

HUNGRY FOR GRACE

December 29, 2013 Acts 4:32-37 by Daniel Branch

MAIN IDEA: What does a community gripped by the Gospel live like and why?

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul...” **Acts 4:32** ESV

1. **ONENESS is a RESULT of the grace of God**

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel...

Philippians 1:27 NIV

“and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.” **Acts 4:32**

2. **A GENEROUS LIFE is a RESPONSE to the grace of God**

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” **1 John 3:17** NIV

“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...” **Acts 4:33**

3. **MISSION is a RESPONSE to the grace of God**

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” **1 Cor. 15:3-6**

“... and great grace was upon them all.” **Acts 4:33**

4. **God’s GRACE ignites every change**

Their response: *What did it look like?*

“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. 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 4:34-37** ESV

Our response: *What can it look like?*

—When given an opportunity to give, take it.

—Share the story of Christ.

—Pray for more of God’s grace to be working in us.