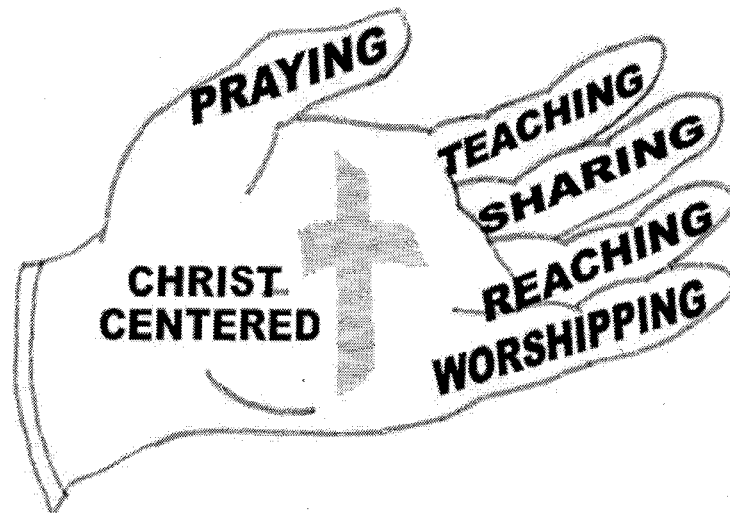


# CHRISTIAN CO-OPERATION



## ACTS 2:41-47

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### **INTRODUCTION**

**WHEN I CONSIDER THE BIBLE IN ITS TOTALITY, AND I LOOK TO THE LORD FOR GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT TO PREACH EVERY SUNDAY, IT AMAZES ME HOW GOD CAN GUIDE YOU TOWARD ONE PARTICULAR PASSAGE, AND EXTRACT FROM THAT PASSAGE A WEALTH OF WISDOM FOR THE WEEK.**

**WHEREAS SOME BOOKS BECOME OUTDATED AND HAVE NEED TO BE REPLACED, THE WORDS WHICH ARE FOUND IN SCRIPTURE, ARE JUST AS RELEVANT NOW AS THEY WERE WHEN GOD INSPIRED THEM...**

**WE UNDERSTAND WHAT PETER MEANT WHEN HE DECLARED THAT “THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FADES.” BECAUSE EVERYTHING THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER, IS BOUND TO PERISH AT SOME POINT OR ANOTHER.**

**BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THIS BOOK WE KNOW AS THE BIBLE, “HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY. BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER.”**

**YES, I MARVEL AT THE FACT THAT OUT OF 66 BOOKS, 1,189 CHAPTERS, 31,102 VERSES, AND 788,280 WORDS, IT AMAZES ME HOW GOD CAN ZOOM OUR SPIRITS IN ON 1 PASSAGE, AND GET US WHAT WE NEED TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE WEEK...**

**IT'S THE SAME BIBLE FROM WHICH YOUR MOMMA AND DADDY READ. BUT YET, IT HAS THE POWER TO SAVE YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.**

**AND EVEN THOUGH THE ENEMY HAS COME ALONG AND CHALLENGED ITS VALIDITY AND ITS MODERN DAY RELEVANCE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN WE FIND THAT THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS RIGHT...**

**SO FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE CALLED PREACHERS, THE ISSUE ON A SATURDAY NIGHT IS NOT FINDING SOMETHING TO PREACH, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT OUR JOB.**

**EVERYTHING I NEED TO PREACH IS BETWEEN GENESIS AND REVELATION.**

**I JUST NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TALK TO ME, AND HELP ME NARROW IT DOWN BEFORE SUNDAY MORNING...**

**SOMETIMES IT'S SOMETHING I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT BEFORE, OTHER TIMES IT MAY BE A REMIX OF SOMETHING I SAID IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE.**

**BUT THE INSTRUCTIONS I RECEIVED ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR SERMON, INSTEAD OF CLEARING OUT THE WOODS AND MAKING A NEW PATH, WE TRAVEL DOWN A ROAD THAT'S ALREADY BEEN PAVED...**

**I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES YOU READ THE SAME SCRIPTURE. YOU CAN NEVER PREACH A TEXT SO MUCH THAT THE PASSAGE WILL LOSE ITS POWER.**

**WHEN YOU KNOW THAT THE LORD IS YOUR SHEPHERD, THE 23RD PSALM WILL NEVER GET OLD TO YOU.**

**SO WHEN IT COMES TO THIS PASSAGE FROM ACTS CHAPTER 2, IT REMINDS US OF OUR PURPOSE AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST...**

**IN THIS CULTURE WHERE EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS CHANGING, IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL WE'LL ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE RULED BY THE FLAVOR OF THE DAY.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, INSTEAD OF US SPREADING THE SALT AND SHINING THE LIGHT LIKE JESUS TOLD US TO, WE ALLOW THE WAYS AND THE WILL OF A WICKED WORLD, TO COME IN HERE AND COMPROMISE GOD'S AGENDA...**

**THAT'S WHY NOW MORE THAN EVER, IF NOBODY ELSE OUT THERE HAS THERE BUSINESS IN ORDER, WE WHO ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, WE HAVE GOT TO REALIGN OURSELVES WITH WHAT THUS SAYETH THE LORD.**

**WHEN I SPEAK OF CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, I'M TALKING ABOUT A BODY THAT IS UNIFIED IN EVERY WAY.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S SOME THINGS THAT THE CHURCH WILL NEVER AGREE UPON. BUT THE ONE THING WE HAVE TO BE UNITED ABOUT IS THE TRUTH THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY...**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN'T AGREE ON WHICH SUNDAY TO HAVE COMMUNION.**

- **WHAT TIME TO HAVE COMMUNION**
- **WHETHER OR NOT TO WASH FEET**
- **SPEAKING IN TONGUES**
- **PROPHETS ARE DEAD OR NOT**
- **APOSTLES ARE STILL IN OPERATION**
- **WHICH DENOMINATION HAS THE FULL TRUTH**

**BUT THE THING WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE DIVIDED ON, IS THE TRUTH OF WHAT JESUS CALLED US TO DO!**

**[PSALM 133] SAYS BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY.**

**IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ALWAYS AGREE ON EVERYTHING. BUT THE THING WE'RE OFTEN GUILTY OF IN THE CHURCH IS THAT WE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME MAJORING IN MINORS...**

**CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH SPEAKING IN TONGUES.**

**EVEN IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL MAKE YOU SPEAK IN STRANGE LANGUAGES, THE IMPORTANCE OF CHAPTER 2 WAS THAT THEY ALL HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD THE WORD OF GOD...**

**VERSE 7 SAYS THAT THEY WERE ALL AMAZED AND MARVELLED, SAYING ONE TO ANOTHER, BEHOLD, ARE NOT ALL THESE WHICH SPEAK GALILAEANS? <sup>8</sup>AND HOW HEAR WE EVERY MAN IN OUR OWN TONGUE, WHEREIN WE WERE BORN?**

**IN OTHER WORDS, THEY NEVER LEARNED EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGE, AND WERE NOT EXPOSED TO EACH OTHER'S CULTURE. YET WHEN THE WORD WAS SPOKEN TO THEM BY A FOREIGNER, EVERYBODY HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE...**

**WHAT THAT SAYS TO ME FIRST AND FOREMOST, IS THAT THE WORD WILL UNITE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF YOUR RACE, OR YOUR COLLECTION OF LIFE EXPERIENCES.**

**WHEN THE HOLY GHOST IS ACTIVE IN DELIVERY, THE WORD HAS A WAY OF MEETING YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.**

**IF YOU'RE A BLACK SINNER, HE CAN REACH YOU...**

- WHITE SINNER
- HISPANIC
- ASIAN
- RICH SINNER
- BROKE SINNER
- YOUNG SINNER
- SEASONED SINNER
- DRUNK SINNER
- HIGH SINNER
- GAMBLING SINNER
- LYING SINNER – HE CAN REACH YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

**THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, ALL HAVE SINNED, AND WE ALL NEED A SAVIOR!**

**THAT'S WHY PETER PREACHED JESUS AFTER PENTECOST, BECAUSE JESUS WAS THE TIE THAT BOUND THEM ALL TOGETHER.**

**REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS PRESENT, AND REGARDLESS OF THEIR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AS LONG AS THE MESSAGE WAS CHRIST CENTERED, EVERYBODY IN THERE LEFT WITH WHAT THEY NEEDED.**

**YOU SEE, IF YOU PREACH CHRIST, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT PREACH ABOUT SIN.**

**AND REGARDLESS OF WHO YOU GOT SITTING IN THE PEW, SIN IS A SUBJECT THAT NOBODY CAN CLAIM AN EXEMPTION ON.**

**WHEN YOU PREACH ABOUT BEING BROKE, SOME OF YOU CAN DODGE THAT SERMON AND SAY, HE AINT TALKING TO ME.**

**WHEN I PREACH ABOUT DRINKING AND GAMBLING, AND LUST AND FORNICATION, SOME OF YOU GET HIGH AND MIGHTY BECAUSE THOSE AREN'T YOUR VICES, AND YOU'LL SAY, HE SURE DID TELL THEM...**

**BUT WHEN THE GOSPEL GOES FORTH AND YOU REMEMBER WHAT CHRIST DID ON YOUR BEHALF, MY SIN MAY NOT BE YOUR SIN, AND YOUR SIN MAY NOT BE MINE. BUT WE ALL HAVE TO APPRECIATE JESUS, BECAUSE JESUS PAID IT ALL!**

**THAT'S WHAT THE TABLE IS ALL ABOUT. IT'S ABOUT REMEMBERING WHO IT WAS THAT GOT US HERE.**

- 1. BECAUSE IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR JESUS,**
- 2. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE BLOOD,**
- 3. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE SACRIFICE THAT WAS MADE, WE WOULD HAVE NO HOPE,**
- 4. NO JOY,**
- 5. NO PEACE,**
- 6. NO LOVE,**

7. NO SALVATION,
8. NO REDEMPTION,
9. NO RESTORATION,
10. AND NO PROPITIATION.

**IF WE CAN'T AGREE ON ANYTHING ELSE TONIGHT, WE ALL OUGHTA THANK GOD FOR SENDING JESUS!...**

**WHAT YOU SEE AT THE END OF THIS CHAPTER, IS HOW THE PROPITIATION OF THE SAVIOR, TRANSLATES INTO PARTICIPATION FROM THE SAINTS.**

**VERSE 41 SAYS, "THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED."**

**THAT'S A SIGN OF THEIR SALVATION. AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT 3 THOUSAND SOULS.**

**BUT THE VERSES THAT COME DIRECTLY AFTER THE ADDITION OF NEW SOULS TO THE CHURCH, ONCE THEY RECEIVED SALVATION, THE DIRECT RESULT WAS PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION...**

**SEE, I KNOW SOME FOLKS AREN'T GOING TO LIKE ME FOR SAYING THIS. BUT THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF US WHO CLAIM SALVATION, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE CHURCH, WE AINT GOT NO PARTICIPATION TO SPEAK OF.**

**WE GOT EVERY EXCUSE IN THE WORLD AS TO WHY WE CAN'T OR WON'T DO NOTHING.**

**AND HEAVEN FORBID IF ANYBODY SUGGEST THAT WE MAY NEED TO JOIN SOME KIND OF MINISTRY...**

**OKAY, YOU LOVE THE CHURCH. BUT WHAT DO YOU DO HERE?**

**YOU LOVE THE LORD AND THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW. BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR HIM LATELY?**

**ASIDE FROM SITTING ON THE PEW AND OBSERVING WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE DOES, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SUNDAY AND SUNDAY, WHEN HAVE YOU JUMPED UP TO SERVE AT THE JUMP-OFF?...**

**ALL I'M TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE, IS THAT YOUR SALVATION, SHOULD TRANSLATE INTO PARTICIPATION.**

**AND EVEN WHEN YOU DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED, YOU AINT OPERATING BY YOURSELF. WE NEED TO HAVE SOME COOPERATION... WE NEED COMMUNITY.**

**OF ALL THE PRAYERS THAT JESUS PRAYED IN THE BIBLE, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PRAYERS OF ALL WAS RIGHT BEFORE HE LEFT HERE.**

**IN JOHN 17:17, JESUS IS PRAYING FOR HIS DISCIPLES. AND I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THEM.**

**HE SAYS SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH. <sup>18</sup>AS THOU HAST SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, EVEN SO HAVE I ALSO SENT THEM (DISCIPLES) INTO THE WORLD. <sup>19</sup>AND FOR THEIR SAKES I SANCTIFY MYSELF, THAT THEY ALSO MIGHT BE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE TRUTH.**

**<sup>20</sup>NEITHER PRAY I FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD; (THAT'S US) <sup>21</sup>THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, *ART* IN ME, AND I IN THEE, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME. <sup>22</sup>AND THE GLORY WHICH THOU GAVEST ME I HAVE GIVEN THEM; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE:**

**IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS WAS PRAYING FOR BELIEVERS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, ASKING THE FATHER TO UNITE US IN CHRIST.**

THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE IT GRIEVES THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN HE SEES HOW WE ACT SOMETIMES, BECAUSE MOST OF THE FIGHTING IS NOT BETWEEN US AND THE WORLD. WE GOT SISTERS AND BROTHERS FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

PAUL SAYS IN EPHESIANS 4:3, WE GOT TO ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT, IN THE BOND OF PEACE. <sup>4</sup>THERE IS ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS YE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING; <sup>5</sup>ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, <sup>6</sup>ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL, AND THROUGH ALL, AND IN YOU ALL.

SO IF WE RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND HOW SALVATION CAME ABOUT, THEN THESE NEXT FEW VERSES ABOUT COMMUNITY AND COOPERATION, OUGHTA BE EASY TO UNDERSTAND, ESPECIALLY WITH THE TABLE SITTING IN FRONT OF US ON FIRST SUNDAY.

IF JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US TO BE UNITED, REGARDLESS OF WHAT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE, WE OUGHTA BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER.

LET'S LOOK AT THIS POST-PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCE, AND LET US SEE HOW THE FIRST CHURCH GAVE US A MODEL FOR COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY.

WE GOT DOCTRINE IN [VERSE 37-41], WHICH IS PETER PREACHING AND BAPTIZING NEW SOULS.

WE GOT EVANGELISM GOING ON IN [VERSE 42], WITH THEM CONTINUING IN WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT.

THEN THE LAST 2 ITEMS THAT MAKE UP GOD'S PROGRAM, ARE FELLOWSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP, WHICH SPEAK DIRECTLY TO CHRISTIAN COOPERATION.

RIGHT ABOUT HERE THE AMENS START TO DIE DOWN A LITTLE, BECAUSE MOST OF US KNOW THAT STEWARDSHIP USUALLY MEANS MONEY.

**SO TO KEEP YOU FROM DECIDING THAT YOU ARE NOT COMING BACK FOR THE REST OF THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, LET ME EASE YOUR MIND BY LETTING YOU KNOW THAT THIS SERMON IS NOT ABOUT YOUR MONEY...**

**TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR," HE'S NOT PREACHING ABOUT YOUR MONE BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE NO MONEY. SO INSTEAD OF PREACHING ABOUT YOUR STUFF, HE'S GONE PREACH ABOUT GOD'S STUFF..."**

**THERE ARE TWO POINTS I WANT TO MAKE ABOUT CHRISTIAN COOPERATION.:**

**THE FIRST ONE IS, THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO THE LORD.**

**I KNOW WE'D LIKE TO THINK THAT WE WORKED HARD AND THAT'S HOW WE PROSPER.**

**BUT EVEN WHEN YOU REFLECT ON YOUR HARD LABOR TOMORROW MORNING, YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT IT WAS THE LORD WHO MADE YOUR LABOR POSSIBLE...**

**[DEUTERONOMY 8:18] SAYS, “ *BUT THOU SHALT REMEMBER THE LORD THY GOD: FOR IT IS HE THAT GIVETH THEE POWER TO GET WEALTH.*”**

**IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DIDN'T GET THAT JOB BECAUSE YOU WERE SMART. BECAUSE IF THE TRUTH BE TOLD, THERE WERE SMARTER PEOPLE THAN YOU WHO APPLIED FOR THAT POSITION.**

**AND IN SOME CASES, THERE WERE DUMBER PEOPLE WHO ENDED UP BEING YOUR SUPERVISOR. SO SMARTS DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.**

**THE BIBLE SAYS THAT IT WAS GOD WHO GAVE US THE POWER TO GET WEALTH, THE SMARTS TO GO TO SCHOOL, THE SKILLS TO GET A JOB, THE DEGREE TO GET US IN THE DOOR, AND THE GRACE TO KEEP US IN THERE.**

**SO REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU POSSESS AS A RESULT OF YOUR HARD WORK, IT WAS THE LORD WHO WAS WORKING OVERTIME, TO HOLD YOUR LITTLE STUFF TOGETHER!**

**[JAMES 1:17] SAYS THAT, “*EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT COMES FROM ABOVE.*”**

**SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIST GOD AS MY SOLE PROVIDER. AND BECAUSE THE LORD HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME, AND OPENED SO MANY DOORS FOR ME, AND MADE SO MANY WAYS FOR ME, AND MOVED SO MANY MOUNTAINS FOR ME, AND FOUGHT SO MANY BATTLES FOR ME, THE QUESTION OF THE MORNING IS, WHO IS THE BENEFICIARY OF ALL OF THESE BLESSINGS YOU GOT?**

**IN OTHER WORDS, WHO OTHER THAN YOU IS BLESSED BY YOUR PROSPERITY?**

**WHO OTHER THAN YOU SEES THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE?**

**YOUR CHILDREN? OKAY THAT'S GOOD.**

**YOUR COUSINS WHO BORROW MONEY FROM YOU ALL TIME. I GUESS THAT'S ALRIGHT.**

**BUT SPEAKING MORE ON A CORPORATE LEVEL, THE BLESSINGS OF THE BELIEVER SHOULD BENEFIT THE BODY OR THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS.**

**LOOK AT [VERSE 45]. IT SAYS, “AND THEY SOLD THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GOODS, AND PARTED THEM TO ALL MEN, AS EVERY MAN HAD NEED...”**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? IT MEANS THAT THEY LITERALLY GAVE OF THEIR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, IN ORDER FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY TO BE MET...**

**IT DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM GOING TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

**IT DIDN'T SAY THEY PETITIONED THE PRESIDENT FOR SOME BAILOUT MONEY.**

**WHEN IT CAME TO HOW THE BODY OF CHRIST DID BUSINESS, THEY POOLED TOGETHER THEIR OWN RESOURCES, IN ORDER TO MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE...**

**AGAIN IT SAYS, AS EVERY MAN HAD NEED. NOT AS EVERY MAN HAD WANT.**

**WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT THOSE OF YOU ON THE RECEIVING END, DON'T GET GOD'S RESOURCES BASED ON IRRESPONSIBILITY.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, THE CHURCH DON'T PAY PHONE BILLS. CAUSE THAT AINT ESSENTIAL TO YOUR STAYING ALIVE.**

- **YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT A PHONE.**
- **YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT CABLE AND INTERNET.**
- **IT MAY BE INCONVENIENT. BUT WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF MEETING NEED AND NOT THE GREED...**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE, I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT RECEIVERS, I WANNA TALK TO GIVERS.**

**BECAUSE IF WE EVER GET TO THE POINT WHERE WE UNDERSTAND COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS, WE MIGHT JUST MESS AROUND AND CHANGE THE WHOLE COMPLEXION OF THIS COMMUNITY...**

**WATCH THIS:**

1. **HOW MANY OF YOU ARE MILLIONAIRES IN HERE. RAISE YOUR HAND...**
2. **OKAY, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE TITHERS IN HERE, RAISE YOUR HAND.**
3. **OKAY, HOW MANY MILLIONAIRES AGAIN. HOW MANY TITHERS AGAIN.**
4. **SEE, IF YOU UNDERSTOOD CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, EVERYBODY IN HERE WOULD'VE RAISED YOUR HAND BOTH TIMES.**

**WHEN YOU THINK OF BEING A MILLIONAIRE, MOST TIMES YOU THINK OF HAVING A MILLION DOLLARS SOMEWHERE IN YOUR OWN BANK ACCOUNT, RIGHT?**

**WELL, IF MY JEWISH BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE TO COME IN HERE AND TEACH BIBLE STUDY, WHAT THEY WOULD TELL YOU IS THAT IN THEIR COMMUNITY, EVERYBODY'S A MILLIONAIRE BECAUSE THEY ALL SAVE, INVEST, BUILD, AND BUY TOGETHER!**

**WHAT SOME CULTURES HAVE FIGURED OUT AND WHAT BLACK FOLKS STILL STRUGGLE WITH, IS THE FACT THAT COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS IS NOT ABOUT ME, IT'S ABOUT WE...**

**AND, IF WE CAN EVER GET TO A POINT WHERE YOU CAN GET FOCUSED ON THE UNIT,**

**IF WE COMMIT TO CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, WE CAN USE GOD'S MONEY TO SET SOMEBODY FREE!**

**WHEN I SAY YOU ARE A MILLIONAIRE, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU GOT A MILLION DOLLARS AT WACHOVIA SOMEWHERE.**

**WHEN I TALK ABOUT CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, I'M TALKING TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CONNECTED TO A MILLION DOLLAR ORGANISM!...**

- 1. ALL THESE CARS IN THE PARKING LOT.**
- 2. ALL THESE SUITS AND DRESSES AND HATS WE GOT GOING ON.**
- 3. ALL THESE CELL PHONES AND IPODS AND GADGETS WE BUY EVERY 6 MONTHS IN OUR COMMUNITY,**
- 4. YOU TAKING ALL THAT MONEY, AND SPENDING IT ON FOLKS WHO DON'T EVEN LIKE YOU...**

**AS A TITHER AT YOUR CHURCH, YOU ARE CONNECTED TO A MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATION. AND THE PURPOSE FOR US HAVING "ALL THIS MONEY", IS FOR US TO BUILD UP A COMMUNITY THAT WILL SAVE LOST SOULS FOR THE KINGDOM.**

**IF THE COMMUNITY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH GOING ON FOR KIDS, THEN THE CHURCH NEEDS TO CREATE SOMETHING:**

- OLD FOLKS**
- EDUCATION**
- OUTREACH**
- HOMELESSNESS**
- POVERTY**

**BUT THE PROBLEM WE HAVE IS, AS SOON AS WE GET A LITTLE SOMETHING, WE START ACTING LIKE IT'S OURS AND WE DON'T OWE NOBODY NOTHING.**

**BUT IF GOD WAS THE ONE WHO BLESSED YOU WITH PROSPERITY, THEN HE WILL ALSO TAKE IT AWAY IF YOU DON'T SHOW SOME APPRECIATION.**

**AGAIN I SAY, THE BLESSINGS OF THE BELIEVER, SHOULD WORK TO BENEFIT THE BODY.**

**I'M NOT SAYING YOU NEED TO SELL YOUR HOUSE SO WE CAN BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER. I'M SAYING WE NEED TO LOOK AT OURSELVES AS A MILLION DOLLAR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP!**

**I DON'T NEED TO GO TO NO TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS WHY THE PRESIDENT AINT DOING ENOUGH FOR HEALTHCARE.**

**WE OUGHTA BE SO ORGANIZED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, IF ONE OF US GETS SICK, WE SHOULD HAVE OUR OWN CLINIC TO HEAL FOLK INSTEAD OF PATCHING THEM UP...**

**YES, I'M NOT TRIPPING ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA GOING TO TALK TO SOME KIDS IN SCHOOLS. SHUCKS, YOU LET BUSH GO IN THERE AND HALF WAY READ A BOOK ON 9/11.**

**SO IF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS GET TO A POINT WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING AND CAN'T GET THE TRUTH, YOUR CHURCH OUGHTA HAVE HER OWN SCHOOL, AND WE CAN TEACH THEM JESUS AND GEOMETRY...**

**YES, THEY CAN GET HISTORY, AND THE HOLY GHOST.**

**BUT UNTIL WE PUT OUR RESOURCES TOGETHER, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF ALL THEY GET IS THE F-CAT.**

**NOW, DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M A PRODUCT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND I BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STILL WORK. BUT THE MORE THEY BECOME MORE DATA DRIVEN AND STATISTICS ORIENTED, CERTAIN SCHOOLS AINT GONE GET NO MONEY IF THEY DON'T MEASURE UP TO THE STANDARDS.**

**THAT'S WHY WE GOT TO ADOPT QUITMAN STREET SCHOOL AS OUR OWN.**

**THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA STAY IN SHABAZZ AND CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOLS, BECAUSE IF CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE THEIR WAY AROUND HERE, YOUR KIDS GONE BE TAKING ADVANCED WOODSHOP, AND THEY ARE NOT GOING TO QUALIFY TO GO TO NOBODY'S COLLEGE!**

**I'M TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIAN COOPERATION.**

**THERE'S NO WAY THESE BANKS WOULD BE TURNING US DOWN FOR LOANS, IF EVERYBODY IN HERE WOULD COMMIT TO DOING BUSINESS AT THE SAME BANK.**

**BETTER YET, WHAT'S STOPPING US FROM OPENING OUR OWN BANK?**

**WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FOLKS IN HERE WITH FINANCE DEGREES. IF WE COULD GET MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF OUR MEMBERS TO TITHE EVERY MONTH, WE WOULDN'T HAVE NO NEED TO BE BEGGING THESE BANKS FOR MONEY...**

**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH US HELPING THESE YOUNG PEOPLE OUT WITH STUDENT LOANS, AND FIRST-TIME HOME LOANS AT A GOOD INTEREST RATE?**

**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH US HELPING PEOPLE OUT WITH AUTO LOANS, AND LOW INTEREST LINES OF CREDIT.**

**THE REASON WE WON'T EVER SEE THAT KIND OF COOPERATION IN THE CHURCH, IS BECAUSE SOME BLACK FOLKS FORGET HOW TO ANSWER THE PHONE...**

**IF YOU ALL STILL LYING TO GOD EVERY SUNDAY ON YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE, I KNOW YOU GONE LIE TO ME WHEN IT'S TIME TO PAY ON YOUR LOAN.**

**BUT WHAT THE CHURCH FIGURED OUT IN [ACTS CHAPTER 2], IS HOW SAVED PEOPLE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER, AND COOPERATE IN THEIR COMMUNITY...**

***“AND THEY, CONTINUING DAILY WITH ONE ACCORD IN THE TEMPLE, AND BREAKING BREAD FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, DID EAT THEIR MEAT WITH GLADNESS AND SINGLENESS OF HEART, <sup>47</sup>PRAISING GOD, AND HAVING FAVOUR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED.”***

**NOT ONLY WILL HE ADD MORE SOULS TO THE MEMBERSHIP. I BELIEVE HE'LL ALSO ADD MORE RESOURCES TO YOUR PORTFOLIO, WHEN YOU MANAGE THE WEALTH THAT HE ALREADY GAVE YOU.**

**BECAUSE IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT WHAT GOD CAN DO FOR ME. SOMETIMES I NEED TO ASK MYSELF AM I DOING ENOUGH FOR HIM...**

**THE SONGWRITER SAID JESUS, PAID IT ALL IT ALL. BUT THE PART WE DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT, IS THE ALL TO HIM I OWE. SIN, HAD LEFT A CRIMSON STAIN. BUT HE WASHED THEM, WHITER THAN SNOW. YES HE DID.**

**I HEARD DAVID SAY, “WHAT SHALL I RENDER, UNTO THE LORD, *FOR* ALL, HIS BENEFITS TOWARD ME? I'LL TAKE THE CUP, OF MY SALVATION, AND CALL UPON, THE NAME OF THE LORD. YES I WILL. I'LL PAY MY VOWS, UNTO THE LORD, NOW, IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL HIS PEOPLE.**

**IF JESUS, PAID THE PRICE, THEN WHAT SHALL I DO, TO SHOW HIM THAT I'M GRATEFUL?...”**

**IF THE LORD, BEEN GOOD TO YOU...THE BEST WAY, TO SHOW YOU'RE GRATEFUL, IS TO BE A BLESSING, TO**

**SOMEBODY ELSE. FOR GOD, SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.”**

**I HEARD JESUS SAY, “GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND.”**

**BECAUSE HE LOVED US, HE DIED ONE FRIDAY ON A HILL CALLED CALVARY.**

**THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB..**

**BUT EARLY, SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**

**I HEARD JESUS SAY, “GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU; GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, AND SHAKEN TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER, SHALL MEN GIVE, INTO YOUR BOSOM.**

**IS THERE ANYBODY HERE, WHO KNOWS THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU?**

**HE'S ABLE, TO SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEED.**

**HE MAY NOT COME, RIGHT WHEN YOU WANT HIM. BUT HE'S ALWAYS, RIGHT ON TIME.**

**I HEARD SOMEBODY SAY, I'M ALWAYS GIVING, BUT I JUST DON'T SEE THE BENEFITS.**

**I'M TITHING, BUT I'M STILL STRUGGLING.**

**I'M SERVING, BUT I'M STILL GOING THROUGH. YES I AM.**

**I STOPPED BY HERE ON MY WAY TO HEAVEN, TO ENCOURAGE SOMEBODY, WHO FEELS LIKE GIVING UP.**

**SHAKE YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HAND, AND TELL THEM:  
“BE NOT WEARY, IN WELL DOING. FOR IN DUE SEASON,  
YOU SHALL REAP, IF YOU FAINT NOT.”**

**HOLD ON, DON'T GIVE UP.**

**HOLD ON, STAND ON THE WORD.**

**IF YOU TRUST HIM, AND BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID, GOD  
WILL, GOD WILL, ..OH GOD WILL MAKE A WAY FOR YOU.**