

BROKEN NORMAL: DEVOTION

Main Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Acts 2:42a ^{42a} All the believers devoted themselves to...

Devoted (proskartereó) = To attend to constantly. To persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in, or wait upon.

Acts 2:42b ^{42b} ...the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Acts 2:43-47 ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity --- ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

Big Idea: Devotion is more than a decision; it is a discipline even in the face of difficulty.

Big Question: What should we be devoted to?

1. We should be devoted to Scripture

Only 32% of Protestant Church goers (so non-Catholic Christian church goers), only 32% read their Bible every day. That means 68% of church goers weren't reading their Bible regularly prior to COVID-19 and 12% said they read it rarely if ever.

Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2. We should be devoted to connection

63% of church goers attended church once or twice a month at most. 30% attended seldom or never.

In the vast majority of churches, no more than 35% of people engage in a small group.

48% of churchgoers nationwide have completely disconnected from all church engagement since COVID began.

In 2019, 100% of practicing Christians had gone to church within the past 6 months. Six months into the pandemic, 19% hadn't gone to church at all---online or in person.

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In 2019, 65% of Americans considered themselves Christians. 62% said they considered themselves “deeply spiritual.” Yet, only 16% of these same people reported, “I make my moral choices based on what the Bible says.”

3. We should be devoted to prayer

If all your prayers came true, how holy would you be, how many other people would be helped, and how many specific people would make it to heaven?