



● The Spirit is **living**, the church is **moving**, and we are invited to **be a part** of it.

● We desperately need the **Holy Spirit**.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... Acts 1:1-8

● God wants us to be a part of His **plan** to reach this world, so we need God's heart for the **people** of this world.

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 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Acts 4:32-35 (NIV)

When we do life with others throughout the Spirit:

We engage people with **gratitude** and **grace**.

"Open your homes to each other without complaining ." 1 Peter 4:9 (TEV)

Acts 4 IS NOT saying...

● We're supposed to **sell everything** and live in a **commune**.

● Any **imbalance** in wealth or possessions is **evil**.

Acts 4 IS saying...

● When God's Spirit is at work in us, we will **take care of one another**.

...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

● We need God's Spirit to participate in godly **community**.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

A common phrase mentioned in Acts is:

"And the Lord added **daily** those who were being **saved**."

● A life that is filled with the Spirit is devoted to **community**.

● We experience community in **small groups**.

Authentic Community is:

● Authentic Community is a **heart issue**.

Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts. 1 Peter 1:22 (TLB)

● Authentic Community is a **verb**.

All the believers **devoted** themselves to.... Acts 2:42a (NLT)

● Authentic Community is "**How**" we do life together.

They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, **met in small groups** in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness... Acts 2:46 (TLB)

● Authentic Community calls us to work out our **differences**.

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:18

Application Steps:

● Devote ourselves to people that **encourage** us spiritually.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

● Community is God's answer to **discouragement**.

● Devote ourselves to people that **know** us intimately.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other **so that you may be healed**... James 5:16 (NLT)

...you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

● Community is God's answer to **loneliness**.

● Devote ourselves to people that **care** for us consistently.

God wanted the different parts of the body to care the same for each other. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part of our body is honored, all the other parts share its honor. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (NCV)

● Community is God's answer to feeling **unappreciated**.

We are cared for **best**, by those that know us **most**.

They were devoted to the **Spirit** of God which enabled them to live out the mission of God. - The Acts 2 Church



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why are relationships so important to our spiritual health and growth?
- In your own words, what is authentic community and why is it so important?
- Obviously you are in a Connection Group. How would you communicate the value of Connection Groups to someone that doesn't attend one currently?
- How is Authentic community a verb? What are some of the activities that bring us together in spirit? How does the Spirit enlarge our heart for others?
- Talk through the application steps. Which have been most impactful in your life?
- What are some ways that we can enhance our experience with authentic community at the Quest?

For more Talks, visit us at:
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Today's Talk..



COMMUNITY