

25 October 1995, Evening Minchah Sus, France

Being Devoted to Acts 2:42, Part 1

The new covenant is made up of only those who are thankful to be saved. They will have regard for the covenant. They are able to receive grace upon them always. When they are not abiding in the covenant, the Spirit is either quenched or grieved. They know it. That's our good. They are sensitive to that. We shouldn't even wait until He's grieved. Jn 8:51 is normal for one who is not quenching or grieving the Spirit in them.

They are pleasing in His sight, walking in the works that are designed for them. If they are not walking in these works, they aren't abiding, they are not devoted to the *koinonia* of Messiah's Body life, or they are not devoted to the apostles' teaching, Breaking of Bread, or prayer.

*Koinonia* is the total social life of the Body. We are involved in every aspect of it.

If one is not doing these things, he is not obeying the Son of God. If he is not sensing that he is grieving the Spirit by not doing this, he doesn't belong to the Son of God. If he doesn't sense that he quenches the fire of the Spirit within him.

There are four things in Acts 2:42. People are devoted to these four things after they are baptized. To not break these four things one must be filled with the Spirit.

The new covenant is the whole new covenant scriptures. The New Testament is the new covenant. It's a mistake to call it New Testament. To disobey any part of it, especially after we understand it, is to disobey the covenant.

There are four basic requirements. Every elder and teacher is devoted to the apostles' bread. The teachings are the bread of life where you get your spiritual life from. To whatever extent we are all not devoted to these four things, to this extent we are not pleasing in His sight — 1 Jn 3:22.

Elders are devoted to the apostolic teaching. They are teaching the edah. The prophets are speaking from their devotion to the apostolic teaching. In the same way the evangelists take from the apostolic teaching, and are passing on their skill in proclaiming the gospel for the upbuilding of the edah. The Holy Spirit is for the Body — 1 Cor 14:3. He wants to build it up. Prophecy is for upbuilding.

Let's pray for our elders and leaders and people who speak to us, and let's speak ourselves by the grace He gives us.

1 Jn 3:22; 1 Jn 5:14-15. Unless we do Acts 2:42, He can't hear us. If I know He doesn't hear me, I have to judge myself and admit something before He hears me. The same with a wife and a husband. If the husband doesn't treat his wife right, heaven is shut off to his prayer. His prayers bounce off the clouds or the ceiling.

Have you ever prayed knowing God wasn't hearing you? You have to judge and inspect what is hindering your fellowship with Him. If we are not devoted to Acts 2:42 with 100% devotion, He can't hear us. Isn't that good? That means our Father is going to have His will on earth. He gave us His Holy Spirit and grace. He expects us to do it. We have the throne of grace. Especially the teachers need to be devoted to the apostles' teaching. How can the people be devoted to them if the teachers don't teach them?

This is the foundation. The reason why there was abundant grace on the first edah at the time of Acts 2 and 4 was because they were devoted to these four foundational things. They were doing what was pleasing to our Master. Paul said, "Be careful how you build." If we are not devoted to these four essential, foundational things, we are not building with grace. To be devoted to these four essential things is the way to receive grace. He gives us grace so we can be obedient to these four essential things.

Paul as a wise master builder was laying a foundation. The foundation is Acts 2:42. It is to establish the edah and to teach the disciples how to receive grace — by being obedient to Acts 2:42.