

“Getting Hugs From An Invisible God”

Selected Scripture

Series: Ancient Paths to Intimacy With God - Part 4

*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2:42 (NASB)*

- I. As Jesus touched the lives of the early disciples in His physical body – so now the Spirit touches our lives through His spiritual body.**

¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

I Corinthians 12:13-14 (NIV)

- II. The Spirit has united all believers into one interdependent body (team) under (in) Christ.**

⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

FOLLOWING THE ANCIENT PATH OF “KOINONIA”

III. “The Fellowship” (koinonia) is the vehicle through which God’s people express and receive Christ’s love.

⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

Acts 2:43-46(NIV)

- Meaning of koinonia (biblical fellowship)

- Characteristics of koinonia (biblical fellowship)
 1. It was for _____ believers - vs. 44

 2. It _____ believers together – vs. 44

 3. It met the _____ of believers – vs. 46

IV. The impact of koinonia cannot be underestimated.

- Positively = Barnabas

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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 ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. ³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37(NIV)

- Negatively = Ananias and Sapphira

¹Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. ³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. ⁷About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." ⁹Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." ¹⁰At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 5:1-11(NIV)

V. The extent of our impact is directly proportional to the _____ and the _____ of our fellowship.

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35(NIV)

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be continuously devoted to the fellowships?
2. How does Jesus “touch lives today?”
3. In what ways has Jesus touched your life through a member of His body in recent weeks?
4. In what ways could God use you to touch others’ lives?
5. Why is authenticity and unity so important to Jesus’ body? Is there anything in your life that is inhibiting the authenticity or unity God desires?