



**SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”**

**SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA**

**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**Scripture: Acts 2:42-47**

**TITLE: The Effect of the Gospel**

[Today’s guest speaker: Jacob Wirka]

Today, I want us to consider the question, What effect should the Gospel have on how I live?

The law of cause and effect states that: **“Every effect has a specific and predictable cause. Every cause or action has a specific and predictable effect.”** Simply put, a significant cause should produce a significant effect. I want you to keep this idea in mind as we look at the effect that faith in the Gospel had on the very first Christians.

In Acts 2, thousands of people had just placed their faith in the Good News of Jesus for the first time, forming the very first church. As a result, in Acts 2:42-47 (NIV), we read that:

*“42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

We see here that the cause of believing the Gospel had a profound effect on the way these people lived!

This reminds me of the first time I wore contacts back in high school. It changed everything! When I went to class, I could see what the teachers wrote on the board! I could read the road signs when I drove (which is scary)! It was amazing! The cause of getting these contacts had the effect of changing the way I saw everything around me!

From this passage, we see that faith in the Gospel has radically changed how the original church saw the world around them and how they lived. Trust in the Gospel gave them a desire to know the Apostles’ teachings; they had a desire to learn more about God's Word; they had a desire to be in community; they willingly and generously gave to meet the needs of other people around them! They lived a life of worship and praise to God and everything they did!

So, do we see the exact effects of faith in the Gospel taking place in our lives? Faith in Jesus must have a profound effect on how we live. If you do not see these types of effects in your life, remember that everything happening in Act 2 resulted from all of the Holy Spirit. We need a

change of perspective; we need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us see the Gospel's beauty again!  
When we see the beauty of the Gospel for what it is, it profoundly affects how we live.