “They were continually devoting themselves to the prayers” and refers to set times of corporate prayer, along with various types of prayer. Most of us don’t need more preaching on prayer, we need more ways to practice prayer. Remember Jesus words in *Matthew 7:11*; “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

*Hebrews 4:15-16* tells us: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Beloved,

**MANY GOOD THINGS WILL COME  
INTO YOUR LIFE AS A RESULT OF DEVOTING  
YOURSELF TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH AS WE  
LOOK UP IN DEVOTION!**