

## Unstoppable Kingdom

### Locally: Koinonia in Action

Acts 4:22-37

In this series we've seen Jesus giving his disciples the great commission, the coming of the Holy Spirit, thousands of people saved and baptized, miracles, and the beginning of persecution and the amazing boldness of the early disciples.

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity...For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore."* **Psalms 133:1, 3**

**Koinonia** is a Greek term that shows up to twenty times in the Bible. It means 'fellowship, sharing in common, communion.' In Acts 2 they were devoting themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship (*koinonia*), breaking bread, and prayer. Koinonia is agreeing with one another, being united in purpose, and serving alongside each other. Our koinonia with each other is based on our common koinonia with Jesus.

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."* **1 John 1:7**

Luke gives us a beautiful picture of koinonia in action in the early church and provides us a guide for koinonia in our church today...

*"When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, 'Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed' for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' 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. 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. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."* **Acts 4:23-37**

**Main Idea:** The Unstoppable Kingdom Thrives in Unified Churches

### I. United in Mission - Acts 4:23, 31, & 33

The early church was on mission as witnesses to the crucified, resurrected Christ. They were not self-centered or inwardly focused.

*"When they were released..."* **Acts 4:23**

*"...(they) continued to speak the word of God with boldness."* **Acts 4:31b**

*"And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus..."* **Acts 4:33a**

- **Cruise ship:** the church exists to meet my needs
- **Battleship:** the church exists to wage spiritual warfare.
- **Aircraft Carrier:** the church exists to make disciples and multiply churches to the glory of God

*"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God."* **Phil 1:27-28**

The early church was united, sharing fellowship together, and we should be too! But, that fellowship was in the context of mission

### II. United in Worship - Acts 4:24-28

**Worship the Lord for Three Reasons:**

- **You are the God of Creation** – "Sovereign Lord, **WHO MADE** the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them." **Acts 4:24**
- **You are the God of Revelation** – "Who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, **SAID** by the Holy Spirit..." **Acts 4:25**
- **You are the God of History** – "To do whatever your hand and **YOUR PLAN** had predestined to take place." **Acts 4:28**

*"They are singing of the wickedness of humanity & the triumph that God gets over it, & so this is the sum and substance of the song – that when wicked men think God's decrees will forever be put away by the destruction of his Son, they themselves are then actually doing what God had 'predestined to take place.' The wildest discord makes harmony in the ear of God."*

**Charles H. Spurgeon**

*"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

**Romans 5:3-5**

There was no hint of worry or fear, only prayer and praise together!

### III. United in Suffering – Acts 4:29-30, 32, 34-37

When one suffered they all suffered together.

*“That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” 1 Corinthians 12:25-26*

#### Shared Sufferings in the Kingdom:

- **Threats Call for Boldness** – *“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30*
- **Needs Call for Generosity** – *“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... 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 and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” Acts 4:32, 34-37*

The same Spirit who was working through these early disciples is in us today. So, we can be united, unselfish, and unafraid. What these early disciples practiced was not communism (it was always voluntary), it was deep compassion for one another. The wealthy would not stand for someone in their midst to live in poverty while they enjoyed their own luxuries.

*“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:15-17*

*“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.’” Revelation 12:10-11*

**Main Idea;** The Unstoppable Kingdom Thrives in Unified Churches

#### Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax, General Editor (2021)
- The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- The New American Commentary: Acts – John B. Polhill (1992)
- Acts: Bible Study Commentary – F.F. Bruce (2017)
- Acts for Everyone – N.T. Wright (2008)
- Acts: The Church Afire – Kent Hughes (1996)
- Acts – K.O. Gangle (1998)
- The Kingdom of God – Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1992)
- Kingdom First – Jeff Christopherson (2015)
- The Kingdom Agenda – Tony Evans (1999)
- What is Koinonia – GotQuestions.org