WDM: The Teaching of the Apostles

Hope Chapel Honolulu Acts 2:41-47, Hebrews 6:1-2

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:41-47, ESV)

Introduction

Some have speculated that the Church grew from about 5000 believers in A.D. 40 to as many as 35,000,000 believers in A.D. 400. That's an indication that if we will focus our prayerful efforts on worship and discipleship and reproducing that Holy Spirit-led flow of an "up, in and out lifestyle" in others, God is released to do a great work of multiplication!

1. The historical account of Luke. (Acts 2:41-47)

- a) The oral tradition before the writing of the Gospels.
- b) The oral tradition of the Apostles.

2. Why three pairs of devotional practices?

- a) Not just head knowledge, but a living, breathing faith.
- b) Each pair of devotional practices has an inward flow and an outward flow.

3. The teaching of the apostles. (Hebrews 6:1-2)

- 1) Repentance from acts that lead to death (2Ch7:14, Mt4:17, Ga6:1-10)
- 2) Faith in God (Ge15:1-6, He11:1-6)
- 3) Doctrine of baptisms (Mt3:11, Ac18:24-19:11, 1Pe3:21)
- 4) Laying hands (Mk16:15-18, 2Ti1:6-7)
- 5) Resurrection of the dead (Job1:23-27, 1Co15:1-49)
- 6) Eternal judgment (Mt25:31-46, Re19:11-20:15)

Conclusion

Moses and Christ both testified, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Dt8:3, Mt4:4, Lk4:4). The teaching of the apostles--which summarizes the words of the Law, Prophets and Christ—help us to understand and abide by God's powerful living word.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1. What did the Holy Spirit remind you of or teach you afresh through today's message?
- 2. How might the "teaching of the apostles" differ from a sermon you hear in church?
- 3. Which of these six "teachings" or "doctrines" are you familiar enough with to teach someone else? Which do you need to learn and apply before showing and telling someone else?