



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

TRANSFORMATION TO A NEW LIFESTYLE

Acts 2: 42-47

In an Anglican Journal (Feb 2012), the Rev. Canon Doris Beatty reminded his mother on the first sunny day after the winter that the snow has disappeared while he was a young boy. She would turn the house upside down, pulling out mattresses and rugs and declaring that it was time for spring-cleaning. His job was to clean all the rugs until all the dust and dirt was shaken out.

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone.”
Acts 2:42,43*

Lent is a time clearing all the debris out of our hearts and minds and retrieve the life style of the early church in our life.

Today’s Passage is a short miniature of the Lifestyle of the early church.

When we read the NRSV Bible translation, two words catch our mind.

- I. In verse 42 read they “devoted” themselves to. Devote means give resources or oneself to a purpose. Devotee is the one who zealously give oneself to a purpose. Their devotion to God’s word transforms their attitudes and inclinations.
 - i. They devoted to the teachings of apostles. Their enthusiasm to hear the word of God from the apostles generated a new consciousness in their heart that everything in their life is a gift of God and God is the owner of all possessions. The early church was ‘devoted’ to learning. During this Lent, let us retrieve the spirit of learning from the Bible relentlessly.
 - ii. The devotion to God and to the word of God generated a new spirit of unity and togetherness among the believers. It was a church of fellowship. Therefore let us retrieve the unity among the members and worship God steadfastly.
 - iii. Their devotion to the word of God and to the fellowship opened their heart and eyes to look into the very need of the people and persuaded them to extend their hands to share their possessions to the needy. (verse 45). The unity and togetherness generates life and wholeness to the community. Let us retrieve the passion of self-denial and self-giving of the early church.
- II. The second word that catches our mind is verse 43 “Awe” came upon every one. The meaning of “Awe” is feeling of respect combined with fear or wonder. The early believers’ devotion to the God’s word, to the fellowship to share their possessions to the needy evolves many signs and wonders among the people and many were attracted to the church. The feeling “Awe” is the outcome of our submission to God. When we submit ourselves to God, we will be filled with gladness and rejoicing - Let us retrieve this spirit of “Awe” in our fellowship so that the church may grow day by day.

Prayer: Lord enable us to be more devoted to your word, to the fellowship and to the worship so that we can retrieve a life style of self giving and self.

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