

# MY NOTES

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

Week 7

# ACTS

## Generosity That Defines Us

### TODAY'S VERSES:

#### **Acts 2:42-47**

Acts 2:44

Exodus 20:15

Psalms 50:10

Psalms 24:1

Deut. 8:17-18

Matthew 6:22-24

Matthew 20

Matthew 20:15

Proverbs 11:25

Proverbs 21:25-26

Proverbs 22:9

### UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

#### **Baptism Information Meeting:**

Sign up at Welcome Center and join us March 6th following 2nd & 3rd services. See the Welcome Center for directions. Baptisms will be in April.  
[connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org)

#### **eKids! Drive-In Movie Night** March 10th.

**New Women's Bible Studies** Starting Monday Evenings, Feb 29th and Wednesday Mornings, March 16th [ourelement.org/womenofelement](http://ourelement.org/womenofelement)





Week 7:  
Generosity That  
Defines Us  
Acts 2:42-47

Element is going through the first half of the book of Acts over the course of the first nine months of 2016. Part of the reason why we do this is we want to be a “better” church, a body of believers focused on Jesus and what He is doing in the world through us. Today, most people’s criteria for finding a church is, “I don’t want it to be boring,” but that is a horrible way to find a church. We want to see what the bible says about the church so we know what we are supposed to be about. By the end of this series we will hopefully see a little over 30 characteristics of what the church should be about. Today, we are looking at a Generosity That Defines Us.

**Who is the most generous person you know?  
What makes them generous?**

In Acts 2 we read how the early church met each others needs through their generosity. Generosity wasn’t forced, coerced, or guilted into anyone; it was a response to the generous salvation they had received.

**Read Acts 2:42-47  
What or who do you think of when you think of generosity?  
What has God given you?**

This passage in Acts 2 immediately follows 3,000 people joining the church in a single day. Normally this would be considered a logistical nightmare due to the influx of growth, but you see in the passage people were moved to take care of those who were now family in Christ. People were selling their “things” to make sure the needs of others were met.

**What is the difference between ownership and stewardship?**

**Do you believe you own your “stuff,” or do you believe you are called to steward what is actually God’s in the first place?  
What does your view of the above question look like in your life?**

The Hebrews had an understanding that our ownership took place in the larger context of God’s ultimate ownership. Whatever you had (money, talent), you would live with an awareness that it was designed to be shared with others.

**Have you ever owned something that took so much energy, that you felt like that thing owned you?**

Sometimes, the more we own the less freedom we have. We often feel we are enslaved to something that is supposed to bring us more joy, but instead enslaves us. This happens because we start worshiping creation rather than our Creator. It is always important to remember that everything we own is a gift from God. *Deut 8:17-18 says, “Beware lest you say in your heart, my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”*

**Is there something you wish you had right now? What?  
By not having that “thing” do you feel God has short-changed you?**

This passage shows the early church was defined by their generosity. These people are not generous on their own accord, but they are defined by their generosity because they recognize how much God had given them. This passage is both a very religious passage as well as a practical passage. Everyone who heard the Gospel was changed by it.

**Has the gospel changed you? If so, how?  
Where is it difficult to give?  
Ask someone close to you what character trait they think defines you.**