

For further reflection

1. If thanksgiving is a key part of being formed by the generous heart of Jesus:
 - What are you thankful for right now?
 - What, in our time, makes us blind to thanksgiving?
 - What rhythms or practices have you found (or would you like to develop) to aid in genuine thanksgiving?
2. How can a clear confident conviction in the resurrection of Jesus change the way we view, hold onto, and generously give our own resources?
3. A wooden way to approach Acts 4:32-37 is something like, “Here is a picture of generosity...now do it.” However, this misses the fullness of what the Spirit is doing in the people of God. Namely, the Holy Spirit is reproducing the life of the generous Jesus in God’s people. He does this through our deepening experiential delight in the loving generosity we receive. How does knowing this intention of the Holy Spirit change the way you see a growth in generosity (or any other area)?

ACTS

THE SPREADING FLAME



The book of Acts is the second part of Luke’s two-volume work (originally Luke-Acts) in which the Scripture highlights all Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Here we find the historical birth of the Holy Spirit empowered church and enduring teaching about the acting of God in history through his Spirit in his people.

What does Acts mean for us in 2024? First, this is our spiritual family. Second, this is the story into which we have been plunged, just a little farther down the stream of history. Third, we inherit the same mission as outlined in the book of Acts. Finally, this is the same God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who is active in our lives and world today. Here we learn of him and are invited to walk faithfully as we practically learn of his Lordship and are filled with his Spirit.

Acts 4:32-37

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

³⁴ 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 ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

John 3 ¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

2 Corinthians 8 ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

1 Corinthians 4 ⁷ What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1 John 1 ³ That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 15 ⁴ 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— ⁵ if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today.

The Heart of Generosity

May 5, 2024 | Acts 4:32-37 | Pastor Roger Williams

*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- Mark 10:45-*

The generous heart of Jesus can be reproduced in the people of God through the Holy Spirit.

1. What is the fuel for generosity? ⁽³²⁻³³⁾

Thanksgiving

Fellowship

Resurrection

2. What is the shape of generosity? ⁽³⁴⁻³⁵⁾

Priority

Intentionality

Community

3. What is the hope of generosity? ⁽³⁶⁾

Expansion

Alignment