

Sunday – February 18, 2024



The early church has always been highlighted for its rapid expansion. We see and herald the bold preaching, the willingness to stand up for what they believed, the signs of the Holy Spirit. Too often, one of their greatest strengths is often overlooked, the power and spirit of their radical giving, motivated by God’s radical grace to them.

KEY VERSE: “and much grace was upon them.” (Acts 4:33)

This fledgling group of followers began to change their culture by their fearless living out of their faith. They had an appreciation of God’s grace to them and for them we often miss. We know *Ephesians 2:8-10* as verses about grace and salvation, but miss the practical everyday power of grace.

If God’s grace has radically overwhelmed me, how would anyone know?

God’s Grace Gives Radical _____:
“All the believers were one in heart and mind” (*Acts 4:32*)

Radical _____ brings radical unity

Read *Acts 4:32-27*.

In your own words, how would you describe the life of the people in this early gathering of followers?

What is the difference between unity and uniformity? As a follower of Jesus, which do I focus upon more? How can I tell?

God’s Grace _____ Radical Generosity:
“No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” (*Acts 4:32,34,35*)

I give radically because I have been given _____

Old Testament word is “tithe” to describe giving. (*Lev 27:30*) It was the beginning of someone’s gift to God, not the end result. It was the first 10% of your best.

What is my understanding of giving in scripture and how do I practice my belief?

Acts describes the attitude of the early followers regarding possessions as “no one claimed that any of their possessions was his (her) own.” How does that differ from my personal understanding of how I view possessions today?

Read *2 Corinthians 8:1-5*. What do I see described as the attitude of the Macedonian church towards giving? How can that change my attitude?

God’s Grace Empowers Radical _____:
“The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people and all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade” (*Acts 5:12*)

I can _____ (LOL)

Empowered by God’s radical grace they lived without fear. Where would God have me do the same? _____

This week:

- How and to whom would God have me practice “radical generosity?”
- Can I take time to thank God for his radical grace he has poured into my life?

Next Week: ““Harassed, Helpless or Hopeful”