

The Message Notes

Series: Our Community in Christ

Message: *Community in Giving*

Messenger: Pastor Keith

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Text: Acts 4:32-35



Acts 4:32. 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. **34.** Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, **35.** And laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Review:

Point to Ponder: You're called not only to **believe** in Christ but **belong** in community with the Body of Christ, the church. **Question to consider:** What action should you take to belong to a community? **Study verses:** Romans 12.4-5

Point to Ponder: We're building our community in Christ by putting into practice, being united in covenant, sharing in communion, and obeying our constitution. **Question to consider:** What action should you take to help us build our community? **Study verse:** Exodus 24:7

Point to Ponder: We unify as a Body when we S.I.T. (spend intentional time together in community groups). **Question to consider:** Are you in a community group? If not, why? **Verses to remember:** Acts 2.42-47

Point to Ponder: We practice being community in excellence. **Question to consider:** Do you walk in the traits of the Spirit of excellence? If not, why? **Study verses:** Matthew 25.21-30

Message – Community in Giving

Point to Ponder: Our model for giving is (1) agreement, (2) other person centered, (3) fellowship – joint sharing, and (4) distribution. **Question to consider:** Are you in agreement with our model for giving? If not, why? **Study verses:** Acts 4.32-34

Point to Ponder: Our motivation for giving is gratitude. **Question to consider:** Do you give out of gratitude or out of obligation? **Study verse:** 2 Corinthians 8.9

Point to Ponder: We give *first*, to *honor* God in worship and *second*, to *support* our prosperity plan, so we can enrich our community in Christ to cover the financial needs of our community. **Question to consider:** Do I support the prosperity plan? **Study verse:** Acts 4.32

Point to Ponder: You set aside the **first portion** of your income according to how God has blessed you and according to your agreement to support our prosperity plan. **Question to consider:** How do I support the prosperity plan? **Study verses:** I Corinthians 16.1-2

Point to Ponder: Most followers are unable to give a tithe because before they came to Christ, they used their attitude toward money as more worldly than godly. **Question to consider:** What is my attitude toward money? **Study verse:** Matt. 6:24

If the requirements of bringing tithes were *required* and *honorable* under the Law, then how much more should those under God's grace meet or exceed the *set amount* of a tithe *out of gratitude and generosity*.

Takeaway: We envision building our community in Christ by practicing giving with an attitude of **gratitude**, *giving, freely, liberally, and cheerfully*, so we can first honor God, and second to support our **prosperity plan** to enrich our community.