1 - **Now that I’m a Christian, Then What? Devoted to The Breaking of Bread…**

Acts 2:38-42

2 - ***“Continually devoted to…”***

We’re saved by God’s grace and mercy, but shouldn’t we devote ourselves to giving back to Him who so richly blessed us?

* We can’t be like King Hezekiah who ***“gave no return for the benefit he received”*** (2 Chronicles 32:25; cf., Luke 17:17; 8:38-39; Galatians 2:20; note ***“grace”*** and ***“labor”*** in 1 Corinthians 15:10-11)

3 - ***“Continually devoted to…”***

What is expected of us as new born servants of Christ?

1. **Start where you are**. (Example: Joseph, **Genesis 39:1-3**, 19-21)
2. **Use what you have**. (Examples: David, **1 Samuel 17:40**; & the two talent person, **Matthew 25:22**)
3. **Do what you can**. (Example: the woman who anointed Jesus, Mark 14:8; Matthew 10:42)

4 - ***“Continually devoted to… Fellowship”***

**Start where you are**… U**se what you have**…
**Do what you can**… as demonstrated in Acts.

* Acts 2:44-47; 4:23-31, 32-37; 5:14; 5:41-42; 6:1-7; 8:4-8.
* Devotion to service and the care of the ***“pressing needs”*** of fellow brethren. (Titus 3:14)
* Devotion to gospel teaching and worship.

5 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

“***Breaking of bread***” -

The **word for “*bread*” here is ‘artos’** and according to W. E. Vine can refer to in the New Testament either;

1. “**‘the loaf at the Lord's Supper**,’ Matt. 26:26” (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16)
2. “‘**bread of any kind**,’ Matthew 16:11”. (Acts 2:46)

We **must use the context** to determine its’ meaning.

6 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

**The same expression *“breaking of bread”*** is used both in  **Acts 2:42** and in **Acts 2:46** where we read; *“And* ***day by day*** *continuing with* ***one mind in the temple****, AND* ***breaking bread from house to house****, they were* ***taking their meals together*** *with gladness and sincerity of heart”.*

In **verse 46, the context** speaks of a ***“breaking of bread”*** that was

* **done daily**; (not waiting 7 days to partake on the 1st day of the week; Acts 20:7)
* done “***house to house***”; and

 represented **a common meal** (“*taking their meals together*”).

7 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

What is the context in vs. 42 for the “breaking of bread”? Devotion to:

* **Spiritual** teaching. (**Apostles doctrine**)
* **Spiritual** participation/sharing in the gospel. (**Fellowship**)
* **Spiritual** communication - (**Prayer**)

The breaking of bread would have a **spiritual focus** and refer to the **worship of God** in the observance of **the Lord’s Supper**.

Problems arise when we apply a fleshly/carnal focus to this spiritual act of worship. (1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 34; Romans 14:17; John 6:26-27)

8 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

New Christians need to be taught about the importance of worship of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit, ***“in spirit and in truth”***. (John 4:24)

How did those converted on the day of Pentecost know how to worship in Spirit and in truth?

* Note Jesus’ teaching that worship in the kingdom would be different. (John 4:20-23)

We need to follow the apostles teaching and examples (Philippians 4:9) of NT worship.

9 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

Jesus instituted the “***breaking of bread***” in memory of His sacrifice to be observed “***My Father’s kingdom***” as part of “***the new covenant***”. (Matthew 26:26-29)

* Jesus would not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day that He would drink it “***with you in My Father’s kingdom***.”

Paul received the same instructions from the Lord.
(1 Corinthians 11:23ff)

10 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

The Lord’s Supper is a **memorial**.

* We **look back** to Jesus’ death and remember His sacrifice for us. “***Do this in remembrance of Me***…” (Luke 22:19).
* Remember **Jesus’ suffering** (physical and emotional): the “***just***” suffered for the “***unjust***”. (1 Peter 3:18; 2:22-24; Mark 15:16-20)
* Remember **Jesus’ faith and obedience**: (Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:8; 1 Peter 2:23; Matthew 26:56)
* Remember **Jesus’ humility**: (Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 12:2)
* Remember **the price Jesus paid**! (Acts 20:28; 2 Peter 1:8-9)

11 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

The Lord’s Supper is a **communion**.

* We **look up** to our Lord at the right hand of God as He reigns in His kingdom (Ephesians 1:20-23)
* To be observed with reverence for whom we commune with
(1 Corinthians 10:16; Matthew 26:29) and the price He paid for our redemption.
* It is to impact the “***manner***” in which we partake.
(1 Corinthians 11:27)

12 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

The Lord’s Supper is a **self-examination**. (1 Corinthians 11:28)

* We **look inward** to our heart and mind in self-examination as we partake. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
* We are to ***“judge the body rightly”*** (1 Cor. 11:29)
* ***“Worthy manner”***? (Ephesians 4:1-2; Luke 7:4-7) Describing the manner in which we partake, not regarding our moral worthiness.
* Am I partaking for the right reason and with the right attitude? (Malachi 1:13)

13 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

The Lord’s Supper is a **proclamation of Jesus death until
He comes again**. (1 Corinthians 11:26; cf., Acts 1:10-11)

* We **look forward** to the day when He will deliver those in the kingdom unto His Father. (Hebrews 9:28)
* Thus ***“we shall always be with the Lord”*** (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:12-14).

A reminder to patiently endure until then. (James 5:7)

14 - ***“Continually devoted to… the Breaking of Bread”***

The breaking of bread and the Lord’s Supper is to remind us of the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

It’s a memorial for those who’ve been added to the body of Christ to remind us of our salvation.

If you haven’t been added to His body, it begins with your faith, confession, repentance and baptism into Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38, 41)

If you have, but your self-examination convicts you of sin, today is the day to confess and repent. (1 John 1:7)