

# Glad and Generous Hearts

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with **glad** and **generous hearts**, 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 2:46-47)*

## I. How did their hearts come to be “glad”?

- A. Especially when we remember what their hearts had just experienced (Acts 2:37).
- B. They believed that:
  - 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had come (Acts 2:36)
  - 2. By his sacrifice their \_\_\_\_\_ could be forgiven (Acts 2:38)
  - 3. Have been reconciled, they were added to God’s \_\_\_\_\_ people (Acts 2:39-41)
  - 4. The reasonable response to God’s intervention was \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42-43)
- C. The words of *Jude* 24-25 perfectly capture the “*great joy*” that filled their hearts.

## II. How does this gladness of heart produce a spirit of generosity toward others?

- A. Acts 2:46 is the only time *aphelotēs* is used in the New Testament.
  - 1. While it is translated “*generous*” in the ESV, it can also be translated “*sincerity*,” “*simplicity*,” or “*singleness*,” the opposite of the “double-mindedness” James recently warned us about (1:5-8; 4:4-8).
  - 2. With “singleness of heart,” these disciples of Jesus were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. Their satisfaction *in* God and thankfulness *to* God produced a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ - handedness and \_\_\_\_\_ toward others (Acts 2:44-47).

## III. What about my own heart?

- A. Is my heart “glad”? Do I believe that:
  - 1. The Savior has come? (*Luke* 2:10-11)
  - 2. By his sacrifice my sins can be forgiven? (*Psa* 51:10)
  - 3. Having been reconciled, I have been added to God’s redeemed people? (*Heb* 10:21-22)
  - 4. The reasonable response to God’s intervention is complete devotion? (*Rom* 12:1)
- B. Am I satisfied *in* God? Am I thankful *to* God? (*Psa* 73:23-26)
- C. Will my satisfaction *in* God and thankfulness *to* God produce a spirit of open-handedness and liberality toward others this week? (*1 Tim* 6:17-19)

**MY NEXT STEP** to developing and nurturing a glad and generous heart is...