

Memory Verse

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

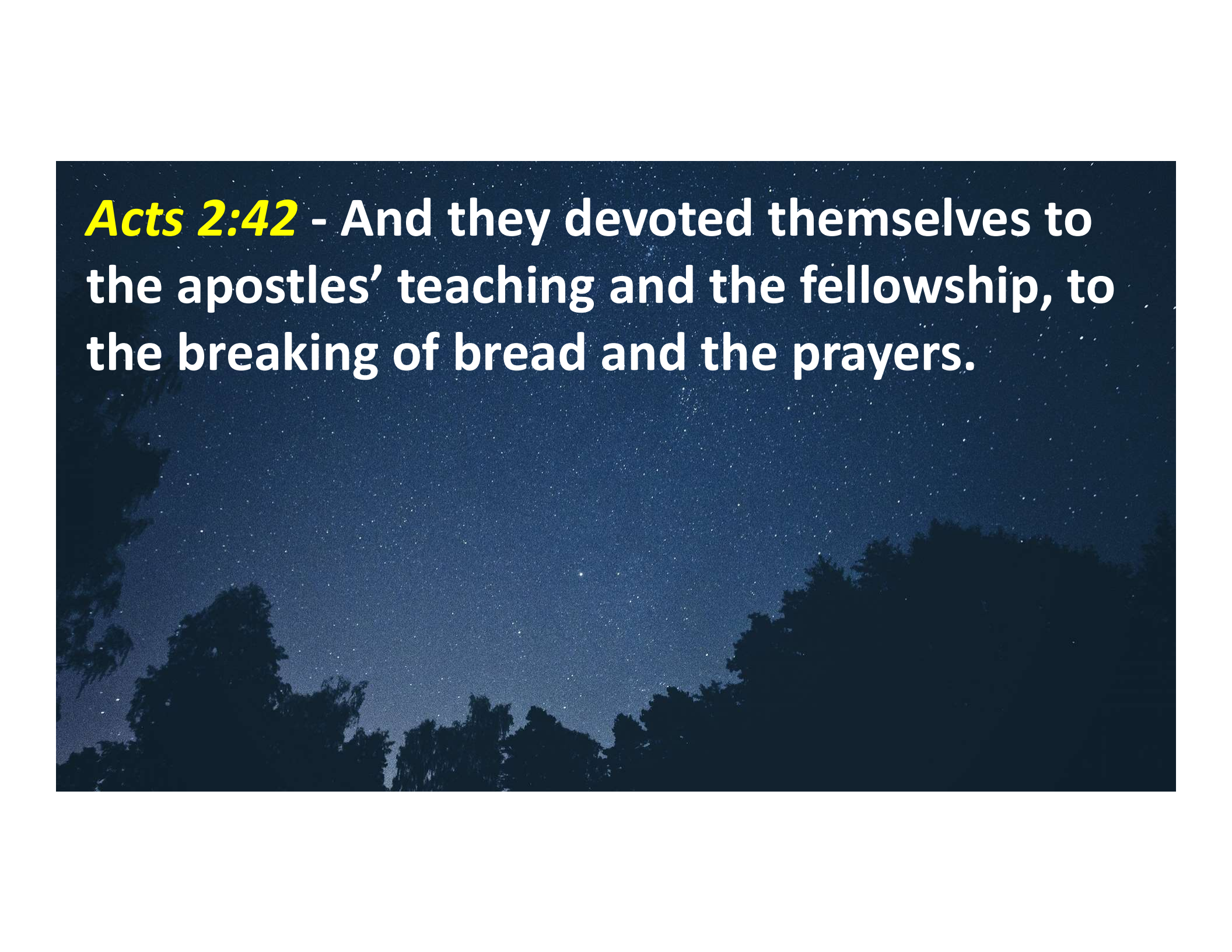
GRACELIFE



CHURCH

3 Factors that Every Church Needs

***Acts 2:42 and
Various Verses***

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Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

This verse is our **foundation** today. The context is *after Christ's resurrection and Peter's sermon at Pentecost*. These Jewish followers of Jesus were expecting the **Kingdom** to come in quickly, which is why they were sharing things at the *end of this chapter*. We also see **important factors** that *united these followers of Christ*.

A. Commitment

This is expressed in the word translated "***devoted***." This word refers to *persisting, continuing steadfastly, constantly showing strength which prevails, to keep on*, etc. This is a strong word that showed their commitment. What is **commitment**? While there are *different definitions*, it's **pledging allegiance to something or someone...**

A. Commitment

1. Commitment to Christ

Matthew 4:19-20 - And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. - At Jesus’ command, they **followed Him**. They left their livelihood to follow the Messiah...

A. Commitment

1. Commitment to Christ

In **John 14:15** Jesus said, "If you love Him, keep My commandments." While He was *talking to the disciples, His command to obey Him is still true...* But if we are ***not first committed to Christ***, church work, attendance, giving, church activities, etc. **mean nothing.**

A. Commitment

2. Commitment to Truth

In ***Acts 2:42a*** the disciples were *committed* to the ***Apostles teaching***, or ***doctrine***... *Christianity* is not focused on our opinions, preferences, desires, or things that make us feel comfortable. *Christianity* is focused on the **truth**, understanding the **truth**, proclaiming the **truth** and living out the **truth**.

A. Commitment

2. Commitment to Truth

2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

As Christians, we must be ***committed*** to the truth...

A. Commitment

3. Commitment to Love

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. - This is a major topic, but in summary, **Godly love** is *doing what is best for someone else, even at one's own personal cost.*

A. Commitment

4. Commitment to the Church

Acts 2:42b says they were *committed to the fellowship*. This was **other people**. For us, we are to be *committed* to a local church where we live. There are responsibilities we have to each other, the leadership and to those outside the doors of the building where **you, THE CHURCH, attend!** **YOU** are the *church*, not a building...

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be

children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A. Commitment

4. Commitment to the Church

*My role is to **equip you** to serve. I hope you **want to serve**. Not only does being committed mean we **serve** where we are, but it also means we show up consistently and on time, not just when we feel like it or it's convenient. It also means we are **involved**. The text says *the church is like a body...**

B. Connection

This is about **relationships**. Within the reference to *fellowship* is **connection**. We are connected as the body of Christ, in the *family of God* through Jesus. Our connection is **not** based in politics, food, perspectives on current events, finances, status, education, or anything other than **Christ!**
If Jesus is not at the center of your life, my life and the life of a church, then we will not be healthy!

B. Connection

This takes *commitment*. This takes *effort*.
This takes *sacrifice*. This takes *initiative*. This
takes *desire*. This takes *more than 1 hour a
week*. This takes *being involved* in each
other's lives. It involves *mutual giving*, which
is seen at the end of this chapter.

C. Communication

*What is **communication**?* It is sharing, imparting, making known, participating, and talking to others. They *communicated with God through prayers. The communicated with each other as part of the fellowship.* There are **2 aspects** to communication, though it requires **people** to do it.

C. Communication

James 1:19 - ...But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger...

There are 3 principles of *communication* here. We will focus on the first 2.

C. Communication

1. Listening

The first part of this verse refers to *being quick to hear*, or *listen*. Within the Jewish mind, the word "*hear*" carried with it an action, doing, or following through with something. We *cannot communicate* with others if we are *not willing to listen* to others...

C. Communication

1. Listening

Listening is a **skill** and a **discipline**. The **more** we *do it*, the **better** we get at it. But it also takes discipline for us to *hold our tongues* at times...

Listening means we **respond** in appropriate ways... Listening requires us to **understand** what was said... Listening also involves **looking at body language**.

C. Communication

2. Speaking

While *listening is important*, someone has to **talk**. You can listen, but if *no one is speaking*, then you are not going to hear anything.

Speaking has to be **more** than *shallow conversation*. You need to be honest, loving, truthful, and more. We should be able to talk about **any and every subject**.

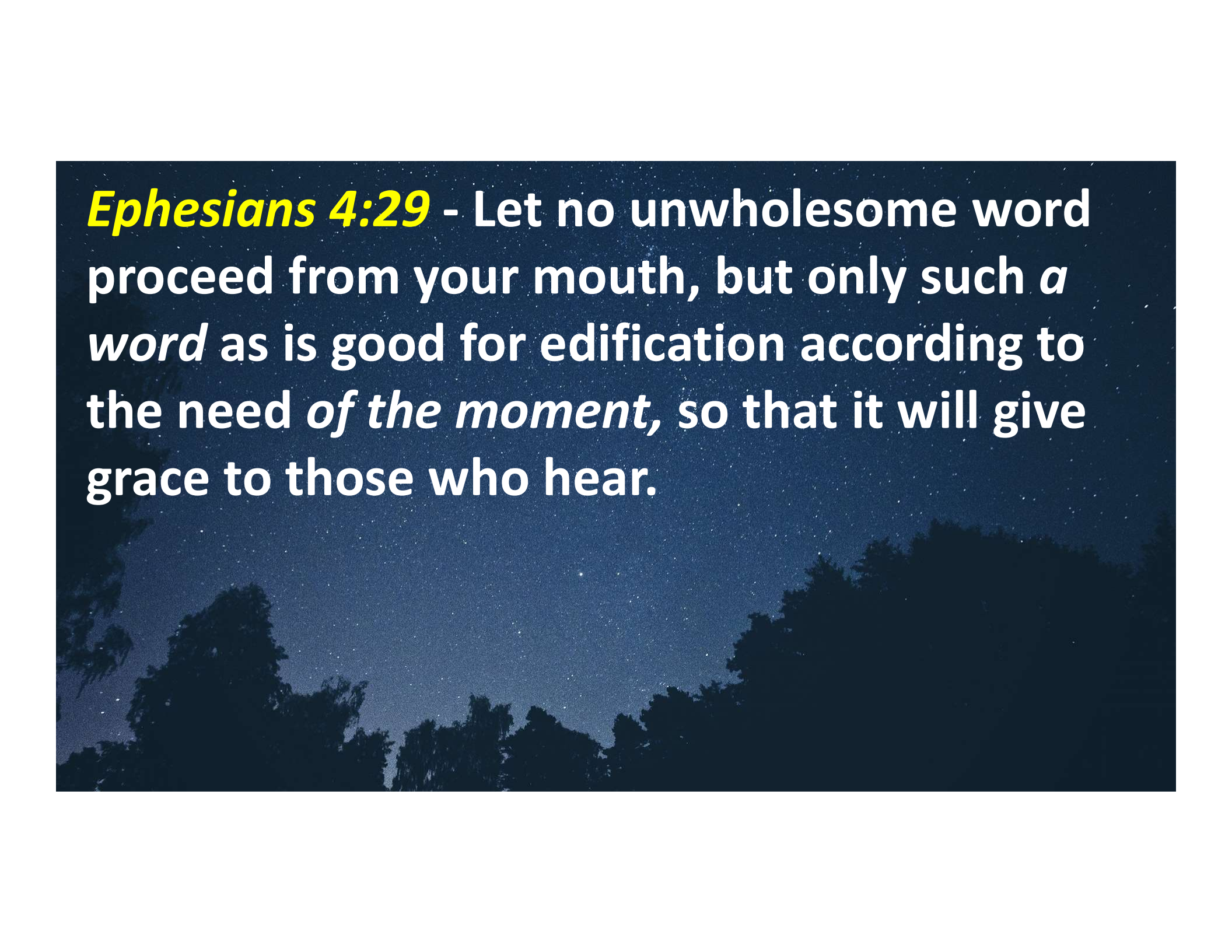
Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Proverbs 12:18 - There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 18:2 - A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Ephesians 4:15 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

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Ephesians 4:29 - Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.