

# The First Church: Worthy Traits

## THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCH, Acts 2:1-7:60

### The First Church: Worthy Traits, Acts 2:41-47

#### 3. (Acts 2:43) Fear, Godly— Church: the early believers were a people who stirred souls with a godly fear.

Acts 2:43 (NASB)

<sup>43</sup> “Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

#### Spiritual Character

A church that fulfills the spiritual duties will find that those duties produce spiritual character. Four aspects of the first fellowship’s character may be discerned in this passage.

#### It Was an Awe-Inspiring Church

Acts 2:43 (NASB)

<sup>43</sup> “Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

*Phobos* (awe) refers to fear or holy terror related to the sense of divine presence, to the attitude of reverence.

Fear (*phobias*) does not just mean terror or fright.

#### It means.....

- 1- A godly fear, a fear of God, of His displeasure and judgment.
- 2- A holy sense of God's presence.
- 3- A consciousness that God is working.
- 4- A reverence for God and for what is happening.
- 5- A sense of awe and wonder.

Note what it is that stirs the public to be so aware of God: the signs and wonders being done by the *apostles*.

And note: there were *many*.

**Luke 1:50 (NASB)**

<sup>50</sup>“AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.”

**Acts 10:35 (NASB)**

<sup>35</sup>“But in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”

**Psalms 25:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>“Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.”

**Psalms 31:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup>“How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men!”

**Isaiah 50:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.”

It describes the feeling produced when one realizes God is at hand. It is used in [Acts 5:5](#) and [11](#) to describe the reaction to the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira.

**Acts 5:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.”

**Acts 5:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup>“And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.”

In [Acts 19:17](#) it depicts the reaction of the citizens of Ephesus to the attack on some Jewish exorcists by a demon-possessed man.

**Acts 19:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.”

[Luke 7:16](#) uses it to portray the reaction to our Lord’s raising of the widow’s son.

**Luke 7:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“Fear gripped them all, and they *began* glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited His people!”

**Acts 2:43 (NASB)**

<sup>43</sup> **“Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”**

The life of this first fellowship was so genuine and spiritually powerful that **everyone**, whether inside or outside the church, **kept feeling a sense of awe**. They weren't awed by the church because of its buildings, programs, or anything reflecting human ability, but by the supernatural character of its life. Such an effect should be produced when the spiritual gifts are properly operative (**1 Corinthians 14:24-25**).

**1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> **“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;**  
<sup>25</sup> **the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.”**