

WEEK NINE (9)

FELLOWSHIPING IN THE EARLY CHURCH

- **PETER'S SPEECH ON PENTECOST DAY** (Acts 2: 14-41)

The coming of the Holy Spirit made a great impact in the spiritual life and psyche of the apostles. They were filled with boldness, courage and power to witness Christ to people. Peter who had been afraid and had denied Jesus before now demonstrated boldness and courage to defend the disciples against mockery of drunkenness. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak to the multitude that the apostles were not drunk but were filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. He told them that the hour was in third hour (9 am) of the day. He made them to see that what they just experienced was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that their speaking in tongues was a fulfillment of the prophecy which was made by Prophet Joel. Peter then preached the gospel of Jesus to them and about three thousand people repented and gave their lives to Christ. Henceforth they all became members of the church.

- **COMMUNAL LIFE IN THE EARLY CHURCH** (Acts 2: 41-47, 4: 32-37)

Jesus Christ established the church while He was here on earth during His three and half years ministry on earth. Peter became the leader of the church and he was assisted by other apostles. The early believers stayed together as a family, praying and doing things together. The whole church devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles on the kingdom of God. The communal living and strong fellowship was such that touched every area of their lives and interests. As a result of these they had everything in common. This meant that nobody claimed ownership of anything, it was a collective ownership of everything. Those that were rich ensured that nobody lacked food and necessities of life. The Bible says that they were increasing day by day.

ASSIGNMENT :

1. What type of life did the early disciples live?
2. Highlight the effect of Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost.

