

Sister Talk Faith: Loving Others
Going Deeper into Share
What We Have

Reflection Scripture

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Acts 2:44 ESV

Reflection Thoughts

share: to divide and distribute in shares: apportion; to partake of, use, experience, occupy, or enjoy with others; to have in common; to grant or give a share in; to tell (as thoughts, feelings, or experiences) to others (Merriam-Webster's)

Early church believers shared. They had ALL things in common. What does this look like in our world today?

What did they share first and foremost, which brought them together?

Does what you believe affect your desire to share what you have? How?

Consider the things you have, your resources, gifts, talents, and time. Make a list. Which items on your list are easy to share? Which one's give you reason to pause? Why?

What resistance do you encounter when you consider sharing what you have? What emotions rise to the surface?

Do you consider yourself "together" with other Believers? your church? Is there something holding you back?

God calls us to share what we have with others, especially Believers. Ask God to reveal to you what and how He is calling you to share. Give thanks for the things He has given you.

Prayer of Praise

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. --Psalm 100:4

Provides

- :to take precautionary measures
- :to make a proviso or stipulation
- :to make preparation to meet a need

God provides all we need. He does so perfectly, knowing what we need before we need it. Even before creation, He provided a way for our salvation.

Praise Him as the One who provides all good things (James 1:17).

Return to your prayer of praise daily.
Add to it as you feel led.

Share: *What We Have*

Day 1:

Read James 1:17-18

Where does everything we have come from? Does this source ever change?

What did He bring forth? Why?

The Father of creation provides all we need for life, including life eternal by giving us the Word of Truth, His Son. He never changes. He shares all He has created with those He loves. Consider all He has shared with you.

What does it mean to be “a kind of firstfruits of His creatures”? How can you reflect His unchanging nature of love by sharing with others what He’s shared with you?

Day 2:

Read Acts 4:32

This verse echoes the description of the early in the Reflection Scripture. In addition to sharing their belongings, what else did they have in common?

They were one in heart and soul (or mind). They shared the same values and desires. Does it make it easier or harder for you to share what you have with those whose values you share? What about those who hold opposing values? Explain.

Ask God to open your heart to sharing what you have with those it is most difficult for you to share. Ask Him what He wants you to share this week and do it.

Day 3:

Read Hebrews 13:1-6

What are Believers to keep on doing or continue in? How do we do it according to these verses?

What are we called to share? Why are we to share?

What should embolden us to share?

Strangers, those in prison, those mistreated on the outskirts of life, we are all part of the body called the human race. All loved by the Father. In what way can you share what you have, on a personal level, with a member of the human race.

Remember He is with you in it. Go do it.

Day 4:

Read 1 Peter 4:9

How are we to practice hospitality?

Look up the definition of **hospitable**.

How is sharing involved in hospitality?

The Greek translated as grumbling means “a murmur... a secret debate... a secret displeasure not openly avowed” (ESL).

What causes us to grumble inwardly when it comes to sharing what we have with others? Why do we hide our bad attitude about sharing?

Confess your inner grumbings openly to God when it comes to sharing what you have with others. Ask Him to change your heart so you can share with joy and reflect His love to others.

Day 5:

Seeking Perspective through Examen

God lavishly provides all we need. What did you share this week that brought you closer to God? Did you notice something you weren’t willing to share?

The Father’s perspective: The things God has given us have eternal value. All things ultimately belong to the Creator. Is there some God-given gift you have mistakenly taken ownership of? Why? Is it something you feel you’ve earned, something you’ve worked hard for? In the perspective of eternity, is it really yours? What eternal value does it contain if you keep it for yourself?

The Son’s perspective: It is only because of Grace we have anything. Every moment of time and every penny in our pocket represents His love for us. Sharing what we have is like pouring out Jesus on others. Who did you pour Grace over this week? How did it make you feel?

The Spirit’s perspective: Holy Spirit calls us to give so that we and others might grow closer to God. How did you grow closer in your sharing or refusal to share? What will you do differently next time?

Give thanks or sing a song of thanksgiving to close your time of prayer.