

A Model Church and A Model Member Sunday, August 31, 2025

Vintage Vibes

Acts 2:42-47 (CEV) "They spent their time learning from the apostles and were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met, sharing everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day, they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes, sharing their food happily and freely, praising God. Everyone liked them, and the Lord added others being saved to their group each day."

Acts 4:32-37 (NLT) "All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. No needy people were among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. For instance, there was Joseph, the apostle nicknamed Barnabas ("Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles."

"If every member of this church were just like me, what kind of church would it be?"

Jesus mentions this in John 14:16-17, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another 'paraclete,' a comforter and advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth."

The Paraclete "Holy Spirit" in Our Lives

1. Comfort and Guidance:

- The Holy Spirit comforts us in times of trouble, providing peace and reassurance. This comfort enables us to face difficulties with strength and hope.
- The Spirit also guides us in making decisions and discerning God's will, illuminating our paths with wisdom and insight.

2. Empowerment for Service:

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to serve others, giving us spiritual gifts and abilities to contribute to the church and community.
- This empowerment fosters a sense of purpose and belonging as we fulfill our roles within the body of Christ.

Barnabas as a Model of the Paraclete "Holy Spirit"

1. Encouragement:

- Barnabas consistently uplifted those around him. He supported the apostle Paul during his early ministry, vouching for him when others were skeptical. This act of encouragement mirrors the Holy Spirit's role in affirming and supporting believers.
- 2. Compassion and Generosity:
- He demonstrated compassion through generosity, selling land and using the proceeds to help needy people. This selflessness aligns with the Holy Spirit's call to love and serve others.
- 3. Mediating Relationships:
- Barnabas acted as a bridge between different groups within the early church, promoting unity and cooperation. This mediating role reflects the Holy Spirit's work in fostering harmony among believers.

The ministry of investing in self is the desire to see God work in, on, through, and for others, the way God has for you.

Our lives are measured by the love we give, the wisdom we impart, the laughter we create, the truth we tell, the tears we dry, and the wounds we heal.