

"GREAT POWER & GREAT GRACE" ACTS 4:32-35

I. THIS EARLY FIRST CENTURY CHURCH ENJOYED AN UNUSUAL UNITY (4:32)

- A. The Things They Shared In *Common* Were More Than Just Creedal
 - 1. They Were One Body With One Great Passion
 - 2. The Acid Test Of This Single Passion Would Manifest Itself In How They Felt About Their Possessions
- B. There Was An Internal Renunciation Of Personal Possession That Went On In The Hearts Of These People

II. THIS EARLY FIRST CENTURY CHURCH EXPERIENCED GREATNESS IN TWO AREAS (4:33-35)

- A. The Apostles Had Been Enabled To Bear Witness With The Very *Power* That Had Been Promised In Acts 1:8 (4:33a)
 - 1. The Unity Within This Church Only Served To Enhance The Obvious Power With Which The Apostles Spoke
 - 2. The Unity Within This Church Served To Free The Apostles To Speak The Things Of God Due To A Concentrated Focus Of Energy
- B. The Entire Church Had Been The Beneficiaries Of Great Grace (4:33b-35)
 - 1. Some Within The Church Had Been Private Property Owners
 - 2. Out Of The Capital Of Private Sources There Had Been Voluntary Giving
 - 3. In Lieu Of One Dramatic Giving Event, The Offering of Material Goods Was Occasional
 - 4. Distribution Was Made By The Leadership In Accordance With Genuine Need, Particularly To Unemployed Foreigners
 - 5. All Of It Was Conducted In Evidence Of The Grace Of God