Fellowship That Costs Something

Today's Reading: Acts 2:44–45; Romans 12:13 | Audio: Day 3

> *"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."*
>
> — Acts 2:44–45 (KJV)
>
> *"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*
>
> — Romans 12:13 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

The early church was not simply a group of people who attended meetings together. They became a family. Acts 2 shows a community where believers carried each other's burdens in real and tangible ways. They shared. They gave. They opened their homes. They noticed needs and responded. Their fellowship was more than conversation after service. It was costly love.

That kind of fellowship is not always convenient. It costs time when your schedule is full, resources when your budget feels tight, emotional energy when your own heart is tired, privacy when you would rather keep your life closed off, and comfort when someone else's burden interrupts your plans.

But this is the kind of community that can hold people. Many are not just looking for a sermon; they are looking for a safe place—someone who will notice, who will pray, who will invite them to the table, who will help carry the weight for a little while. True fellowship says, "You do not have to struggle alone." That does not mean we become careless with boundaries. It does mean we stop using comfort as an excuse for disobedience.

A vault stores everything for itself, locking things away to protect its own supply. A conduit lets things flow through. When God blesses your home, resources, time, wisdom, testimony, and strength, He is not only blessing you for you—He wants to bless others through you. The meal you can cook. The seat in your car. The extra place at your table. The prayer after a long day. The listening ear. These may seem ordinary, but in the hands of God they become ministry.

A city is not changed only by large events. Sometimes it is changed by open doors, shared meals, quiet generosity, and people who decide, "If God gave it to me, He can flow through me."

> **FELLOWSHIP IS LOVE IN MOTION**
>
> God does not bless vaults. • He blesses conduits.

DAY 3 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *Where has self-preservation kept you from meeting a need you were actually capable of meeting?*

2. *Who around you is carrying something alone right now?*

RESPOND: TODAY'S PRACTICAL STEP

Identify one tangible need this week—in your church, your neighborhood, or your family—and meet it without waiting for a more convenient moment:

- ☐ Send the text. Make the meal.
- ☐ Give the ride. Offer the help.
- ☐ Open the door to your table.
- ☐ Pray with someone, not just for someone.

The need I am meeting this week:

DAY 3 • PRAYER

PRAY

Lord Jesus, give us hearts that look like Yours. Forgive us for the times we have guarded our comfort more than we have loved people. Teach us to be generous with what You have placed in our hands. Make our homes places of hospitality. Make our lives conduits of Your grace. Show us the needs You want us to meet, and give us the courage to respond even when it costs us something. Let our fellowship reflect Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

True fellowship is love that costs something.

Going Deeper: Galatians 6:2 • Hebrews 13:2 • 1 John 3:17–18

> *This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.*