THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

ACTS OF SERVICE	RESULTS	CHARACTERISTIC OF SPIRIT-LED SERVICE
Believers held everything in common and sold property to give to those in need (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35).	Every day the Lord added more believers to their numbers (Acts 2:47); the apostles preached with power and the church experienced grace (4:33).	In love, Jesus laid down His life for us, so we should lay down our lives for one another in Christ (1 John 3:16-18).
The believers performed many miracles, including healing the sick and driving out demons (Acts 3:1-8; 5:12-16; 6:8; 8:6-7; 9:17,33-34).	The believers faced persecution and arrest (Acts 4:1-3), but thousands were coming to the faith (4:4; 8:12-13; 9:35), and there was great joy (8:8).	Spirit-led believers pray for those who are sick or hurting (James 5:13-16), and when healing comes, we give God the glory (Acts 3:12-16).
The believers provided for widows within the church, appointing Spirit-filled servants for this task (Acts 6:1-3; cf. 9:39).	The apostles could focus on prayer and preaching the Word (Acts 6:2,4), and the church's numbers increased, including a large group of priests (v. 7).	Jesus said that whatever we do for the "least" among the church, we do for Him (Matthew 25:35-40).
The church prayed for one another, for those persecuted in prison and for those appointed to leadership or missionary work (Acts 4:23-31; 12:5,12; 13:3; 14:23).	Through prayer, the Holy Spirit worked mightily in the early church for boldness, freedom, leadership, and encouragement (Acts 4:31; 12:11-17; 14:21-23).	Jesus prayed for the disciples and future believers to be united (John 17:20-26); God hears us when we pray for one another, and He gives us what we agree upon (Matthew 18:19-20).
The church in Antioch collected an offering to give relief to the believers in Judea due to a famine (Acts 11:27-29).	Barnabas and Saul (Paul) were sent from Antioch with the gift, strengthening the unity of the churches between Jews and Gentiles (Acts 11:30).	Just as we have freely received from Christ, we freely give (Matthew 10:8) out of joy (2 Corinthians 9:7) for the glory of God and the good of the church (vv. 12-15).
The church showed hospitality by opening their homes to one another (Acts 9:43; 16:13-15,25-34; 18:1-3; 21:3-8).	Lydia's house became a meeting place for the church (Acts 16:40), and the gospel message could spread as the believers were welcomed in various cities.	Jesus instructed His disciples to rely on hospitality while they shared the gospel (Matthew 10:11-15); we should pursue hospitality for the sake of the gospel (Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2).

NOTE: Permission is granted by the copyright holder to photocopy this item for its intended use only.