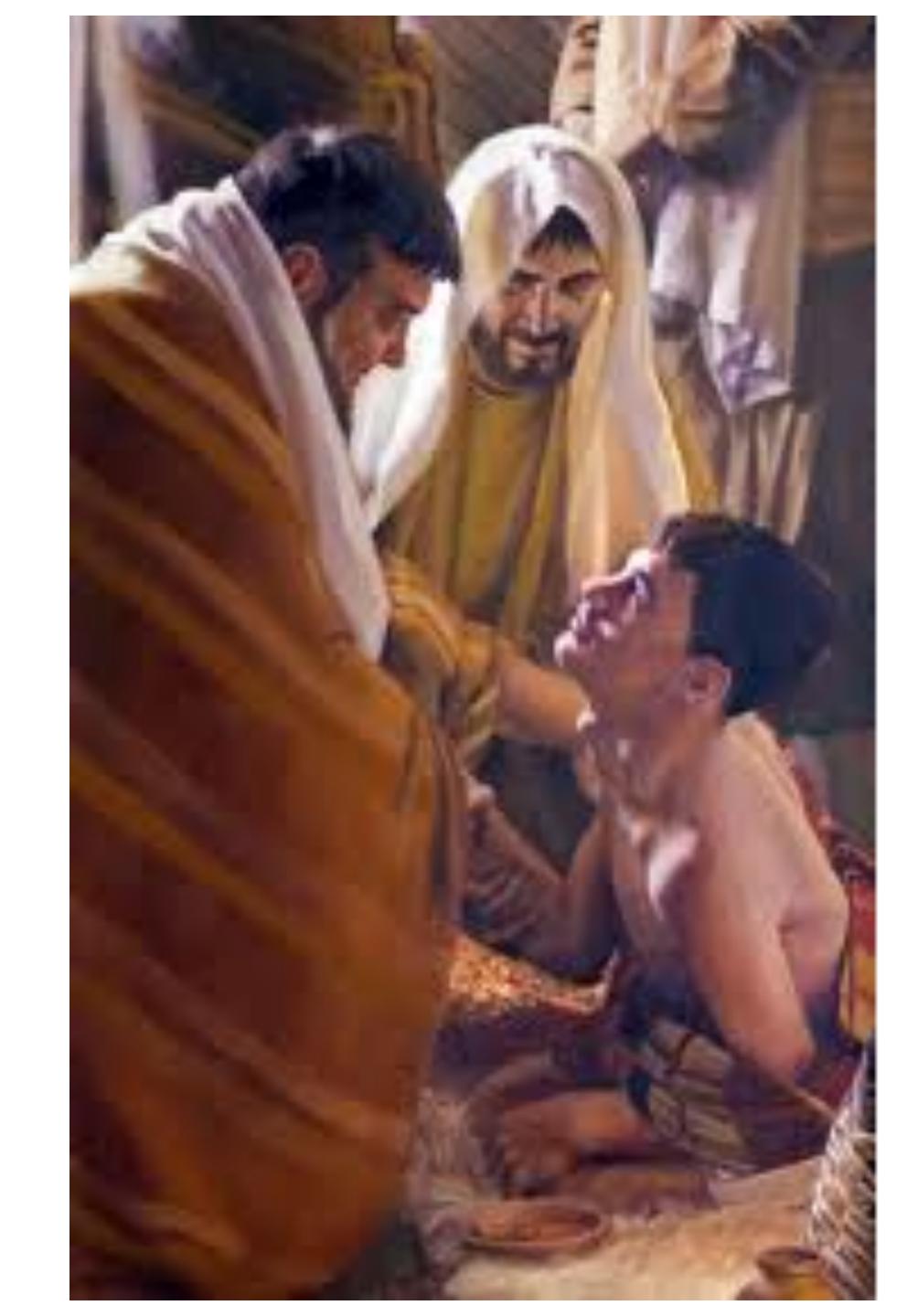


66

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; -Acts 2:43

- ➤ The power of God was moving in the midst of the first assembly of believers. *Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.*
- ➤ People became fearful because of what they saw God doing among His people. 2Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- ➤ During this period, God's people were not seeking signs and wonders yet they were a result of them following after the plan of God. *Matt.* 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.





- ➤ Though signs and wonders still occur today, God's Word teaches us that prophecy should be desired more than any other manifestation of God's gifts. 1Cor. 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.
- ➤ Prophecy is a prediction that is based on God's Word and relayed to His people for warnings, encouragement, and growth. 1Cor. 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.
- ➤ To give a prognosis is to simply tell someone, if "this" continues then "that" will occur. So, in essence, to prophecy God's Word is to tell people that if they repent, then they can change their end result. *Matt. 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

- ➤ The early church members trusted in each other and had unfeigned love for one another. 1Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:
- ➤ Having 'all things in common' means that they believed that they were all equal regardless of their various abilities and callings. *Phil.* 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- ➤ When we are content with who we are in the faith, then we can truly love our brothers and sisters in the faith without envy and jealousy. James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.



## SUMMARY

God gave various gifts and callings to the members of the early church. But the Bible says that they kept a certain commonality amongst themselves so that none felt they were better than others. Their humility and meekness made it easier for God to move because envy and jealousy were non-existent. We, as believers, must model this behavior today. We must see our brothers and sisters as better than ourselves. We must keep all things in common and remain together in fellowship. Loving people past their issues, inconsistencies, and during their growth process is how we must function as a church. We have all needed grace and mercy to bring us this far, so we must wait on others that require the same patience. This love for each other is what causes the hand of God to move in our lives and causes the world to take notice as they did back then.

Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.