

There is no movement that so swept the world and changed the course of history. The Roman empire which had existed for ^{1000 yrs.} hundreds of years + controlled all the so-called civilized world was brought down by a Superior Power - the Power of God - the Moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals throughout the ~~the~~ then known world - this was the N.T. church

Q: If we want today to experience spirituality as God intended we should, and if we want to experience community - the place to look is the N.T. in the book of Acts - chapter 2
v. 42 - 47

Acts 2:42-47

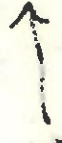
I Contentful - "continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching" - this is a community of TRUTH - the TRUTH. The Bible is the true word of God which tells us How to relate to God 2 what He is like 3 what we are like - 4 where we came from 5 why we are here 6 what comes after death

To 4:58
No structure will set you free - the word

It answers all the questions we as humans have but it's very important that we be devoted continually to the study of this truth: this is not an option, it is mandatory. We can't say we respect and honor the truth in our lives if we don't bother to know it. Nobody can say that they revere the Word of God and that they recognize the authority of the Word of God in their lives and yet they haven't bothered to find out what it says. Because to live in deliberate ignorance is the same thing as knowing what the Bible says and yet refusing to obey it.

The N.T. Church was a contentful church

at the N.T. Council
below



Power

individuals
Gov
also

spirituality

community

Content for
Sims-Hill

THE TRUTH

Disc
9/11

②
③

after

Comm

⑤

④
②

study

devoted
continually

keep nice
relationships
and have
good

deliberate ignorance

refusing to obey

⊙ This N.T. Church was not based on 'experiences', because, whether they were having them or not they believed + lived by the TRUTH of God's revelation
(insert 2a + 2b)

II Corporate aspect of the Church

"Fellowship" - koininia - Sharing

These people understood the truth that real spirituality - a walk with God is not something we go off & do by ourselves ① → we need to depend on one another as fellow believers

② → We have to have that inter-play of spiritual gifts

③ → we need to have the in-depth personal relationships

These are all part of the will of God for us

The Bible calls this "fellowship" & the N.T. Church devoted themselves to one another

They didn't say → "We have to get up on Sunday morning and go to church". These people weren't going to church - these people realized they were the church

→ This is the difference between going to fellowship and being IN fellowship - that's why we are called the BODY

When we are IN fellowship it's an on-going thing in which we have contact almost every day

We don't compartmentalize our lives but we have everything in common of other believers

We are transparent - sharing our lives with them. That's the way the church ought to be & these N.T. believers understood & practiced it.

The idea that Christianity is going & sitting down for an hour a week in a building & then leaving & having no real relationships all week & that's a bunch of nonsense & is the cause of the lukewarmness & even apostasy of the so-called church today

U.S. = ARCISISTIC

Autonomous

2a
insert

Here is where we need ~~to~~ to understand
the **Balance of the Christian life**

Balance is necessary for **maturity**
Let's say there are **100 essential teachings**
of **Christianity** in the Bible

of O.T. symbolism

Jesus' ~~life~~ death & resurrection
H.S. Grace

100

pendulum - is us - we swing from
our extreme to another.

Grace as license

e.g. 1st Century 90-110 AD material body is evil -

so everything & anything we do in our body is OK
because your body is not the real you - **Gnostics**

By 150 AD. the church was under **LAW**

they over-reacted + went under law

NB - Heresy is **leaving out** ~~and~~ an essential
teaching of the Bible - **or adding to** the Bible

Almost every problem we have resulted in
from **not** teaching **all** God's truth and
from **not** walking **by** faith depending on the H.S.

We need the **balance** of the

① the **form** of the Scriptures - i.e. **principles**

- ② the **leading** of the H.S.

① Scripture has **form**

→ (a) **guidelines**

→ (b) **foundation to build upon**

→ (c) **tools to discern the spirits - true H.S. or false**

Without the **Bible** we are subject to **current**
values in our **culture** with **no answers**,

nothing to **stand upon**. ~~The Bible~~ **God** has spoken
on every **essential issue** in our **lives**

