

Unintimidated

Acts 4:32-37

We aren't meant to read the Word of God and think primarily, here is what **we** do to expand the kingdom. We are meant to read the book of Acts and fall on our knees and pray "Do it again, O God!"

The Holy Spirit didn't change the religious leaders threats. The Holy Spirit changed the church's hearts.

What the Lord intended to create and did create was a community that had fear-resistant characteristics. A community that did not fracture or flee.

I. Real Community: Deep Unity and Sacrificial Generosity

Acts 4:32

"Now the full number to those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common." Acts 4:32

Deep unity is a gift from God bought by the blood of the new covenant.

*"And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. **I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.** I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them."* Jeremiah 32:38-40

"And **I will give them one heart**, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God." Ezekiel 11:19-20

"If love made one soul of so many souls and one heart of so many hearts, how great must be the love between the Father and the Son! Surely, it must be greater than between those that people who had one heart." - Augustine

Selfless generosity is just an overflow of the generosity of God in Christ.

“Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. ‘But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.’ 1 Chronicles 29:12-14

“The Holy Spirit is God present and active in the lives of Jesus’ followers not to make life rich and comfortable for them, but to equip them to fulfill God’s mission for them in the world. It is a mission of helping, serving, healing, restoring, giving, sharing, and loving a mission of binding up the broken, of being just and striving for justice, of proclaiming the Good News that God is King, of taking the Gospel everywhere preaching the message that God has acted to save the world and transform people in and through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.” Gerald Hawthorne

“We who used to value the acquisition of wealth and possessions more than anything else now bring what we have into a common fund and share it with anyone who needs it. We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies.” Justin Martyr (100-165 A.D.)

II. Biblical Fidelity: Faithfully Proclaiming the Resurrection.

Acts 4:33

“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection from the dead, and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33

The joy of gospel ministry – being open about your faith and seeing other people’s lives changed... far outweighs the losses that we come because of those who seek to intimidate us into silence.

“We should not think every time boldness is required we will feel some heroic swell of confidence. God often gives us Spirit-empowered boldness when, in spite of feeling fear, we step out in faith that the Spirit will provide the measure of boldness we need in that moment.” Jon Bloom

“If I say, ‘I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” Jeremiah 20:9

III. Miraculous Sufficiency: God’s Complete Provision.

Acts 4:34-37

“There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” Acts 4:34-45

“But there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess...” Deuteronomy 15:4

“We want you to know, brothers, **about the grace of God** that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for taking part in the relief of the saints ...” 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

“Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), **a Levite**, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” Acts 4:36

“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.” Jeremiah 33:22

“I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?” Luke 16:9-13