

# **“Firm and Loyal”**

## **Rebuilding My Loyalty to My Church**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

**A.** Welcome, thanks to the audience and those who are connected.

#### **B. Theme of the Year 2024 and Series**

**THE YEAR TO REBUILD Haggai 1:7-8** *7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD.*

#### **C. Introduction to the New Series**

1. We have concluded the first series of this year “Rebuilding My Relationship with God” and today we begin our second series “**Rebuilding My Loyalty to My Church**” **Proverbs 3:3-4** *Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*
2. **What is loyalty?** Loyalty is a fundamental value in the life of any person. It is defined as an unbreakable and inflexible commitment. It is the ability to be **faithful** to someone or something, to keep the promises that have been made and to maintain a relationship based on trust.
3. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for loyalty is «**hesed**», that means unconditional **love and faith**. In the New Testament, the Greek word for loyalty is “**pistis**”, which translates as **faith or trust**.
4. Loyalty is a commitment that we must maintain in all other areas of our lives, especially with our Church, because if we long to rebuild our loyalty we have to begin to value and foster the family of God.

#### **D. Introduction to today's Message**

1. The message for today is “**Firm and Loyal**” **Acts 2:42** *They stood firm in the teaching of the apostles, in the communion, in the breaking of bread and in the prayer.*
2. I will be sharing with you 4 habits which we must develop in order to rebuild our loyalty with the church. Which are;
  - a. **The Habit of Bible Teaching**
  - b. **The Habit of Communion**
  - c. **The Habit of Holy Communion**

#### d. The Habit of Prayer

## II. APPLICATION

### A. The Habit of Bible Teaching

**Acts 2:42** *They stood firm in the teaching of the apostles,...*

1. **They stood firm.** Firm means constant, stable, faithful, strong, solid, not moving or wavering.
2. Other Bible versions say “**And they persevered**” (Greek: **Proskarterountes**) means “serious” or “committed to being constantly diligent,” “adhering strongly.”
3. The early believers of the Early Church made a commitment to take their spiritual growth very seriously.
4. Many people take their golf game, entertainment, friendships, bank account or career seriously. However, the most important thing we must take seriously is the teaching of the Word of God, because only then can we stand firm in rebuilding our spiritual life through the habit of Bible study. **1 Peter 2:2** “*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation*”

### B. The Habit of Communion

**Acts 2:42** *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

1. The ancient Greek word for **Communion is koinonia**: carries the idea of association, communion, coexistence, and participation; It means to share something.
2. The early believers were committed to sharing their resources according to each person's need. **Acts 2:44-45** *44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need..*
3. They were in control of their finances and gave generously when a need arose. They committed to investing in positive, timeless priorities.
4. **The Communion** It carries the idea of association, coexistence and participation. It means to share something. The things that last are people and their Word. Like the Early Church we must develop the habit of **Communion** and invest time in the things that will last.
  - a. You have skills and abilities that could be used in the church and will greatly encourage other people.
  - b. Perhaps you have a gift to work with computers and could help with administration or multimedia for our online ministry.
  - c. Or perhaps you are good at making people feel welcome and you could be a greeter; host, usher or security.

- d. Perhaps you have some free time that you can spend serving in various ministries in the church.
- e. Our time here on earth is short, the psalmist said it was like a vapor, you see it's only for a moment and then it disappears. Your tomorrow is not promised
- f. Today is the day to REBUILD YOUR LOYALTY to the Church by investing your time, gifts and skills in the family of God, which is the Church of Christ.

### **C. The Habit of Holy Communion**

**Acts 2:42** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*

1. It refers more than anything to the practice of the Lord's Supper which Jesus instituted in Matthew 26 while he and his disciples were eating together.
2. The Early Church was committed to the practice of celebrating the Lord's Supper, putting aside the worries of life and reflecting on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and his great love for them.
3. When we develop the habit of the Lord's Supper and participate in it we do so in memory of Jesus, we remember what he has done for us. **1 Corinthians 11:26** *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

And the last habit we must develop to rebuild our loyalty with the church is;

### **D. The Habit of Prayer**

**Acts 2:42** *They stood firm in the teaching of the apostles, in communion, in the breaking of bread and in the prayer.*

1. The early church believed in a God who heard and answered prayers. Their commitment was not only to seek God's favor but also to hear Him and walk in obedience.
2. When they prayed, God guided them in ways they could never have imagined, or naturally chosen for themselves.
3. We must also make a commitment to be faithful to individual and group prayer. I encourage you to have a prayer partner. And I also encourage you to connect virtually to Creciendo Contigo - Monday to Friday 8am-8:30am

### III. CONCLUSION

#### A. Firm and Loyal

1. The early Church was firm and loyal to biblical teaching, communion, participation in the Lord's Supper, and prayer. *And every day God added to the group those who were saved.. Acts 2:47*
2. My prayer is that we will practice the same habits and rebuild our loyalty to the church like the Early Church in Acts 2. That we will be steadfast and loyal in the church where God has planted us.
3. And God will be in charge of making our church grow himself. Acts 2:47

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