

# Faith Life Voice

Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Men Series



## Early Church

“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.” Acts 4:32 NKJV

People often look at these verses and claim that the disciples believed in socialism. Although I don't agree with that sentiment I have no desire to dispute that here. There is something far more important than a mere political stance. These verses show how the early church started the Kingdom of God. It also shows the purity and strength of these first converts. Before I go through the books of Acts I wanted to use these verses to show what the Holy Spirit did in these extraordinary men and women so we can see the result of the wisdom of God. I absolutely do not think we should attempt these things nor am I excluding them, I am simply showing the amazing miracle of these verses and what they did.

It is easy to overlook the difficulty that these believers faced. And I'm not even talking about the persecution. I'm referring here to what their daily lives looked like. The fact that these believers had all things in common is a great feat. And it is brilliant! No one sought money as their objective!

## Money

“And again I say to you, ‘it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’” Matthew 19:24

The disciples response is amazing and enlightening. Matthew 19:25:

**“When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’”**

They understood the real meaning behind what Jesus was saying. Jesus wasn't talking about “how much” money a person has but more what they seek, i.e. money. It is the pursuit or god of money, the lust for, the greed, and anything that might take the passion away from God that keeps people from Heaven. This includes everyone. Everyone seeks a place of position and stability financially. That is why they responded to Jesus with, “who then can be saved.”

I bring this up because we must understand the position that the disciples were in when they began to build the Kingdom of God. Money could not have been the goal or even an issue because if it had been, it wouldn't have started the same way. Instead of people volleying for who they are in the body of Christ they would have been volleying for the positions that paid the most financially, had there been those types of positions. But there wasn't. Absolutely brilliant!!

I remember having a conversation with a coworker who said he was going to go to school to be a pastor. I asked him why he wanted to do this. His response threw me off guard. He said it is good money. His belief in God played no role. In fact he didn't even believe in God.

This is what happens when money is the goal, rather than friendship, love, and the Word of God.

People have, what i will call, “chosen duties,” in the body of Christ that is foreordained. These duties are related to who you are, your gifts, talents, and of course all of which is approved by the Bible. If we ignore our place in the body we will end with a dysfunctional body. Every single person matters. I cannot stress this enough. So again I say, everyone matters. As we go through the book of Acts i hope this becomes abundantly clear.

We will take a brief look at all the spiritual gifts. We will look at there function, purpose and how we can know who we are in the church. We will start with the Apostleship so people can see what their function was and why it is important to know that it no longer exists. Plus the Apostles laid the groundwork for what we believe but also who we are in relationship to Christ. Positionally we as believers are all the same but functionally we are not the same. You and I are unique in the body!

I wish to remain anonymous for now. This is to be used to be shared with the church as you see fit.

## Fireproof Church

“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33 NKJV

**“The one thing that gave power to the early church was their witness of the Resurrection of Christ.”**

Jesus went through a terrible time then He was crucified. But He didn't stay there. He rose from the dead and further prepared the disciples about the Kingdom of God.

Having a goal that is backed by God and His word is imperative to having true fellowship. The goal of the Christian should be to getting this message out.

The one the verses in Acts 4 shows us is that the disciples planned on success. They had a goal in mind. They prepared to making money a non issue. This plan, although temporary, helped them bring about Christianity in a real and dynamic way.

Its okay to fireproof a marriage, church, or any other relational dynamic.

Are there ways you can fireproof your own relationships?

One of the ways we can fireproof our relationships is by understanding that we are all born with the sin nature. What that means is that we are all on the same page, in regards to the sin nature.

I often hear from people that once a person is a cheater they are always a cheater. I wholeheartedly disagree. That is like saying that once a person lies they are always a liar. Or that a thief is always a thief. This denies the Resurrection.

There must be a death of self on the inside but there must also be a resurrection of self. But we must resurrect into the image of Christ and not our old self.

This means a new me and a new you, not the same as we used to be. Herein lies the power of Christ. This is a daily occurrence. If we die to ourselves everyday we will nip things in the butt before they become an issue.

Here are some scriptures to meditate on:

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.” Romans 7:4

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.” 1 John 4:12-13

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:11-13