

Acts 2:42-47

Often when we think of vision, we think of looking to the future. We also think of something new, something fresh, something cutting edge...something future. Well, I want us to do something different. I want us to look back to something old. I don't want us to think 21st century. I want us to think first century.

READ/PRAY

As we consider where we are going in 2018, we must first consider where everything began. We want to pattern ourselves after that first church. We are going to see 7 things in this text that we want to emulate this year.

I know that you might feel like I am forcing you to drink from a Fire hose this morning.

1. If you feel that way, the good news is you have 12 months to figure it out as we flesh it out.
2. Also, you can go to [missionsurge.com](http://missionsurge.com) and get everything in bite sized portions each day this week...or sign up for the newsletter.

7 things....

### **I. Maturing in the Word v42a**

*2 Tim 3:16-17 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

1. January 14 until....1 John with the blog, the extra material etc.
2. Begin the Blueprint for maturing and making disciples
  - a. For non-Christians
  - b. For new Christians
  - c. For Christians who want to know how to evangelize and make disciples
3. After Easter comes Malachi
4. Summer: The Insanity of God movie and the Insanity of Obedience on Wednesdays and "Limitless Vision and Urgent Action" series on Sundays

Calling all fathers and families to read the Bible together and to pray!!!

### **II. Meaningful Fellowship v42b, 46**

*Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

1. The words "one another" are used 151 times in the Bible...there is reason for that!
2. 5th Sunday fellowship meal and communion.

### III. Making Supplication v42c

#### Genesis 32:24-32

1. We must make it our practice to wrestle with God
  - a. Wrestle with God on our own
  - b. Wrestle with God as a D-group, life group, Sunday school class, and as a church!
2. Opportunities
  - a. Mission Surge prayer newsletter
  - b. 8:30 / 11 a.m. Sunday prayer—we are going to be praying about a lay-leader
  - c. Monday night group
  - d. Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Let prayer permeate EVERY part of the church...not just the prayer room.

### IV. Miracles Performed v43

Be the Miracle!

1. Meet a need....well they don't deserve it...they don't show much promise...not much bang for our buck.
2. The 10 lepers...only 1 returned to glorify Jesus, and Jesus knew it before he healed the other 9 and yet, he still healed them.
3. It is as we get neck deep serving and being the miracle that we find ourselves in a position to experience a supernatural miracle.

This isn't about the church leadership scheduling you opportunities. It is about you finding and taking opportunities!

### V. Ministry to the Body v44-45

Unity, unity, unity! Serving one another.

Romans 12:6-8 *Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

#### 1 Corinthians 12

1. no dead weight allowed!
2. What are you doing?

#### Acts 4:32-35

*And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. 34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.*

## VI. Magnifying God v47

John 4:23-24 *But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

1. True Worship is in spirit...songs that get our emotions going
2. True worship is in truth...hymns are saturated with truth.
3. Not either or, but both...truth AND spirit!

Worship is a lifestyle, done daily, being a living sacrifice...but what we I am referring to here, is praising God...corporate worship.

1. God Centered
2. Christ Exalting
3. Biblically Sound
4. Consistently Excellent worship

## VII. Missions and Evangelism v47

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 1:8

1. Jerusalem and Judea—April 1, Vacation Bible School, any Christmas events and Blueprint study...going into the community instead of simply saying come and see...Motlow and Bonaru
2. Samaria—Nashville, MTSU, Shelbyville, ESL
3. Ends of the Earth—anywhere you want to go in the world (don't wait on the staff to initiate!)  
Summer Bible study...adopt an UUPG
  - a. Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
    - b. The goal is not to make disciples of as many people as possible.
    - c. The goal is to make disciples of as many nations (people groups) as possible.
    - d. To push farther and farther out...to the ends of the earth.

Are we going to be a landing strip or are we going to be a launching pad?

1. Praying for Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the Ends of the Earth
2. Giving for Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the Ends of the Earth
3. Going to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the Ends of the Earth
4. Sending to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the Ends of the Earth

### Conclusion:

These 7 things are not just for 2018...they are for the church for all time.

1. This will require us to invest ourselves in these 7 things this year.
2. This will require us to continue to press farther and deeper and wider in these 7 things
3. This will require us to turn our attention away from things that aren't included.and that might hurt....but not as much as missing what God has for us.

Will you join us? Maybe this morning you are here and you are not part of this church family....maybe you aren't part of the family of God, but what you have heard has resonated with you.

1. THE GOSPEL
2. Invite them to get in the boat by receiving Jesus, then grab a paddle and let's row hard to be what God has designed for us to be.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father....God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will \_\_\_\_\_"