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# "THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK"

> NEHEMIAH 4:6 <

2022 CONGREGATIONAL THEME

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LAWRENCEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

# “The People Had a Mind to Work...”

January	Intro – “A Mind to Work...”
February	“... On Spiritual Growth”
March	“... On Hearing God’s Word”
April	“... On Worship”
May	“... On Fellowship”
June	“... On Prayer”
July	“... On Family”
August	“... On Evangelism”
September	“... On Overcoming Sin”
October	“... On Being Useful”
November	“... On Gratitude”
December	“... On Service”

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Acts 2:42**

**A MIND TO WORK...**

# **On Fellowship**

# What Fellowship Is

- *koinonia* – “partnership” or “sharing in”
- Most often translated as “fellowship”
- Sometimes translated as “participation,” “sharing,” “contribution,” or “communion”
- Root word = *koinos* – “common”
- But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is **common** or unclean” (Acts 10:14)

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] 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 2:42-47**

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**Acts 2:42-47**

[1] That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—[2] the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—[3] that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. [4] And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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[5] This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

[6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

# How Fellowship Is Expressed

1. We share our dedication to righteousness.  
(1 John 1:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:1-13)
2. We share our mission to advance the gospel.  
(Gal. 2:9; Phil. 1:3-5; 4:15-16)
3. We share our resources to care for one another.
  - Between local churches (Rom. 15:26-27)
  - Within a local church (Acts 2:42-45)
  - Individually (Acts 2:46-47; Heb. 13:1-3, 16)

# How To Work On Fellowship

- If we want to strengthen the right kind of fellowship with one another, we have to strengthen our fellowship with the Lord.
- Fellowship with one another doesn't produce fellowship with God.
- Fellowship with God ought to produce fellowship with one another.
- Matthew 25:31-40

# Conclusion

- “Fellowship” describes the relationship of a shared life.
- Biblically, it’s something that exists **vertically** (with God), and then **horizontally** (with our brethren).
- “Do not neglect to do good and to ***share what you have***, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Heb. 13:16).