

Fellowship. The word means "community," and may indicate that the twelve, having hitherto lived as one family, with a common treasury and table, now enlarged their number to admit the new members. **Breaking of bread.** Taking their meals together, and making each supper a memorial of the Lord Jesus. **In prayers.** "In the prayers." [Rev. Ver.] The public worship of the temple in which the disciples still engaged. Chap. 3. 1. 9. See here the four elements of true Christian training for young converts.

43. Fear came. A reverence for the band as under the divine care. **Upon every soul.** Upon the people in general, who were not themselves believers, yet respected the new faith.

Wonders and signs. Miracles, which attracted attention and led to faith. **By the apostles.** The gift of the Holy Ghost was possessed by all, but the power of miracles by the apostles only, though afterward by Stephen and Philip, who were not of the twelve.

44, 45. Were together. Not all in one room, but living in close social relation, as members of one family in Christ. **All things common.** This community of goods was established not by compulsion, but by voluntary offering; was adopted only at Jerusalem; was soon found impracticable and abandoned, and may have been one cause of the poverty of the Church there, to which the Acts and Epistles make many references. **Possessions and goods.** One word indicates real estate, the other personal property. **Parted them.** It would appear that they were not placed in a common fund, from which all were to draw, but distributed to those who were in need.

46. In the temple. Whose courts were open to all Jews. **Breaking bread.** Observing the Lord's Supper, then a daily custom. **From house to house.** More properly "at home," [Rev. Ver.], in contrast with the public worship. **Eat their meat.** "Take their food," [Rev. Ver.] **Gladness and singleness.** Their hearts were joyful, and their conduct characterized by simplicity.

47. Praising God. Joy of heart finding utterance in words of praise. **Favour with all the people.** The people are here named in contrast with their rulers, whose treatment of the apostles is afterward narrated. **Lord added.** 10. Those whom the Lord adds to his people are the saved ones. **To the Church.** Not in the Rev. Ver. **Such as should be saved.** Rather "those that were being saved," [Rev. Ver.] or, more simply, "the saved."

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized. Acts 2. 41.

OUTLINE.

1. Earnest Meekers, v. 37-40.
2. Edward Heiligers, v. 41-43.
3. United Christians, v. 44-47.

Time.—A.D. 30, on the same day with the events of the last lesson.

Place.—Jerusalem.

Connecting Link.—Peter's address on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2. 17-37.

Explanations.—*They heard*—The people who listened to Peter's address. *Pricked in their heart*—Were touched in their conscience by the truth, and felt that they were sinners. *What shall we do?*—They meant to ask how they might be saved. *Repent*—Turn away from sin and toward God. *Be baptized*—As a sign of faith in Christ, and a confession before all men that they were Christ's disciples. *For the remission of sins*—To have sins forgiven through faith in Christ as the Saviour. *Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*—A promise that God's Spirit would come upon them as well as the disciples. *The promise*—God's promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. *To your children*—To their descendants, those who should come after them. *Afar off*—Peter here meant the Jews in other lands, but it was equally true of the Gentiles. *Our God shall call*—All who may hear the call of God through those who preach his word. *Testify*—Proclaim the truth of the Gospel. *Exhort*—Urge people to do their duty. *Untold generation*—The people who had crucified their Saviour, and were opposed to his Gospel. *Gladly*—Glad to have the opportunity of seeking Christ. *Baptized*—In token of their faith in Christ and union with his people. *Doctrine*—Teaching, or instruction. *Fellowship*—They went with them as friends. *Breaking of bread*—Taking their meals together, and, doubtless, making every meal a celebration of the Lord's Supper. *Prayers*—The daily worship of the disciples in the temple, and also in the "upper room" where they had met. *Fear*—Reverence for Christ and respect for his followers. *Wonders and signs*—Miracles, one of which is related in the next chapter. *All things common*—Each brought what he owned into a common stock. This was not required by the Gospel, but done freely. *Parted them*—They gave to such as were in need. In Eastern lands the poor are very many. *Eat their meat*—Their daily food. *Singleness of heart*—With sincere, pure heart, not anxious for the future, but living wholly for Christ's cause. *Having favour*—Their glad, happy religion made people love them and honour Christ. *The Lord added*—All who are truly brought into the Church are added by the Lord. *Should be saved*—This should be "the saved," meaning those who were saved by turning to the Lord.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The believing people. Acts 2. 37-47.
- Tu. Peter's sermon. Acts 2. 17-36.
- W. The jailor's conversion. Acts 16. 19-34.
- Th. The repenting sinner. Luke 15. 1-10.
- F. Josiah's reformation. 2 Chron. 34. 14-28.
- S. The way of salvation. Rom. 10. 1-13.
- S. Working out salvation. Phil. 2. 1-13.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 352, *New Hymn Book.* 6, 6, 9, 6, 6, 9.

O how happy are they,
Who the Saviour obey,
And have laid up their treasure above!
Tongue can never express
The sweet comfort and peace
Of a soul in its earliest love.