Verse Analysis – Acts 2:42

Categories	s:	Person:		Voice:		Case:		Gender:	
A C D I N P	adjective conjunction adverb interjection noun preposition	1 2 3	first person second person third person	A M P	active middle passive	N G D A V	nominative genitive dative accusative vocative	M F N	masculine feminine neuter
DA DP IP PP RP V X	definite article demonstrative pronoun interrogative/indefinite pronoun personal pronoun relative pronoun verb particle	Tense: P I F A X Y	present imperfect future aorist perfect pluperfect	Mood: I D S O N P	indicative imperative subjunctive optative infinitive participle	Number: S P Freqency: Number of	singular plural times the word is use	Degree: C S	comparative superlative ords with freq. < 30 are

[→] Memorizing all words used 150+ times will give you a handle on 70% of the NT.

not worth memorizing. They are why God made the Internet.

High frequency – used more than 750 times Μ

Medium frequency – Used from 101 to 750 times L Low frequency – Used from 30 to 100 times

Rare – Used less than 30 times R

Act's 2:42

Page 1 of 4

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Freqency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
ήσαν	εἰμί	to be, exist, be present	Н	V	3	I	A	I		P		
δὲ	δέ	but, and, then, rather	Н	C								
προσκαρτερούντες	προσκαρτερέω	to join, adhere to; to be ready; to give attention, be faithful; to spend much time together	R	V		Р	A	Р	N	Р	М	
τĥ	ó	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					D	5	F	
διδαχή	διδαχή	instruction, the giving of instruction, teaching, Mk. 4:2; 12:38; instruction, what is taught, doctrine,	L	N					D	5	F	
τῶν	ó	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					G	P	М	
ἀποστόλων	ἀπόστολος	apostle, representative, messenger, envoy; often used in a technical sense for the divinely appointed	L	N					G	Р	М	
καὶ	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	Н	С								

[→] Memorizing all words use 30+ times will give you a handle on 85% of the NT.

Acts 2:42 Page 2 of 4

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Freqency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
τή	8	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					D	5	F	
κοινωνία	κοινωνία	fellowship, partnership, Acts 2:42; 2 Cor. 6:14; 13:13; Gal. 2:9; Phil. 3:10; 1 Jn. 1:3; participation,	R	N					D	5	F	
τή	ò	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					D	5	F	
κλάσει	κλάσις	a breaking, the act of breaking, Lk. 24:35; Acts 2:42	R	N					D	5	F	
τοῦ	ò	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					G	5	М	
άρτου	ἄρτος	bread; a loaf or thin cake of bread, Mt. 26:26; food, Mt. 15:2; Mk. 3:20; bread, maintenance, living,	L	N					G	5	М	
καὶ	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	Н	С								
ταῖς	ò	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	Н	DA					D	Р	F	
προσευχαῖς	προσευχή	prayer; place of prayer	L	N					D	Р	F	

Greek Verse

Acts 2:42 ήσαν δὲ προσκαρτεροῦντες τῆ διδαχῆ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ τῆ κοινωνία, τῆ κλάσει τοῦ ἄρτου καὶ ταῖς προσευχαῖς.

Word-for-Word Translation They were giving attention to the teaching of the apostles and to fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Proper Translation

In subsequent days, they spent all of their time in learning from the apostles, in fellowshipping, in sharing meals together, and in prayer.

Comments and Questions

We have yet another use of a participle here: with a be-verb + the participle acting as a compound verb.

Sometimes a participle can act like a noun (when paired with as definite article, as in the previous verse, 41), and sometimes like a verb (as here when paired with a be-verb).

It can also act as a verb in a genitive absolute clause, as in 2:6 (When they heard this, γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης).

We have seen it act as an adverb, describing when the main action took place, as in 2:31, $\pi\rho\sigma\ddot{\delta}\dot{\omega}v$ $\dot{\epsilon}\lambda\dot{\alpha}\lambda\eta\sigma\epsilon v$ When he was forseeing, he said...

προσκαρτερέω is used 10X in the NT, and is regularly followed by a dative noun.

One wonders what $\tau \tilde{\eta}$ kolvwvi $\tilde{\alpha}$ might refer to...fellowshipping, community, etc. The context provided by the next two verses unpacks what was involved in kolvwvi $\tilde{\alpha}$.

I am free in the translation of "In subsequent days." But this seems to flow naturally from the "on that day"

in vs. 41 plus ἦσαν in this verse.

Just getting 3,000 people baptized in one day would pretty wll take up the whole day. Also, that notion of "breaking bread" (sharing meals) tells us that this verse is talking about time passing.

When Luke wrote this down, he had already spent years with Paul, and 1 Cor. 11: 23ff would be very familiar to him. These Acts 2:42 meals may have incorporated aspects of Jesus last supper before his crucifixion. For the apostles, they had experienced this only a short time before, and it may have been a part of their teaching of these earliest converts. Paul does, after all, speak of this as a practice that has been longestablished.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24 and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

However, it is not likely that these meals were limited to what we today practice in church as "The Lord's Supper". It is likely they were full meals that the people enjoyed with each other.

The context makes it clear they were sharing their goods with each other. Sharing meals together would fit with that as more-of-the-same. So they were involved in a community experience where they shared every aspect of life with each other.