

## STAYING CONNECTED

October 18, 2015 Acts 2:42-47 by Bob Branch  
Staying Free, Part 5

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**BIG IDEA:** Staying free means staying connected to Jesus *and* His people (the church)... and he will consistently call us to take practical steps further into community. Why? Because it is the primary way we experience heaven's kingdom on earth.

**KINGDOM...** experience heaven's oneness.

"protect them... so that they may be one as we are one... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one" **John 17:11, 21-22**

"All the believers were one in heart and mind... they shared everything they had." **Acts 4:32** (Eph. 2:22; Phil. 2:2)

**FAMILY...** experience heaven's connection, support and resources poured out.

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all" **Acts 4:32-33** (Ps. 68:6; Col. 2:9-10; Eph. 2:19; Heb. 3:13)

**GROWTH...** experience heaven's maturity and fullness

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" **Acts 2:42** (Eph. 4:11-13; 4:15)

"If you abide (make your home) in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:31-32** ESV

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." **Philemon 6**

**PURPOSE...** participate in heaven's focus (worship) and expansion agenda (salvation)

"with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." **Romans 15:6** (Rev. 7:9-12)

"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all" **Acts 4:33** (Phil. 1:27)

**PROTECTION...** heaven's shield surrounding us

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." **Mt. 10:16** (7:15; Acts 20:29)

## WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

### Practice the Discipline of Assembly

"do not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." **Hebrews 10:25**

### Take steps further into community

### Die to independence (Luke 9:23)

### Enjoy connection by giving it time