

1] The early church, after the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, was powerful and attractive – it had ‘the favour of all the people’ (2:47)

2] However, two of the church had lied to the Holy Spirit and had died – it says ‘a great fear had come upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.’ (5:11)

**Intro.**

## **The situation (12, 16b)**

***Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles***

*Cf Jesus’ early ministry - And he healed many who were sick with various diseases and casting out many demons, at sunset they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by Demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. (Mk 1:32-34)*

*Cf Paul - God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul so even handkerchiefs or that even aprons that had touched his sin were carried away to the sick and their diseases, left them and the evil spirits came out of them. (19:11)*

*Nb Just the Apostles? When persecution broke up the church and it was scattered, Philip the waiter on tables went to Samaria and ‘the crowd ‘saw the signs’ (Philip) did” (8:6; cf 6:2-5)*

*(Jesus, in His home town,) could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them (Mar 6:5)*

*\*GRACE Though we may disobey, God still responds to faith\**

*\*Make your hands available to the Lord for His Work\**

## ***And they were all together in Solomon's Portico***

***Nb Solomon’s Colonnade. This was a covered porch on the east side of outer court of temple, (outside the court of the Gentiles). 10 m high, 10 m wide, 400 m long.***

*Nb Do not neglect meeting together (Heb 10:25)*

*Be careful to participate in the spiritual life of the church - for your own sake but also for others.*

## **The response (13-15)**

1] Unbelievers (13)

***None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.***

*Cf ‘having the favour of all the people’ (2:47)*

*\*Do not expect the uncommitted to join with believers in fellowship with the Lord\**

2] Believers (14)

***And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,***

*Cf the Lord – Jesus = God cf ‘against the Lord and his anointed’ (4:26)*

*cf added to their number those being saved (2:41); heard the Word and believed (4:4)*

*\*The Lord is in control – He adds to His number.\**

*nb men and women – baptised (8:12) and persecuted (8:3)*

*\*Note:- Men and women are equally welcome before the Lord\**

3] The people (15)

***So that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.***

*Nb the people longed after the benefits of having Jesus about*

*Cf Jesus - If only I touch the edge of his garment (Matt 9:20)*

*Paul - God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hand of Saul so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that touched his skin were carried away to the sick and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. (Acts 19:11)*

*\*JESUS The name of Jesus if believed is imminently powerful.\**

*\*Note: - When God is manifest, faith in Jesus is high.\**

## **Reaction (16)**

***The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem,***

*\*Note: - The presence of God is attractive\**

*Nb Jesus commanded the disciples to 'go to all nations' (Matt 28:19). He promised that they 'would receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth' (Acts 1:8)*

*Joel prophesied that 'the Spirit will be poured on all flesh.' (Acts 2:17). As yet it is only the Apostles who are doing the wonders, they are in Jerusalem and the people around are coming to them. That would change soon!*

***bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed***

## **Conclusion**

1] Note - answers to prayer are not a proof of obedience to God

2] Even his disobedient children, like these apostles, (cf us all) may be used by God

*??? Signs and wonders were happening and people were flocking from the town around and yet, the disciples were not going out and the Spirit was being ministered only by them(?)*

*--- Evidence of the powerful working of God through his people does not necessarily mean that God is being obeyed.*

***MP*** *God works powerfully through his servants in response to faith in Jesus (even though they may not be fully obeying God)*

***KV*** *Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the Apostles (12)*