

## DEVOTIONAL TIME

11-10-2014 @ 0900

“One In Mind And Heart”

Acts 4:31-37

### SHINE, JESUS! SHINE!

Shine, Jesus! Shine! Fill this land with the Father's Glory!  
Blaze, Spirit! Blaze! Set our hearts on fire!  
Flow, River! Flow! Flood the nations with Grace and Mercy!  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be Light!

#### Acts 4:31-37

“When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to proclaim God's Message with boldness. **The group of believers was one in mind and heart.** None of them said that any of their belongings were their own, but they all shared with one another everything they had. With great power, the Apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God poured rich blessings on them all. There was no one in the group who was in need. Those who owned fields or houses would sell them, bring the money received from the sale, and turn it over to the Apostles; and the money was distributed according to the needs of the people.”

### QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Can you think of anyone, (person or group,) you *love* so much you would literally “do everything you could” for them...to include *selling all you had*...to meet the need(s) you perceived?
- Have you ever known a couple or family, a team or club, so “knit together” by common belief and effort that you sensed they were truly *one* in mind and heart, *united* in spirit and body?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus, Son of God, wants to be “One in Mind and Heart” with you? How do you respond to a “Gift” like that? Does it change the way you “church”?

We often refer to our churches as “the family of God”, and talk about being “children” in the family of God, but what does a real “family of God” look like? How do its “members” speak or act? The Book of Acts gives us glimpses of “God's Family” in the “afterglow atmosphere” immediately following Pentecost. Luke tells us in Acts 2: “On the Day of Pentecost, they were all together, and in one accord”, and goes on to mention in Acts 4: “The group of believers was one in mind and heart.” The “problem churches” today manifest a true lack of the “charity” that unifies the Body. Our churches are full of special interest groups, cliques, and “inner circles” that “get together” rarely, if ever. In such an environment, someone is always “left out”, “kicked to the curb”, or “thrown under the bus”. How much different were those first believers...“all together and in one accord”, or “one in mind and heart”! How differently we would relate within our circles of family and friends if we were “together as one”! How differently our church families would look if we let the Spirit “fill us anew”! Like the early Church of Acts, none of us would claim “any of our belongings” were our own, but we'd all share every blessing we had. What would it take for us to get to this point in our “Christian walks”? Imagine trusting God so much! Consider “believing” so totally “God takes care of us” we no longer worry about any need at all. This would certainly “break the spell” of worldly desires” and “earthly possessions”. See how the first disciples *turned to God* in prayer again, and *stayed in prayer* until the Holy Spirit filled them again! God, grant us the Grace of Patient Prayer! Let your Holy Spirit fill us anew to break the world's hold on us, and empower the “Christ-like” love we must have for one another. We need a “personal Pentecost” to become the “free Christians” You know we can be. Shake our world, Lord; warm our hearts and transform our lives! Selflessness is the “caring Core” of Your “economy”. You gave us Your “only-begotten”, and He gave us His life completely! Empower us now to be truly, fully ONE!