



LifeTogether

Part 2: **Better Together**



Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

(Free Translation)

I have noticed something in life that is pointless: someone who is alone. He has no family, no friends ... This is useless—a miserable way to live.

*Two are better than one since they can work more effectively—there is **mutual effort**. If one falls down, the other can help him up—there is **mutual support**. But if he is alone and falls, it is just too bad, because there is no one to help.*

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

(Free Translation)

If it is cold, two can huddle together to stay warm—there is **mutual encouragement**. But how can you keep warm by yourself? Two can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone—there is **mutual protection**. And a rope of three cords is hard to break—there is **mutual strength**.

God created us as relational beings. That is why we are better together.

—◆—
“They devoted themselves to doing life together.”

ACTS 2:42

When I am relationally disconnected, I am...

4

times more likely to suffer emotional burnout

5

times more likely to suffer clinical depression

10

times more likely to be treated for mental illness

2 to 3

times more likely to die an early death

Relational connection is the treatment of choice for human aloneness:

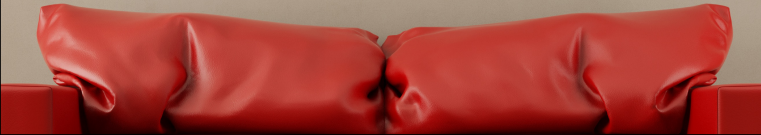
— ❖ —
“Sweet friendship refreshes the soul.”
PROVERBS 27:9

A Deeper Experience of Life Together

1

**Be courageous and start pursuing
community with others.**

I must reject passivity and initiate!
I must resist fear and connect!



The First-Fruit of Sin: *Relational Fear*

— ❖ —
Fear makes us *distant*.
Fear makes us *defensive*.
Fear makes us *demanding*.

The First-Fruit of Spirit-Infilling: *Relational Boldness*

— ✦ —
“For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise, strong, loving and enjoy being with them.”

II TIMOTHY 1:7

The starting point to overcoming fear and connecting relationally is to pray,

“Holy Spirit, fill me with courage to take the first step.”

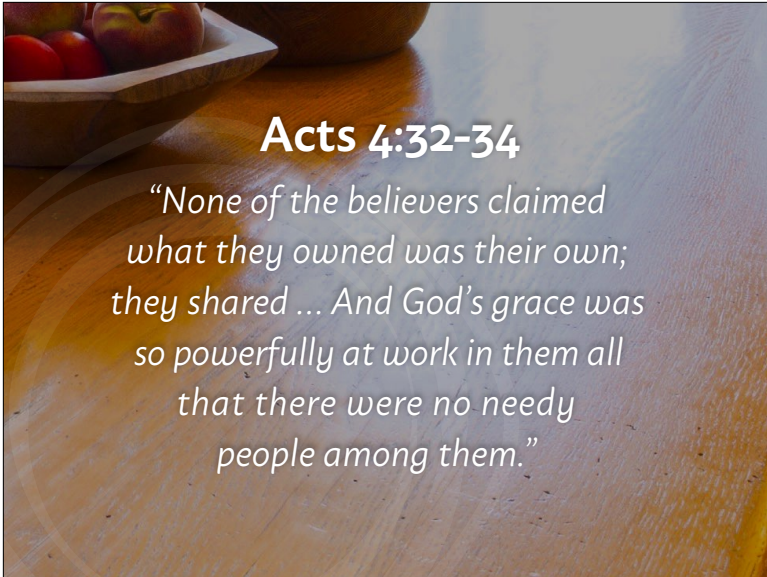
A Deeper Experience of Life Together

— 2 —

Be considerate and start meeting others’ needs.

“The believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other, selling their possessions and dividing with those in need.”

ACTS 2:44-45



Acts 4:32-34

“None of the believers claimed what they owned was their own; they shared ... And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy people among them.”



God’s Guaranteed Blessing!

◆
“Give and it’ll be given to you.”

LUKE 6:38

“It is more blessed to give than receive.”

ACTS 20:35



The greatest need of the people in my spiritual community will be **love, acceptance** and **forgiveness**.

◆
“Love forgets mistakes.”

PROVERBS 17:9

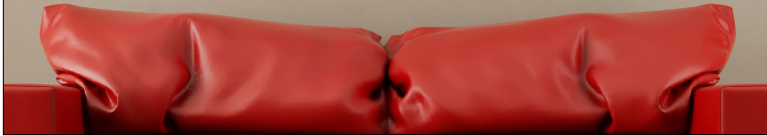
The most basic and powerful way to meet needs is to make allowance for people’s faults.

A Deeper Experience of Life Together

3

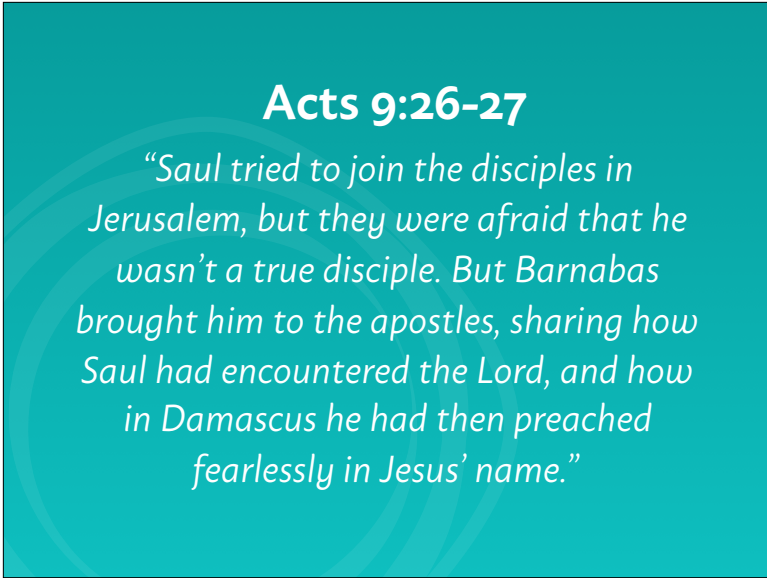
Be constructive and start encouraging others.

A powerful blessing of authentic community is the encouragement that I give and receive.

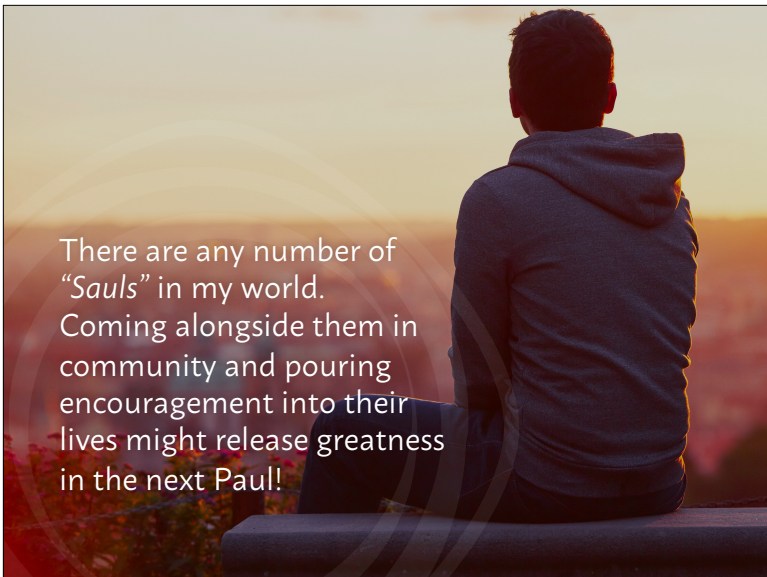


Acts 9:26-27

“Saul tried to join the disciples in Jerusalem, but they were afraid that he wasn’t a true disciple. But Barnabas brought him to the apostles, sharing how Saul had encountered the Lord, and how in Damascus he had then preached fearlessly in Jesus’ name.”



There are any number of “Sauls” in my world. Coming alongside them in community and pouring encouragement into their lives might release greatness in the next Paul!



Hebrews 10:25

“Let’s not give up meeting together, as some are now doing, but let’s encourage one another—and all the more as we see the Day approaching.”









Better Together



Life Together

Part 2: **Better Together**
