

STAYING UNIFIED IN PURPOSE.
Sunday, January 4th, 2025
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Acts 4:32-33-NKJV

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of ***one heart and one soul***; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Passion Translation - **32** All the believers were one in mind and heart. Selfishness was not a part of their community, for they shared everything they had with one another. **33** The apostles gave powerful testimonies about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great measures of grace rested upon them all.

Ephesians 4:11-13-NKJV

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,...*

13 till *we all come to the unity of the faith...*

Passion - And their calling is to ***nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry***, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.

1. THEY HAD UNITY IN THE CHURCH OF GOD.

*...Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart and one soul***; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, ***but they had all things in common.***

They were family in relationship.

They were friends in fellowship.

They were followers of Christ in partnership.

2. THEY EXPERIENCED THE POWER OF GOD.

...And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Purpose – *determination, steadfastness, drive, push, enthusiasm, ambition, motivation, commitment, conviction, dedication; get-up-and-go...in order to reach a goal.*

3. THEY DISCOVERED THE FAVOR OF GOD.

*...And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace was upon them all.***

4. THEY WERE THE ANSWER TO THE PRAYER OF GOD.

John 17:20-21,23 –Passion

20 And I ask not only for these disciples, But also for all those who will one day Believe in me through their message.

21 ***I pray for them all to be joined together as one*** Even as you and I, Father, Are joined together as one, I pray for them to become one with us So that the world will recognize that you sent me.

23 You live fully in me And now I live fully in them ***So that they will experience perfect unity***, And the world will be convinced That you have sent me, For they will see that you love each one of them With the same passionate love That you have for me.

John 13:35-Passion

35 For when you demonstrate ***the same love I have for you by loving one another***, everyone ***will know that you're my true followers."***

John 10:16-NKJV

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; ***and there will be one flock and one shepherd.***

Unity needs to be protected.

Ephesians 4:2-4-Passion

2 With tender humility and quiet patience, always demonstrate gentleness and generous love toward one another, especially toward those who may try your patience.

3 ***Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony*** of the Holy Spirit among you in the bonds of peace,

4 so that you will be one body and one spirit, as you were all called into the same glorious hope of divine destiny.