



ALL IN Week 5 | All In Together

| KEY THOUGHTS

- **Our God is such a giving God!** His generosity...
 - Created the world for us to live in, made us in His image, breathed His life into us;
 - Caused Him to enter our world and pour out his forgiveness and grace for us, giving us salvation, peace with Him, and the presence of His Holy Spirit;
 - Flung open the door to His throne room, where He hears us when we pray, and the Holy Spirit Himself prays for us;
 - Replaced the power of sin with an eternal hope.
- **When we enter into the new life He gives us, we receive a new identity: we're now in God's family.** Our values change as we become altogether new creation.
- As members of God's family of believers who have said Yes and continually say Yes to Jesus, we see God in the Bible, and **the Holy Spirit changes us as our knowledge of Him increases.**
- **Believers are generous with one another because we have experienced the generosity of God;** when we're generous with others, we reflect the character of our Father.
- From the beginning, the New Testament church shared with others the truth that changed their own lives; and because of their generosity in sharing this truth, more believers were added to their number daily.
- They were of one heart and soul, sharing everything they had with one another.
- This deference for one another reflects the unity of the Triune God, as well as Jesus's generosity in giving Himself for us. And this sort of radical caring gives legs to evangelism.
- **What we see in this early church is not "giving to get," but a direct response to God's generosity.**

| SCRIPTURE

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.

Acts 4:32-37 (ESV)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ ...Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called...

1 Timothy 6:6-12 (ESV)

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- Every believer is called to give generously to others as God has given generously to us.
- What kind of person would sell all they had in order to distribute the proceeds to others, as we see the early church doing in Acts 4?
 - One who recognizes that everything they have comes from God;
 - One who recognizes the needs of others;
 - One who recognizes the mission we're called to;
 - One who is grateful to God;
 - One who wants to invest in the Kingdom of God.
- One of the gifts the Holy Spirit is the gift of giving. These people make it their goal to give generously of all God has given them.
- Not everyone has the gift of giving, but every believer is called to be thankful for all God has given us and to be openhanded with His blessings.

| REFLECT

- There are people who own wealth, and there are people whose wealth owns them. You can tell the difference by the joy they have in their lives.
- Though the church is not commanded to imitate the sort of reckless generosity we read about in Acts 4, it is consistent with genuine faith. This isn't confined to finances and "things;" we can also respond to God's generosity by giving of our time, our labors, our selves in relationships with others.
- This radical caring occurs when our self-focus is displaced by a genuine concern for others.
- God's generosity gives us a new life of generosity toward the rest of His family, and the desire to see His family increase.

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