

Friday 17th July. Thought for the day. By Joan Gray
The Fellowship of believers

There are some portions of the Bible where I feel I can picture the event in my mind's eye, as well as some which are my favorite parts. Some of the happenings that we read about I do wonder if I get it completely wrong in my head. How those early day believers lived could be one example of this.

Reading Acts ch 4 v 32 - 35 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles feet. And it was distributed to each as had need,

I picture a happy contented group of likeminded people all with the same aim in mind, which is to tell as many people as possible about what they know and why they believe what they believe, That Jesus was the longed for promised Messiah. As a result they were what we might describe as a close knit group and called each other friends.

They shared everything, not just worship, food and prayer. Everything, so that no one was left in need if someone else could provide what they were lacking. Conjures up an ideal picture of real care and fellowship, at least for me it does.

What about us and now, how do we compare all these centuries later, do we have anything remotely similar or in common with those early believers of Jesus.

Not very far into the days of lock down and there was a situation at the opposite end of town to where we live which we needed to do something about. After thinking for a while what we could possibly do, it occurred to me that there was someone from the congregation who lives near there and it could be that they may be in a position to help. After a phone call explaining the situation to the person on the other end of the line.

Between us we came up with something they were able and willing to do which proved to be very helpful.

Let me share two other incidents, very true and also very up to date.

I have learnt in recent years mainly through necessity to ask for help and have been encouraged by many to do so as my circumstances have changed. First I was needing something repaired and had been trying to figure out the best course of action, or was it a case of another item for the charity bag. This I was reluctant to do for in some ways it was a simple repair yet beyond my capabilities. So when in conversation with just the right person I mentioned this quandary and was instantly rewarded with the words. I will do that or something similar.

The second was for a job my husband was wanting to do and we were wondering how and where he could acquire the correct size piece of wood required. A phone call from someone and I was promoted to ask if their husband might be able to help.

Within a couple of days I received a message to inform me that the repair was completed. As for the wood, it was delivered to our home within a very short time after the phone call.

There are so many different ways in which there has been support given and need met during recent months for all the members of our fellowship of believers. This to me answers the question with a resounding yes. I do believe we still carry the torch of those first believers. Sometimes in very different ways, sometimes in the same way, Our spoken testimony. As I say thank you for the items I have shared with you, I also know that there are many who are saying thank you for items received through the post and phone calls received, especially those without internet. Those of the fellowship who have internet access have had an abundance of material from many working to support the fellowship. So once again I say thank you all very much.

The first piece of music is, If I can help somebody. The second I have chosen also brings to my mind the time when I was first learning this one and how we would gather in a circle holding hands.

Bind us together Lord.

A short prayer

Dear Lord, As we give thanks for the example of those early day believers. We pray that our lives may also be a positive example to others. Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9LXYB3FcJ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuhIBLp5aHM>