

August 2/3, 2025

"The Apostles' Teaching"

Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths**

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

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## **Day 1** [Acts 2:42-47](#) | Courageous Church

**They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.** Acts 2:46-47

Many followers of Jesus witnessed his life, death and resurrection. Jesus then returned to heaven. Compelled by this life-changing work of Jesus, the early church makes many courageous commitments in faith. Then, Jesus, the groom, tests his bride, the church's, faithfulness. Her unwavering devotion is revealed in two ways: The early church moves *toward* Jesus and *away* from sin and old ways of living. Through their devotion and courageous commitments to Jesus, the gospel breathes new life into countless souls.

We can have the same powerful impact as the early church. We can witness the Holy Spirit unleashed in and through our church. Whenever God moves through his people there are certain patterns we observe in believers' lives. Over the next five weeks, we will examine commitments the early church made that still matter today. They went all-in on the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, meeting needs, sharing Jesus, prayer and praise. Leaning into these same commitments could be the reason we get to experience a revival of faith locally and globally.

**TODAY:** Ask God to help you devote all of your life to him. Pray for him to reveal where you need to move closer to Jesus and what sins and patterns need removing. Guide your prayer with these words: "God, help me to love what you love and hate the sin that you hate." Commit to following this sermon series as a step of obedience in moving closer to this courageous walk with Jesus.

## **Day 2** [Matthew 28:18-20](#) | The Mission

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** Matthew 28:19-20

These are the final words of their rabbi, Jesus. The one they sacrificed their careers for. The one they love. As one hangs on to the final words of a loved one, the disciples cling to one of Jesus's last commands before he ascends. He calls them to a new role. They know what it means to be a disciple. Follow Jesus, eat with him and absorb his lessons. Now he asks them to make disciples. They are to take his model and disciple others. He bestows this mission to them: Be a disciple who makes disciples.

The calling to be disciples who make disciples extends to us. This is the mission of the church. We follow Jesus, and we invite others to follow him too. We invest in the next generation through children's ministries to offer them a lifelong journey with Jesus. We learn to clearly communicate the gospel in small groups, so we can share our faith confidently outside the church. We strengthen other churches, so we have more people equipped to

live out this mission. This is why we serve and give to our church. When we all unite in Jesus's mission, we see God move and lives changed.

**TODAY:** Think of someone God has placed in your life to disciple. Maybe you need to share your faith story with them or invite them to join you at church. How will you show them who Jesus is through your words and actions? Courageously take one step toward Jesus's mission of making disciples.

## Day 3 [Acts 4:1-8](#) | The Power

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.** Acts 1:8

Jesus commissions his disciples, but before he ascends, he commands them to wait in Jerusalem. Eager as they probably were, Jesus understands the challenges before them and asks them to pause. There is a gift he wants to give them. This gift, the Holy Spirit, will be the power they need to live out their mission. In Jerusalem, the Spirit falls on them like tongues of fire, and they can speak in languages they have never known. The whole crowd understands what is spoken in their native tongue. Three thousand people put their faith in Jesus and are baptized ([Acts 2](#)). The Holy Spirit fuels the mission that extends from that crowd "to the ends of the earth."

Even those who physically walked with Jesus could not carry out his mission without the Holy Spirit's power. We cannot muster the strength without him either. The moment we surrender our lives to Jesus, we are permanently gifted with the power of the Holy Spirit. As we mature in our faith, we surrender more areas of our lives to God. This submission opens the door to experiencing more of the Holy Spirit's power working in and through us.

**TODAY:** Offer thanks to God for the Holy Spirit's presence in you because of your faith in Jesus. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[All Hail King Jesus](#)." As you worship, ask God to help you submit all areas of your life to make Jesus your king.

## Day 4 [Acts 2:42](#) | The Apostles' Teaching

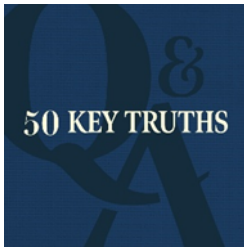
**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.** Acts 2:42

The apostles, some of Jesus's original disciples, experienced his teachings firsthand. For three years, they walked with him, ate with him and received personal instruction from him. These apostles record Jesus's words after he leaves the earth. They turn their entire hearts to these teachings and lay the foundation for future believers. Courageously, the early church commits to honoring these teachings no matter the cost. They meditate on Jesus's words and meet to discuss what they learn. As a result of their devotion, "the word of God spreads" near and far, and many lives are changed forever ([Acts 6:7](#); [Acts 12:24](#)).

Our challenge is to have this same devotion to God's Word. We have access to the apostles' teachings, which make up our New Testament. The Holy Spirit does a work in our hearts when we go all-in on studying his Word. There are three ways we can dedicate ourselves to the Word of God. Weekly, we can gather together to hear the Word preached. Daily, we can read the Bible and utilize study resources like a reading plan or a study Bible. Finally, we can commit to memorizing Scripture and invite the Holy Spirit to use it to shape our thoughts. The Spirit will transform us through Scripture when we immerse ourselves in it.

**TODAY:** Memorize [Romans 12:2](#), "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and

perfect will." You could paste it onto your phone's lock screen, write it in a journal or even post it on a bathroom mirror. Trust the Holy Spirit to transform your mind through his Word.



## Day 5 [2 Corinthians 3:17-18](#) | Question 30: What is Sanctification?

**Question:** What is sanctification?

**Answer:** Sanctification is the lifelong process of growing more like Christ through transformation by the Holy Spirit.

**And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.** 2 Corinthians 3:18

Paul writes to believers struggling with ongoing spiritual growth. He explains that sanctification—being set apart and transformed by the Spirit into Christlikeness—is not an instant process but a gradual work of the Spirit. Unlike the temporary, fading glory that Moses experienced after meeting with God ([Exodus 34:29](#)), believers experience a continuous transformation over time. Paul wants them to understand their spiritual growth isn't dependent solely on their efforts. "Being transformed" indicates a process by which God's Spirit shapes believers to increasingly reflect Christ's character throughout their lives.

This same process of sanctification transforms how we understand spiritual growth today. We are being made more like Jesus in our hearts, character and actions. This transformation comes from the Spirit of God who lives in us. God's Spirit actively works to mold us to be like Jesus. This spiritual formation is a lifelong pursuit empowered by the Spirit. As we walk in the Spirit and submit to his guidance, he produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, making us less hateful and more loving, less cynical and more joyful, less anxious and more at peace.

**TODAY:** Thank God that sanctification is his work through the Spirit, not something you must accomplish in your own strength. Ask the Spirit to reveal one area where you need to be more like Christ and submit that area to his transforming work. Trust that he is making you more like Jesus, even when progress seems slow. Learn more about sanctification and the Spirit's transforming work in our [We Believe document](#).