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FREEPAPER



A Brand New Culture



The Radical Life of Acts 2:44

“All who believed were together
& shared all things in common”

A Brand New Culture



We are part of an international network of communities known as the Twelve Tribes.



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We work together, share our meals together, we worship together, and all the money we earn in our businesses is shared so that there are no poor among us, just as they did.²

We define true religion as caring for orphans and widows

and being unstained by the world.³



² "For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need."
Acts 4:34,35

¹And the full number of those who had believed were together and had all things in common.”

Acts 2:44

We live just like the first disciples in the book of Acts.



We share all our possessions in common as they did.¹



We make sure our differences are resolved before we lift our hands and pray.⁴

This gives us confidence that our prayers are being heard and accepted.⁵

³ “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

James 1:27

⁴ “Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:3

⁵ “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

1 Corinthians 1:10

6What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.
1 Corinthians 14:26

Unlike many churches today in which only the pastor speaks, everyone in our communities is encouraged to speak when we gather together.⁶



No one person makes all the decisions. We submit to one another, which means we do everything together. We don't make decisions apart from speaking and listening to one another.⁷



Sadly, many Christian churches today bear no resemblance to that first pattern established by Christ's closest disciples.

7Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

They had a rich culture and heritage of their own. They had no need to embrace the world's culture.

God's commandments can only be fulfilled in the context of a life together, sharing all things. This is the witness of His love and salvation, which must go to the ends of the earth, in order to bring about the fulfillment of all of God's instruction and His promises.⁸

Their SHARING of POSSESSIONS, was meant to fulfill the hope of Deuteronomy 15:4⁹

Their UNITY was the demonstration of Psalm 133:1,3¹⁰

Their OUTSPOKENNESS was meant to answer the cry of Moses – that all would speak.¹¹



Our children grow up in a protected environment. Parents work together to teach them the ways of God. Many of our youth are embracing the life of their parents.

It is a place where fathers and sons can turn their hearts towards each other.



⁸And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

Only ordained ministers are allowed to speak, and there are many divisions or "denominations."



There are rich and poor in the churches of Christianity today. Since they have no distinctive culture that sets them apart from the world, their children embrace the fashions, music, and immorality of the world.

The pattern of community was established by Christ Himself and His very first apostles.



⁹"However, there will be no poor among you, since the LORD will surely bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess."
— Deuteronomy 15:4

¹⁰"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity...for there the LORD commands a blessing—eternal life."
— Psalms 133:1,3

¹¹"Would that *all* the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" — Numbers 11:29

Their care for the poor and needy had also been required of God's people in the Old Testament¹² but was never fulfilled.



Walls are being broken down between old and young

and between men and women.



¹²"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation [His church]. God sets the lonely in families [in the communities of the saints]. He brings out those who are bound into prosperity. But the rebellious dwell in a dry land." Psalm 68:5,6

¹³"Then the virgin will rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together." Jeremiah 31:13

¹⁴Birds of every kind will nest in [a great tree]. They will find shelter in the shade of its branches." Ezekiel 17:23

A Place to Belong...

a place where young and old work together¹³



a place where many races dwell together, as the prophet Ezekiel foretold.¹⁴



Through the sufferings that come into our lives¹⁶, we learn to grow more like our Master,

becoming more and more loving

as we freely choose to deny ourselves for others.¹⁷



¹⁶[Paul and Barnabas] strengthened the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

¹⁷And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15

¹⁵ To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.” 1 Corinthians 1:2

This is an actual place,¹⁵ a location, somewhere we can bring another person home to,



a place where we cannot hide from our hurtful ways, where we can face our maladies yet still be loved and needed;

This is the place where God's people live,¹⁸

and where God lives in a people –

a people who are in training for eternity.¹⁹



Maybe you have seen us at an event.

Please come and see this Brand New Culture for yourself,, at the places listed on the back of this paper.

You will find a place to belong – a place to be long, for a long, long time.

¹⁸And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

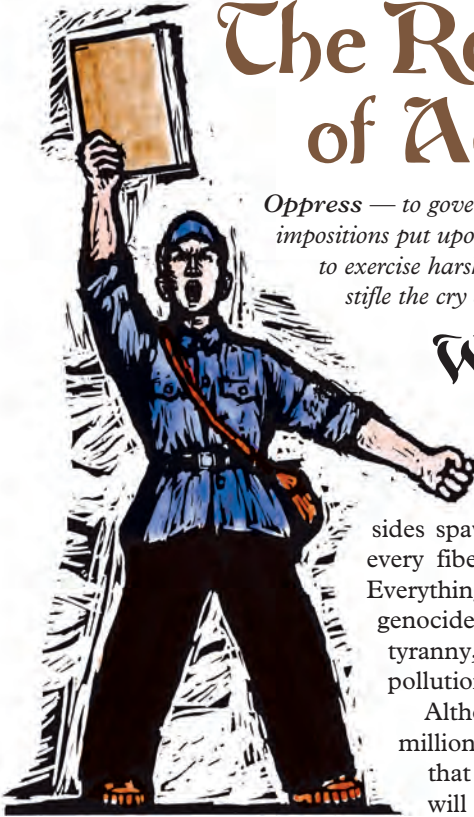
1 John 4:16

¹⁹And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

The Radical Life of Acts 2:44

Oppress — to govern or manage with cruel or unjust impositions put upon people under unreasonable restraint; to exercise harsh and evil authority; to silence and stifle the cry of the human heart.



We live in an age of oppression — physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. We are oppressed from without and within. Screaming out for justice in an age of supreme injustice on all sides spawns the revolutionaries who strain every fiber to make a blow to the system. Everything is dark and twisted: poverty, genocide, generations under medicated tyranny, political corruption, endless war, pollution, and ecological nightmares.

Although one could choose from a million different causes, the loyal heart that is yearning for truth and justice will stop at nothing short of the true solution to this age of sadness and chaos, heartache and brokenness. The ultimate act of revolution is to respond to the call that strikes right to the core, to the very essence of the world system itself. This call was presented and articulated in detail and clarity by Yahshua,¹ the Son of God.

What would such an authentic revolution look like in reality? What would be its tangible manifestation? Simply Acts 2:44 — “All who believed were together and shared all things in common.” That is history’s most profound movement, yet it has remained hidden to most. It is the way the disciples of Yahshua lived in the first century. They were actually called *The Way*,² for they were devoted to learning, producing, and preserving an emerging culture, which is the only way *The Way* can be, just as an apple seed, by

¹ *Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the Savior; see *The Name Above All Names* on page 28

² *Acts 24:14* — But this I confess to you, that according to the *Way*, which they call a cult, I worship the God of our fathers...

Genesis 18:19 — For I have chosen [Abraham], that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has promised him.



its nature, must grow an apple tree. It is in the genetics of the seed. The “DNA” of the true gospel will always produce a set-apart people. The life described in Acts 2:44 was the first fruit that was meant to grow to maturity.

The “church” is not a building — it is a family, a people who willingly live a life of self-sacrifice

The call of the gospel is the ultimate solution to all the injustice that this sick and dying world has ever seen. It is the only antidote to the oppression and aggression of this age. There is nothing that exposes this self-centered consumer society more than a people who wholeheartedly band together, enduring through thick and thin. They are in it together for better or worse, in sickness and in health, through trials and testing, sharing all that they have, and refusing to forsake one another.

Acts 2:44 tests covenant love to the core, proving its quality and glory. Love comes from internal motivation, not external compulsion. Only a love that is greater than man’s faulty natural love will endure the testing that is coming upon the earth in these last days.³ It must be *divine* love, poured into the hearts of redeemed men and women.⁴

³ **Luke 21:34-35** — But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

⁴ **Romans 5:5** — And hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

The Radical Life of Acts 2:44



The commandments of Yahshua, the Son of God, set forth the supreme challenge to the human soul, and connect you to the source of that divine love. You must begin by walking away from every self-centered agenda to embark upon the most noble endeavor: establishing the Kingdom of God here on earth just as it is in the very heart of our Creator. This is the very same call that Abraham obeyed so long ago.

Yahshua's commandments and teachings are the detailed blueprints to equip a people to endure the tidal wave of the "I-me-my-mine" culture that is destroying the very fabric of all human society. Supreme selfishness is paving the way for a one-world government and a society that will ultimately welcome the Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast. This corporate monstrosity will be the result of a systematic leveling process that will succeed in wiping out all human worth and dignity. It will do it through aggressive and persuasive propaganda pumped right into the spiritual bloodstream of the masses in these next few generations.

Mankind has been polluted, scarred, marred in heart and soul, yet the persistent humble heart gropes to find a way to not get swept away. "Live for yourself" has become the anthem of the age. The young are seduced by the "siren song" of higher education, promising a life of comfort, ease, and pleasure.⁵ All the ancient boundaries are being transgressed. Dazed and

⁵ **Luke 12:19** — And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

deluded, people despise the struggle and suffering that has preserved righteous character through the centuries. So we see humanity reduced to the level of brute beasts — arguing, lusting, striving, deceiving, hating, coveting, craving, and neglecting. Man lives solely consumed with self-gratification, feeding his insatiable ego. Thus the world is fast becoming as it was in the days of Noah,⁶ and like Sodom and Gomorrah,⁷ when the thoughts and intentions of the human heart were only evil continually.

In stark contrast is the life that results from the gospel of Yahshua, the most radical calling that has ever been made to man. It shatters the flashy façade that has deceived the whole world.⁸ It sets forth the standard of true love, like a lighthouse to a storm-tossed ship at sea in the darkest night. This light exposes the darkness of selfishness and calls mankind to account.

The starting place to obtain the covenant love that is in Messiah is to sever yourself from the entanglements of

The Radical Message

“The Kingdom of Heaven, which was the main teaching of Jesus, and which plays so small a part of the Christian creeds, is certainly one of the most revolutionary doctrines that ever stirred and changed human thought. It is small wonder if the world of that time failed to grasp its full significance. For the doctrine of the Kingdom of Heaven, as Jesus seems to have preached it, was no less than a bold and uncompromising demand for a complete change and cleansing of the life of the struggling race, an utter cleansing without and within.”

—H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*, Vol 1, page 422 (1920).

⁶ **Genesis 6:5** — The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁷ **Ezekiel 16:49-50** — Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

⁸ **1 John 3:8** — Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 5:19 — We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

The Radical Life of Acts 2:44

your life in this world. This is a prerequisite for anyone who wants to become Yahshua's disciple.⁹ These are the so-called "hard words" of the gospel that usually get left out of the Christian preachers' sermons.

Leave, Enter, Become

First, you must *leave* your old life and occupation. Second, you must *enter* into a covenant with all those who also believe (just as a husband and wife enter into a marriage covenant "till death do us part"). Third, you *become* a new person, progressively being transformed into the likeness of the Messiah Yahshua.¹⁰

The result of obeying this gospel is Acts 2:44 — All who believe live together and share all things in common. This is the exemplary life that

⁹ **Matthew 10:34-39** — Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Luke 14:26-33 — If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple... Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Mark 8:34-38 — And He called to Him the crowd with His disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. "

Matthew 19:20-22 — The young man said to Him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

John 12:24-26 — Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

¹⁰ **1 John 3:2-3** — Beloved, we are children of God now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

1 Corinthians 15:49 — Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

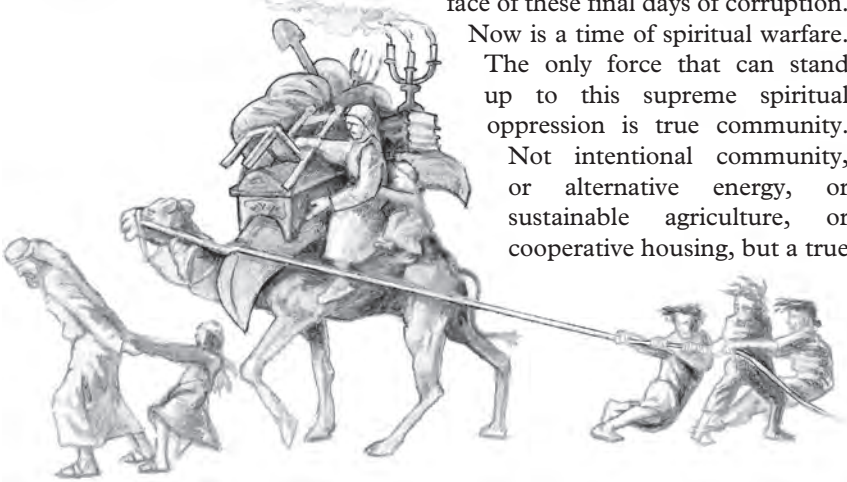
is the light of the world in the midst of a dark and decaying society.¹¹ The gospel calls us on a pilgrimage back to establish a set-apart holy nation,¹² a society that is held together by the Creator Himself. The holy nation is made up of those who were once not a people, but were made into a people through their obedience to the gospel.¹³

So it must be *leave*, *enter*, and then *become* all that He needs us to be. Only a society with this integrity can endure until the end and be the Creator's voice pleading with modern man to turn from the flood of deception that the evil ruler of this age is unleashing upon an unsuspecting global generation. Divided we fall. Only fiercely united will a people be able to stand up in the face of these final days of corruption.

Now is a time of spiritual warfare.

The only force that can stand up to this supreme spiritual oppression is true community.

Not intentional community, or alternative energy, or sustainable agriculture, or cooperative housing, but a true



¹¹ **Isaiah 49:6** — It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

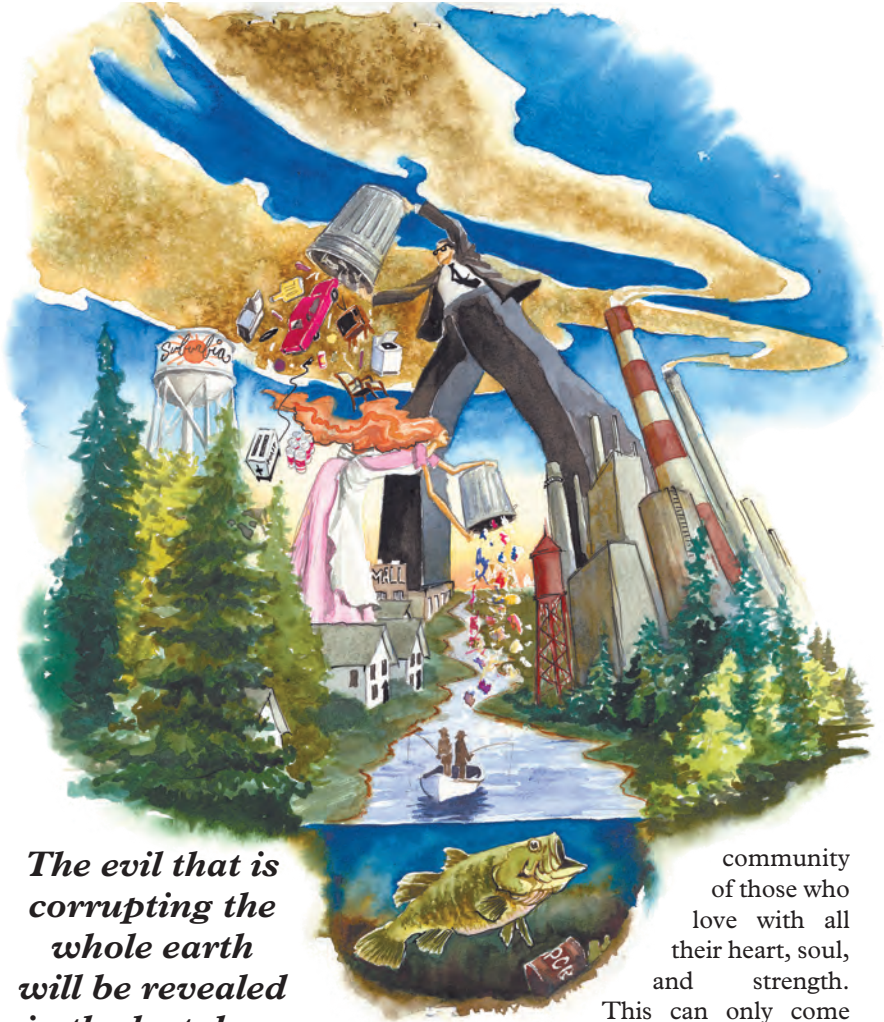
¹² **1 Peter 2:9** — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Hebrews 11:13-16,39-40 — These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city... And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

¹³ **1 Peter 2:10** — Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Mark 3:33-35 — And He answered them, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! Whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

The Radical Life of Acts 2:44



The evil that is corrupting the whole earth will be revealed in the last days

community of those who love with all their heart, soul, and strength. This can only come from an equal response to the call of our Creator, which calls us into true communion.

The “church” is not a building, as everyone thinks. It is a family, a people, a confederation composed of volunteers who willingly live a life of self-sacrifice after the same pattern as the One they follow. It is a *tribal* life: families, clans, and tribes, in stark contrast to the suburban loneliness of the world. There God can truly relink Himself to man and man to Himself.¹⁴

¹⁴ **James 1:27** — Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

In this place God is pleased to dwell.¹⁵ All other revolutions will continue to spin round and round and accomplish nothing till man's heart is made one. First, we must be one with the ancient call, its mission, and the purpose of the One who fashioned us, and also we must be one with one another.

The most radical movement that history has ever recorded was the church of the first century, after it was established by the apostles, those who had intimately learned from the Savior Himself. They were a people of one heart and one soul, a Body of believers not in doctrine alone, but in the practical, experiential, daily reality of love and care. Sadly, it didn't endure long, but it left a plumb line, a standard, and an ember of hope for a people who would pick up where they left off, and catch fire to fulfill all that is in the ancient writings of the Law and the Prophets.

Love is the solution. Love is the light of the world. Anything less than one heart and one soul will be undermined and swept away in the coming days of testing. But the meek will inherit the earth — the humble, the servants, the ones who serve night and day to bring about the fulfillment of the promises of God.

The trial that is coming upon the earth will be the fiercest battle that has ever been fought, but the battlefield is in the unseen realm of spiritual warfare.¹⁶ It is a war against division, laxity, complacency, selfishness, hypocrisy, and compromise. It is a war against every influence that comes in to make our love grow cold.¹⁷ It is a war to forgive and be forgiven.

When a people walk this narrow prophetic course spoken of by the prophets of old, the veneer of this current world order will be torn back to reveal the devastation and evil that has been and is corrupting this whole earth. We live in the last days.¹⁸ As in the days of Noah, so many of our thoughts are corrupted with petty selfish motives and the selfish ambition that has been instilled deep into us.¹⁹

¹⁵ **Psalm 68:5-6** — Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

¹⁶ **2 Corinthians 10:4** — For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Ephesians 6:12 — For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹⁷ **Matthew 24:12-13** — And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

¹⁸ **2 Timothy 3:1-5** — But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

¹⁹ **James 3:16** — For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

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We all need salvation desperately. Salvation is not merely a legal matter settled in heaven by a “sinner’s prayer” to escape the sentence of judgment, but it is a complete and radical transformation of the heart, redirecting the motives of our life. We need a Savior, a Shepherd, a Guide to lead us through the valley of death.²⁰ Like sheep, we need our flock — our tribe, our people, and our Shepherd. We need elders and prophets, wisdom and role models. Alone we will fall, but together we will stand. This truth is written deep in our soul.

If you hear this call,²¹ you must no longer live for yourself.²² The end of all injustice will begin from those who respond to the call to deny themselves and live for others. That is the end of Satan’s reign.

We all have greed. Greed is wasting precious time and energy on yourself while the world is collapsing and God’s purpose is left in abeyance. There is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. Yahshua, our example, laid down His life for us, and the only appropriate response is to do the same for Him and for His cause — to see the Kingdom of God established here on earth as it is in heaven.²³ Anything less is to take His name in vain.

The authority of the gospel has been resurrected and is calling and cutting men out of

The Message of the Kingdom

“The early Nazarenes, as the followers of Jesus were called... continued for a time his disciplines of the complete subjugation of self; they had their goods in common, they had no bond but love... Few of them [truly] understood that the renunciation of self is its own reward, that it is itself the Kingdom of Heaven... Revived by these hopes, enforced by the sweet and pure lives of many of the believers, the Nazarene doctrine began to spread very rapidly in Judea and Syria.”

—H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*

²⁰ **Psalm 23:4** — Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

²¹ **Matthew 22:14** — For many are called, but few are chosen.

²² **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** — For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

²³ **Matthew 6:33** — But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

their self-centered existence²⁴ and into a life of daily service to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.²⁵ Loving your own life perpetuates the fallen systems of the world and puts you at enmity with God.²⁶ To live for yourself is to be apathetic and indifferent to the plight of your fellow man, as well as the burden of God. How can we pursue our own hobbies and careers and be unconcerned about the Kingdom of God?

***How can we
pursue our
own hobbies
and careers
and be
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about the
Kingdom
of God?***

The most amazing thing has begun²⁷ — the rebirth of the ancient tribal culture of Israel.²⁸ Just as the prophets of old have spoken, the God of heaven and earth will again regather His people into one fold²⁹ in these last days and separate them from the nations around them to make them a set-apart people once again. He has already started to gather this people back into the deep covenant love of the New Covenant. He is restoring a people who will bring about His will, true activists who will not love their own lives even unto death.³⁰ Love is the highest state of awareness, which compels one to action.

It has been prophesied that in the last days God will gather His people into one flock, with one Shepherd, for all the world to see a witness and foretaste of

²⁴ **Matthew 10:34** — Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

²⁵ **Acts 26:7** — ... to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by the Jews, O king!

²⁶ **1 John 2:15-17** — Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions — is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:4 — You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

²⁷ **Habakkuk 1:5** — Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

²⁸ **Jeremiah 30:20** — Their children shall be as they were of old, and their community shall be established before Me, and I will punish all who oppress them.

Jeremiah 31:4,33 — Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers... But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

²⁹ **John 10:16** — And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

³⁰ **Luke 9:23** — And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Revelation 12:11 — 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.

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the coming kingdom,³¹ the fruit that God Himself has always wanted — a people in unity, in one accord, obeying His commandments.³² Their love will be a dividing line that will reveal to the world who His disciples are³³ and who they are not.³⁴

Where brothers are dwelling together in unity is where the blessing of eternal life will be given.³⁵ It is only among a people who are being cleansed, forgiven, and learning to daily forgive one another. It is the place of purification, just as gold is refined by fire. It is a place for the humble and the poor in spirit, the sick who need a physician. It is a home for the lonely, a dwelling place for widows and orphans.

But love has to be tested.³⁶ A building must be founded on the solid rock, the chief cornerstone, in order to grow into a spiritual house for God to dwell in by His Spirit.³⁷ That is the restoration of all things, which can come about only when there is a people who will put all of the enemies of God underfoot.³⁸ Israel has to be restored, not as a political nation, but as a covenant people who reflect God's own heart.

Acts 2:44 is the only context in which the Law and the Prophets can be fulfilled. Apart from this foundation, all that is left is warped doctrinal gnosticism, and no fruit. Our Creator has always longed to see the fruit

³¹ **Matthew 5:14** — You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 24:14 — And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

³² **John 14:15** — If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 17:21-23 — ... that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.

³³ **John 13:34-35** — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

³⁴ **Revelation 18:2** — Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

³⁵ **Psalms 133** — Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard of Aaron, running down to the edge of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life everlasting.

³⁶ **John 15:13,17** — Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends... These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

³⁷ **Ephesians 2:22** — In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

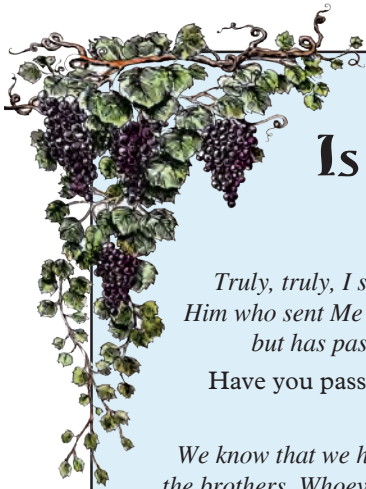
³⁸ **Hebrews 10:13** — ... waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet.

of His love, the crop of His planting,³⁹ the outcome of His word. He has always wanted a people who are together. All who believe can't help but be together. God does not need and cannot use scattered, independent people, but only those who are together. Only they can cause love, justice, and mercy to triumph over evil. That is what began in Acts 2:44, and that is what is being restored on the earth in these last days. It is the only spark of hope for liberation from the oppressor. Please come see what has begun.

The gospel is good news to the humble, willing heart.⁴⁰ ✂

³⁹ **Matthew 21:43** — Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

⁴⁰ **John 7:17** — If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on My own authority.



Is Anything Required of a Disciple?

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death and into life. (John 5:24)

Have you passed out of death and into life? How can you be sure?

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. (1 John 3:14)

Do you love the brothers? How do you know?

By this we know love: that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16)

What if you don't lay down your life for your brothers?

Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death. (John 8:51)

What if you don't keep His word?

If You Reject the Fruit, You Reject the Seed



Yahshua¹ the Messiah told a parable in Matthew 21:33-44 that was autobiographical. It was about the owner of a vineyard who sent his son to get fruit from the people tending his vineyard. Yahshua, the Son of God, was looking for fruit. He hoped to see a response to the love He continually showed towards those around Him, especially those He called to be His disciples. His Father needed a people who would “bear the fruit” of the kingdom of heaven.² He wanted something heavenly to be established on the earth. That’s why Yahshua taught His disciples to pray that His Father’s kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.³ The disciples understood that following Yahshua meant they were going to have to do something to bring that kingdom to the earth.⁴ And they loved their Master and wanted to bear much fruit!⁵

Yahshua also taught them that a tree is known by its fruit. If a tree is good it will always produce good fruit; and if a tree is bad, then it will always produce bad fruit.⁶ In time they realized that obeying the words of Yahshua would result in bearing good fruit, because it would cause them to be vitally connected to their Creator. Bearing much fruit would prove that they were His disciples.⁷

But what is the “fruit of the kingdom”?

¹ **Yahshua** is the original Hebrew name of the Savior; see *The Name Above All Names* on page 28

² **Matthew 21:43** — Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing its fruits.


³ **Matthew 6:10** — Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴ **John 14:23** — Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

⁵ **John 15:5-8** — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

⁶ **Luke 6:43-44** — For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

⁷ **John 15:8** (quoted above)



There are two things Yahshua spoke of that stand head and shoulders above all else: love and unity. He revealed to us how one can remain in His love and be tapped into the same love He was tapped into:

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (John 15:10)

His disciples bear fruit by obeying His commands. So what are His commands? Just a little further He explains,

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:12-13)

So we know that He loved by laying down His life for His friends, and in doing that He was an example to us of what the standard of love is for His disciples. He talked about it so often because He knew that mankind was created to love, to express the fullness of the Spirit of God in physical form. All the commands are designed to produce His disciples living together a life of love.

So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. (Luke 14:33)

Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time — houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions — and in the age to come, eternal life. (Mark 10:29-30)

The Life of Love

The Master's commands are what set a person free to live that life of love. However, it is impossible to do it alone. Otherwise, by giving up your possessions you will wind up on the streets with nothing to offer anyone. But by obeying the Master's commandments *together*, the life described in the Book of Acts becomes possible. That is how the hundredfold increase He promised in Mark 10:29-30 happens:

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they were selling their property and possessions and sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-47)

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 witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them

If You Reject the Fruit, You Reject the Seed



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. (Acts 4:32-35)

This was the life of love that Yahshua gave His life to make possible. He knew it could happen only if His true disciples would obey His Words. Apart from obedience to His commands, a person is left seeking after his own food, clothing, and shelter. But Yahshua told His disciples they were not to even *think* about meeting their own needs, but to seek first His kingdom, and all these things would be provided for them.⁸ If everyone is preoccupied with caring for others, and not themselves, then everyone's needs are met.

The Life of Unity

Unity was the other topic dear to Yahshua's heart. In fact, in His final hours it was what weighed most heavily on His heart. He prayed before He went to the cross that those who followed Him would be in perfect unity, and that it would testify to His validity as their Savior:

I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me,

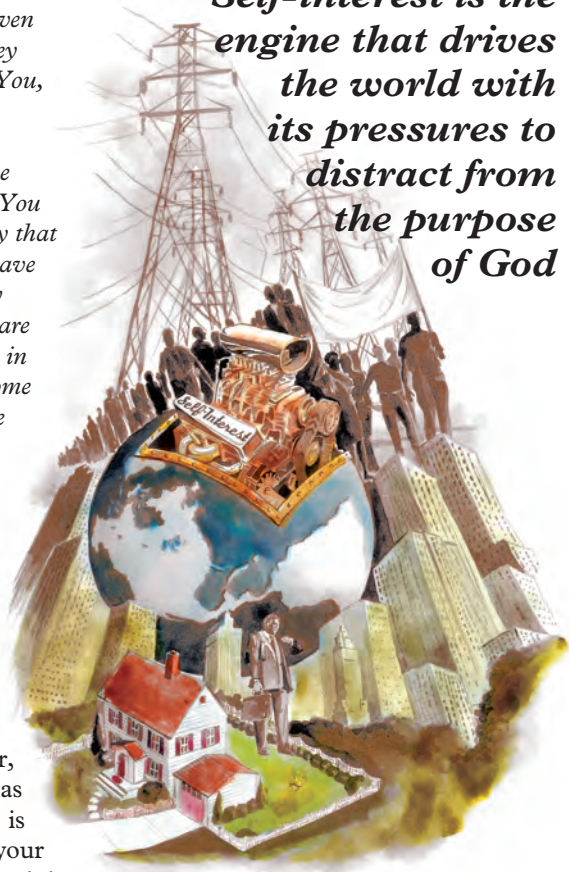
⁸ **Matthew 6:31-33** — Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

that they may be one, even as we are one... that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as you loved Me. (John 17:11,21-23)

It will shock the world to see human beings actually getting along, deeply connected, committed to taking care of one another, making sure everyone has what he needs. That is what it means to love your neighbor⁹ as yourself. And it is only that kind of unity that will communicate the hope that God can actually save us from the deep inner workings that have alienated people from each other for all of human history.

Of course, this could not come from anything other than the grace of God being poured out on mankind. History tells many grim tales of failed attempts at living together. Mankind has never been able to do it in his own strength. That is why the life the disciples of Yahshua lived in the beginning was such a miracle! That life is fruit of being truly saved:

Self-interest is the engine that drives the world with its pressures to distract from the purpose of God



⁹ **neighbor** — (literally one who dwells “nigh” or nearby) is the English translation for both a Greek word meaning “one who is near” and a Hebrew word meaning “friend” or “companion.” The original biblical command (Leviticus 19:18) refers not to a person living in the house next door but to a fellow member of the people of God, someone in a covenant with you, a fellow “believer.” Luke 10:30-37 extends this basic concept of neighbor to whoever is near you and in need of your mercy.

If You Reject the Fruit, You Reject the Seed

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death... By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:14,16).

Some would say it is impossible to love as Yahshua loved, and to attain to the same unity as the Father and the Son. But we understand that it is actually within the power of God to save His people to that extent. It is actually the primary goal of the gospel.¹⁰

The Seed that Bears the Fruit

So what is the seed that would produce that luscious fruit? To begin with, it is Yahshua Himself:

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)

He overcame every temptation to live for Himself,¹¹ choosing instead to do His Father's will, which led Him to go to the cross as a Lamb led to the slaughter.¹² He died and went into death¹³ in order to pay every cent that we deserved to pay for our sins.¹⁴ But He did so because of the hope set before Him¹⁵ — that He would see His spiritual offspring, the fruit of the travail of His soul in death.¹⁶ Or as the Apostle Paul put it:

¹⁰ **Ephesians 5:27** — ... so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7-8 — Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure, for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Titus 2:14 — ... who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

¹¹ **Hebrews 5:7-9** — In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

¹² **Isaiah 53:7-8** — He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people?

¹³ **Matthew 12:40** — For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

¹⁴ **Luke 12:59** — I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.

¹⁵ **Hebrews 12:2** — ... looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

¹⁶ **Isaiah 53:10-11** — Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

Why has the church changed so drastically that it is now unrecognizable in comparison to how it was in the beginning?

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

The seed is also the gospel that Yahshua preached. When planted in the hearts of those who are willing to do the Father's will, it causes them to truly die in the waters of baptism, utterly forsaking their old lives, including all their possessions, unwilling relatives, careers, plans, philosophies, etc. When that seed germinates and springs forth into a new life, it bears the fruit of salvation, which results in the witness of the kingdom — the radical life of Acts 2 and 4.

Many people wonder why the disciples lived that way back then, and why those who call themselves followers of Christ don't live that way now. Many have reasoned, "Well, that was just for back then; things are different now," or, "They *had* to live that way back then because of persecution."

However, it is no mere coincidence that the way the early believers lived back then lines up directly with the "hard words" Yahshua said a person had to obey in order to become a disciple and find salvation. The normal response of obedience to the Gospel of the Kingdom produced the life and witness that turned the world upside down at that time.¹⁷

So after we read about the radical life of Acts 2 and 4, the question looms: "Why has the church changed so drastically that it is now unrecognizable in comparison to how it was in the beginning?" It is because back then a *kingdom* was being established. There was a *purpose* behind the gospel that Yahshua and His apostles preached — a purpose greater than the personal salvation of an individual so he can go to heaven when he dies. The purpose of the gospel was to produce the holy nation and royal priesthood that the Apostle Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 2:9, the spiritual Israel of twelve tribes that the Apostle Paul spoke of in Acts 26:7 and Ephesians 2:12 and Galatians 6:16, the spotless bride that the Apostle John spoke of in Revelation 19:7-8 and 21:2,9-14.

Yes, the God of Israel wants to rebuild that spiritual nation that was to be a light to the nations, bringing His salvation to the ends of the earth.¹⁸ It is a nation where lost and lonely people¹⁹ can find refuge from the fallen system of

¹⁷ **Acts 17:6** — These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.

¹⁸ **Isaiah 49:6** — It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

¹⁹ **Psalms 68:5-6** — Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

this world which is built and ruled over by the prince and power of the air,²⁰ the one whose sway is over the whole earth.²¹ It is a nation that is in every way *holy* and set apart from the world, where there is no love of the world or the things of the world.²² It is a brand new culture that is being established by the God who *is* Love.

So here is the bottom line: The life of love and unity that is described in Acts 2:44-47 and 4:32-35 is the fruit that comes forth from the seed of the true gospel when it falls in the fertile hearts of those who are willing to do the Father's will. If anyone rejects that fruit, or is willing to settle for anything less, then it follows that he rejects the seed that bears that fruit. Many settle for the cheap, genetically modified seed that produces the lifeless and fragmented fruit of Christianity today. They experience a form of godliness that lacks the power to produce a life of love and unity, and they are content with it. But are you?

We invite you to come and witness the radical life of love that is taking root once again on the earth. It is a spiritual nation of communities made up of people committed to loving their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to loving their neighbor (*the one nearest them*) as themselves.²³ That is what it takes to produce the fruit of the kingdom. ✠

²⁰ **Ephesians 2:2** — ... in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

²¹ **1 John 5:19** — We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

²² **1 John 2:15** — Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

²³ **Matthew 22:37-40** — And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



The world needs a visible witness of true love and unity in order to believe that the Father sent the Son. This witness is no less than the radical life of Acts 2 & 4.

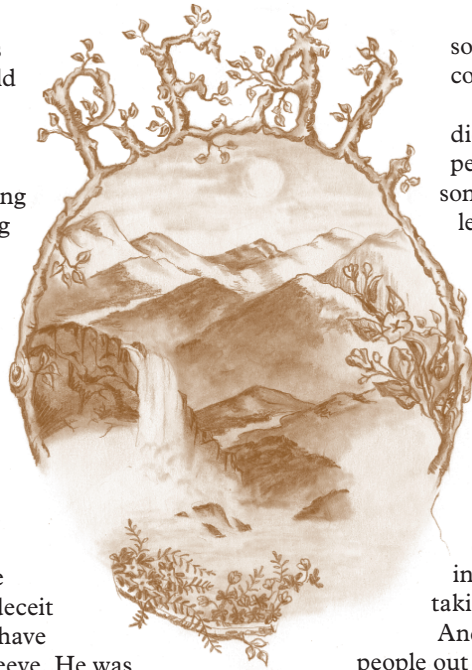
REAL. That's the word you would use to describe him. He wasn't playing a game. He wasn't projecting some image, trying to get people to look up to him. If ever you asked him to tell you about himself, he might say something like, "I am who I am."

That would be a pretty good description. There wasn't a speck of deceit in him. He didn't have anything up his sleeve. He was exactly what he appeared to be. He said exactly what he meant. And that's why people loved him. Or hated him.

Some people promise you the moon, but he wasn't like that. There was substance to what he said. He talked about real things. Like greed. And fear. And selfishness. Things that are inside everybody. Things that phonies don't want to admit and cowards don't want to face up to.

But he wasn't gloomy and depressing. He was full of joy and full of hope. He knew a way out. That's why he talked about those real problems: because he knew that those things were taking people to death, and he didn't want them to go to death. He wanted them to be full of life — life that would never end.

He talked about love — *real love* — not some word you hear in a song that makes you feel good until the song ends, and not some plastic religious pretense. The love he talked about was the love he lived. Love that costs you



something. Love that costs you your life.

That's why he didn't just give people the same old song and take off, leaving them in the dust. His life wasn't his own. He got right down there in the dust with them and healed their hurts and helped them through their hard times and dealt with the stuff inside them that was taking them to death.

And he didn't just help people out for a while and then go home, either. He didn't have a home of his own. The only home he had was the people that he loved. They were his everything. He loved them so much that he wanted them to be with him. He called them to follow him, to leave behind homes and families and possessions and, of course, self, and embark with him on a radical life of loving the same way he loved.

It was a high calling. Just think about it: actually caring for others at the expense of your own interests. Who could live such a life? Many have tried and failed. But to those who are needy and desperate and trust in him, he gives the power to do what would naturally be impossible.

We follow this man Yahshua. How could we do anything else? He proved his love for us by taking our place in death. We never knew love like that before — a love that is stronger than death. He is the one whom death could not hold. He is our everything.



The Name Above All Names

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "... and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh's Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of the angel's message in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name Yahshua [*Yahweh's Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins."

If you look in an old King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:



*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David...* (Acts 7:45, KJV)

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.* (Hebrews 4:8, KJV)

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James Version, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus*, the translators use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the underlying Greek manuscript, the name in both of these verses is — *Iesous*.

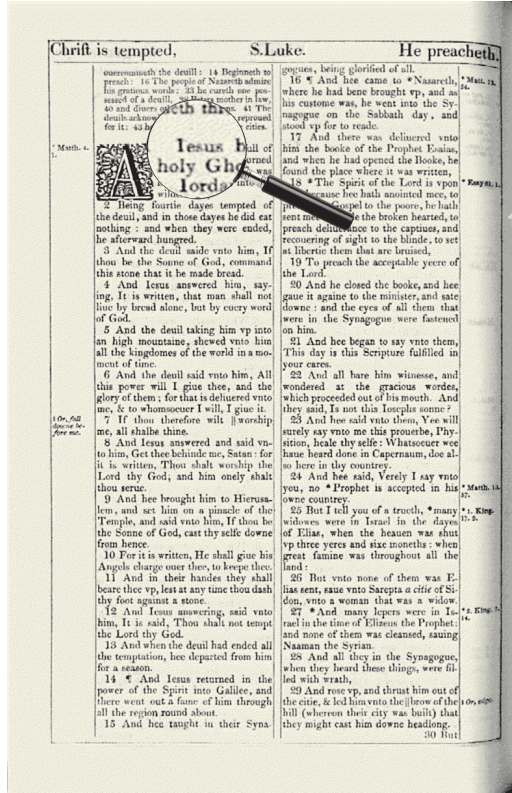
You see, *Joshua* is the common English transliteration² of the Hebrew name *Yahshua*. Joshua of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called *Jesus* in the New Testament, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these

two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: “*Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua.*”

The fact is, the name of God’s Son could not even be pronounced as “Jesus” in English until late in the 16th century, simply because there was no “J” sound or letter in English until then.³ The modern letter “J” developed from the letter “I” which began to be written with a “tail” when it appeared as the first letter in a capitalized word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard “J” sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial “I” in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a “J” in the Savior’s name.

of the Son of God pronounced “in the Hebrew tongue” by the Son of God Himself. Paul certainly didn’t hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.⁴ ❧

¹ *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means “to save.” God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning “I AM”) in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4, KJV (“...by his name *Jah*”), and is most familiar in the Hebrew word *Hallelujah* (“Praise Yah”). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father’s name, “the name which You have given Me” (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father’s name would be incorporated into the Son’s name, *Yahshua*.

² *transliteration* — expressing words of a language by using the characters of another alphabet

³ *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp.

1496,1507 ⁴ *Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12*



THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds — to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. **COME SEE US!**

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Community in Lawrence 1346 New Hampshire Lawrence, KS 66044 ☎ (785) 505-7285

MISSOURI

Community on the Lake of the Ozarks 1130 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ (660) 438-2541

Common Ground Café 145 E. Main Street, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ (660) 438-2581

COLORADO

Community in Manitou Springs 41 Lincoln Ave Manitou Springs, CO 80829 ☎ (719) 573-1907

Maté Factor Café 966 Manitou Ave Manitou Springs, CO 80829 ☎ (719) 685-3235

Community in Boulder 5325 Eldorado Springs Dr Boulder, CO 80305 ☎ (303) 719-8168

The Yellow Deli 908 Pearl Street Boulder, CO 80302 ☎ (303) 996-4700

CALIFORNIA

Community in Vista 2683 Foothill Drive Vista, CA 92084 ☎ (760) 295-3852

The Yellow Deli 321 East Broadway Vista, CA 92084 ☎ (760) 631-1888

Morning Star Ranch, 12458 Keys Creek Rd. Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ (760) 742-8953

The Yellow Deli 32011 Lilac Road Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ (760) 742-2064

MASSACHUSETTS

Community in Boston 92 Melville Ave. Dorchester, MA 02124 ☎ (617) 282-9876

Community in Hyannis 14 Main Street Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 790-0555

Common Ground Café 420 Main Street Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 778-8390

Community in Plymouth 35 Warren Ave. Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-5338

Common Sense Wholesome Food Market 53 Main St, Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 732-0427

Blue Blinds Bakery 7 North Street Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-0462

Community in Raynham 1128 Pleasant St.
Raynham, MA 02767 ☎ (508) 884-8834

NEW YORK

Community in Coxsackie 18 South River St.
Coxsackie, NY 12051 ☎ (518) 731-7002
Journey's End Farm 7871 SR 81,
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-8148

The Yellow Deli 7771 State Route 81
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-4240

Common Sense Farm 41 N. Union Street
Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ (518) 677-5880

Community in Oneonta 81 Chestnut St.
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 267-4062

The Yellow Deli 134 Main St.
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 431-1155

Community in Ithaca 119 Third Street
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 272-6915

Maté Factor Café 143 E. State Street
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 256-2056

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Community in Lancaster 12 High Street
Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4376

Simon the Tanner — Family Outfitters
55 Main St, Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4379

VERMONT

Community in Island Pond 126 South Street
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-9708

Simon the Tanner Outfitters 2 Main Street
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-4452

Basin Farm 175 Basin Farm Road
Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland 134 Church Street
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 773-3764

The Yellow Deli & Hostel 23 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 775-9800

CANADA (1-888-893-5838)

Community in Winnipeg 89 East Gate,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2C2, Canada
☎ (204) 786-8787

Common Ground Café 596 Fifth Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1K3, Canada
☎ (250) 897-1111

New Sprout Farm PO Box 189, 7191 Howard Rd.
Merville, BC V0R 2M0, Canada ☎ (250) 337-5444

Mount Sentinel Farm, 2915 Highway 3a
South Slocan, British Columbia V1L 4E2, Canada
☎ (250) 359-6847

The Yellow Deli 202 Vernon Street
Nelson, BC V1L 4E2, Canada ☎ (250) 352-0325

Fairfield Farm (Vancouver) 11450 McSween Rd
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H5, Canada ☎ (604) 795-6199

The Yellow Deli (Vancouver area)
45859 Yale Rd Chilliwack, BC V2P 2N6, Canada
☎ (604) 702-4442

GERMANY

Gemeinschaft in Klosterzimmern
Klosterzimmern 1, 86738 Deiningen, Germany
☎ (49) 9081-290-1062

CZECH REPUBLIC

Preserved Seed Farm
Mšecké Žehrovice 150, CZ-27064,
Mšec, Czech Republic ☎ (420) 721305558

ENGLAND (0800-0743267)

Stentwood Farm Dunkeswell, Honiton,
Devon EX14 4RW, England ☎ (44) 1823-681155

SPAIN

Comunidad de San Sebastián
Paseo de Ulia 375, 20013 San Sebastián, Spain
☎ (34) 943-32-79-83

Sentido Común General Echagüe 6
20003 San Sebastian, Spain
☎ (34) 943-433-103

FRANCE

Communauté de Sus
11, route du Haut Béarn 64190 Sus/Navarrenx,
France ☎ (33) 559-66-1428

ARGENTINA

Comunidad de Buenos Aires
Batallón Norte y Mansilla 120, 1748 General
Rodríguez Buenos Aires, Argentina
☎ (54) 237-484-3409

BRAZIL

Comunidade de Londrina Caixa Postal 8002,
86010-980 Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
☎ (55) 43-3357-1212

Comunidade de Campo Largo
BR 277, km 107,5 s/n° (Sentido Ponta Grossa —
Curitiba) Caixa Postal 1056, 83608-000
Campo Largo, Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 41-3555-2393

AUSTRALIA

Peppercorn Creek Farm
1375 Old Hume Highway, Picton, NSW 2571,
Australia ☎ (61) 02-4677-2668

The Yellow Deli 214 Katoomba Street
Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia
☎ (61) 02-4782-9744

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Like a Beehive

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating seeing thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you come near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a little bee.

This is much like the life that we have. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. We gather together twice a day, morning and evening to thank our Master for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. This gathering keeps fresh a genuine love and care for each other and renews our focus on our purpose. As we work, we take advantage of the daily situations, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that would come in to separate us and take away our love.

Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only educate them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain a family life. Our life is vibrant and full of purpose, as

*The word for **community** in Hebrew is **edah**, which also means **beehive**. This word conveys the way a hive of bees live and work together with a common identity. Bees have no concern for themselves but only for the hive. **So it is with those who are in the communities of God.***

we live together, gather together morning and evening, eat our meals together, work together throughout every day, everyone devoted to the great purpose of Messiah on this earth. This creates a home for the lonely, a place where the love of God lives, a place to come for a day or to stay.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. Each of us is here because we chose to leave behind our own separate lives to increase the life of this hive. We give up everything else that would distract us from doing what our Father needs us to do. Our life is not enclosed like the hive of a bee, nor do we have a stinger to harm any uninvited guests.

We welcome anyone to experience our life with us. Please come and see what it is like to be part of a beehive of people expressing the warmth and love of our Creator. 