

God's Plan for You

Today's Reading

Acts 2:1-47



A follower of Christ cut off from a local church? It is true; you can find numerous examples of that today. Nevertheless, that is a foreign concept to the New Testament! Such an independent experience is not part of God's plan.

With thousands of Jews in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, God chose this important day to pour out His Spirit on His followers. As the apostles spoke in foreign languages they had not previously studied, crowds gathered in amazement. Peter capitalized on this opportunity to declare the recent ministry of Jesus and the forgiveness that one finds through faith in Him. Those who responded in faith were baptized. Then, at the end of verse 41, you read something interesting: "... and about three thousand were added to their number that day." The "addition" spoken of here was not to a list of people who went on with life independent of

one another. These people were "added" in the sense of becoming part of a community of people whose lives now shared the very essence of the life, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. These people had become part of the same family. No follower of Jesus was intended to live independently of the local church.

But it is also important to note that God's plan for His children includes more than regular attendance at a local church like Grace. The new believers depicted here were committed to the Great Commission of becoming and making fully devoted followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ. As a result, they were devoted to the Scriptures, to fellowship, to regular participation in Communion, to prayer, to helping one another, and to reaching out beyond their own group. Truly, they were involved in their local church.

This example of the first church in the New Testament is not an anomaly. As the missionary Paul traveled hundreds of miles on two continents, he sought to win people to Christ and then ensure that they were properly connected to, established in, and involved in local churches.

Are you connected, established, and involved? That is God's plan for His children!