

Trinity Sunday ~ Sunday, May 31, 2026

“Marks of the Early Church ~ Devoted to Teaching, Fellowship & Prayer”

Psalm 1 // Acts 2:42-47 // John 15:1-15

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

A frightened and uncertain group of disciples became a bold, _____, Spirit-filled community that would eventually carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

However, the Holy Spirit didn't just produce _____ moments; it formed ordinary believers into a new kind of people, marked by devotion, courage, generosity, worship, holiness, and love.

In every generation, the Church faces the temptation to _____ away from its centre. It's so easy to become busy without becoming _____, to become active without becoming spiritually rooted, and to fill calendars, maintain programs, and still slowly lose sight of the _____ of Christ.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

Before we read about miracles, missionary journeys, or explosive church growth, we read about _____. These believers understood that spiritual life had to be _____ and sustained.

“I am the vine; you are the branches.” (John 15:5)

The Christian life isn't sustained through human _____, religious performance, or occasional inspiration, but rather flows from _____ in Christ. The early Christians weren't spiritually impressive because they were naturally _____ people. They were ordinary people whose lives were anchored in an extraordinary _____.

ABIDING IN CHRIST

#1. _____.
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It carries the sense of persistence, _____, and ongoing commitment. They understood that if they were going to live faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit, they needed to remain grounded in the _____ of God.

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you...” (John 15:7)

Notice Jesus doesn't _____ abiding in Him from abiding in His Word—the two belong together. To remain connected to Jesus means remaining connected to what He's _____.

The apostles' teaching mattered because it carried forward the _____ of Jesus Himself; and these new believers hungered for it because they knew the spiritual life couldn't survive without spiritual _____.

A branch has no _____ life in itself. It draws life, nourishment, and strength from the vine. The moment it becomes disconnected, it begins to _____.

Yet, Jesus teaches us the spiritual life requires _____ abiding.

“Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night...He is like a tree planted by streams of water...” (Ps 1:1-3)

Devotion to teaching isn't just about collecting Bible trivia or winning theological arguments online. The goal of Scripture is _____.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God's Word doesn't merely inform the mind; it _____ the _____.

They listened, learned, and remembered; they allowed the _____ of Christ to shape the entire _____ of their lives.

Healthy fruit began growing because healthy _____ had been established first. And deeply rooted faith _____—it survives droughts, storms, and difficult seasons because it draws its _____ from Christ Himself.

That's why the Church must never _____ from the teaching of God's Word, and only flourishes when it remains rooted in Christ and nourished by the truth He's given us.

#2. _____.
“...to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

The Christian life was never meant to be lived _____. The Holy Spirit didn't simply create individual believers scattered in isolation; He formed a _____.

“...abide in my love.” (John 15:9)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn 15:12)

Abiding in Christ always affects the way we _____ to one another. The closer we grow to Jesus, the more His love _____ our life together.

Although one’s faith is _____, it was never meant to remain _____. The New Testament knows nothing of _____ Christianity detached from the body of believers.

“All who believed were together and had all things in common.” (Acts 2:44)

The fellowship described in Acts is more than just casual _____ at coffee hour; and goes much deeper than social niceness.

koinonia = shared life, shared _____, shared belonging in Christ.

Just as abiding in Christ requires _____, so does abiding together as His people.

In a culture where people are increasingly _____ and suspicious of one another, the Church is one of the few places where people who’d never normally gather together learn to love one another because they _____ to Jesus Christ.

This doesn’t mean fellowship is always _____. Sometimes Christian community is messy. People disappoint us, misunderstandings happen, wounds occur. However, Christian fellowship doesn’t survive because everyone is naturally _____. It survives because Christ Himself holds the body together.

“Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:14)

In a fragmented world, the Church is called to become a living picture of the _____ love of God.

#3. _____.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit...” (John 15:5)

This is important because it reminds us that abiding in Christ isn’t just about survival; it’s about _____, transformation, and becoming the kind of people whose lives begin to _____ the life of Jesus Himself.

“favour with all the people,” and “the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Fruit was beginning to grow everywhere. However, it wasn’t manufactured through human _____. Fruit grows naturally from a _____ connection to the vine.

“...apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

At first this sounds discouraging, however, it’s actually _____. Jesus is reminding us that the burden of producing spiritual life doesn’t rest on our shoulders. Our calling is to remain _____ to Him, and He’ll do the rest.

There’s a big difference between striving for Christ and abiding in Christ. One produces _____, the other produces _____.

And one of the clearest signs of this life is _____.

“That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)

This is one of the remarkable things about the early Church—their joy existed even in _____ circumstances—imprisonment, persecution, rejection, hardship, martyrdom, and suffering.

The world’s happiness is often _____; it rises and falls with health, finances, comfort, success, or public approval. However, Christian joy grows from something _____—from knowing that Christ is risen, that our sins are forgiven, that the Holy Spirit is present, and that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This kind of joy becomes a powerful _____ to the world—not because it pretends life is easy, denies sorrow, or forces an artificial cheerfulness, but because it’s so deeply connected to Christ that His peace and joy continue sustaining the soul even in _____ seasons.

The Spirit formed a community where _____ life became visible, and the world took notice because the life of Jesus was bearing fruit through _____ people who remained rooted in Him.