



## Power of The Collective

### Week 3

#### NOTES

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#### WARM-UP

- Do you like working alone? Why or why not?
- How do you deal with misunderstandings?
- Are you the type of person who avoids dealing with your problems? Or do you try to solve them right away?

## WORD

*“<sup>32</sup>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.” ACTS 4:32*

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In our Scripture today, we find that the early church continued to gather together. They overcame challenges together and chose to meet each other even when they were under intense scrutiny. It would've been easy to run away and focus on their own survival, but they understood that they were better together. As a consequence, they created a community that was beyond the socially accepted norm – a Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered and socially responsible community. And the church expanded as the gospel was preached and others were attracted to them. Today, we are going to look at what happens when believers choose to gather together even in the midst of trials.

### 1 The church is strengthened.

*“<sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. <sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul...” ACTS 4:31-32*

Much like today, the early church experienced trials and shaking. But they continued to devote themselves to the Word of God, to prayers, and to fellowship. They recognized that God is in the midst of the trials – that He was doing something – and they prayed and were filled. Much like before, we are never alone as believers. We are *not* meant to be alone. God calls us to be active participants – to get involved. We may find that our concerns are dealt with as we reach out to others. What stops us from getting involved?

## 2 The church is united.

*“<sup>32</sup> 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.” ACTS 4:32*

There may be differences of opinions and conflicts among different human personalities, but spiritual unity is possible through Jesus Christ, who united us with Him (Eph 2:13). The early church was able to share possessions and property as a result of the unity brought by the Holy Spirit working in and through the believers' lives. Everyone has their issues, but it's our choice whether or not to let those issues stop us from serving the Lord and moving towards greater unity with one other. What does Ephesians 2:13-22 say about our unity with Christ?

## 3 The church grows.

*“<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them...” ACTS 4:32-34*

As the disciples' participated together, they preached the gospel with great power and the church grew. Everyone shared what they had together as they understood that everything they had comes from God. Likewise, doing ministry takes a collective effort. We are to participate and unite together to complete the purposes of God. Greater works take place when people come together in unity. What else happens when the church gathers together?

## APPLICATION

- Do you believe that you have been united with Christ? How should this truth affect your life everyday?
- What are some aspects in your life that stop you from getting involved in the church community?
- What are some practical steps you can take to participate in the growth of the church?
- How can you encourage someone to grow in unity with one another? Commit to inviting a person to be part of the church community.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for uniting you with Him, for the reconciliation between you and Him. Pray for reconciliation for any relational conflicts in your life right now.
- Ask God to search your heart, to examine your life, and see what keeps you – and what would keep you – from being involved in the church community.
- Pray for the person you're going to invite to church, for their hearts to be prepared. Pray for grace and boldness.



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