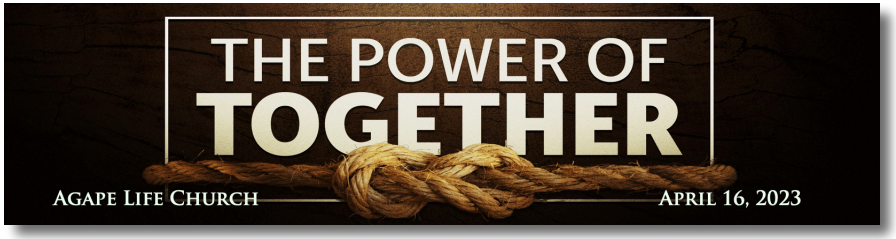

*The community continually committed themselves to learning what the apostles taught them, **gathering for fellowship**, breaking bread, and praying. Everyone felt a sense of awe because the apostles were doing many signs and wonders among them. **There was an intense sense of togetherness among all who believed;** they shared all their material possessions in trust.* Acts 2:42-44 Voice

We Are Better Together

The New Testament Christians were compelled by God's love and desire to be with each other in the presence of the Lord. **They understood that they were better together** – deeply connected through shared **conviction**, passion for God's **purpose**, and a **deep love** for each other that changed lives and the world around them.

Togetherness is essential for our faith to grow and relationships to thrive. We can still deepen our relationships and have the spiritual impact today that the first century Christians had on the world, by rethinking and rediscovering **the power togetherness** truly gives.

It is easy in a world filled with distractions and difficulties to lose sight of the value of the Christian _____. **To devalue what God has given us in relationships is to lose sight of one of the most fundamental principles of our purpose as believers together: to find spiritual partners to find strength and purpose together.**

The enemy will attempt to sabotage our Christian relationships, because he knows the strength and results of Christian unity.

I will build my Church. And the councils of the unseen world shall not overpower it. I shall give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 16:18 Weymouth

Togetherness is about Conviction, Not Convenience

***This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together,** as some have formed the habit of doing **because we need each other!** In fact, **we should come together even more frequently,** eager to encourage and **urge each other onward** as we anticipate that day dawning.* Heb.10:24-25 TPT

Core Point: There is a strength to being part of the Christian community. There is a deeper fellowship to be realized that many Christians are not seeking or finding. We find in scripture the examples of early believers we should follow, for meaningful and powerful Christian fellowship.

We see the deeper levels of fellowship in the life of the early church **as an example to us today** in what we should _____ to as we are now living in the latter days of the church.

The Church Is God's Family 1 Timothy 3:14-15

*What we saw and heard we pass on to you so that you, too, will be **connected with us intimately and become family.** Our family is united by our connection with the Father and His Son Jesus, the Anointed One; and we write all this because retelling this story fulfills our joy.* 1 John 1:3-4 Voice

The great benefits of the church are realized as we become Christ-like in our behavior **because we choose to be faithfully committed to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.**

*You are **the body** of the Anointed, the Liberating King; each and **every one of you is a vital member**.* 1 Cor. 12:27 Voice

_____ you can't do it alone.

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

*Brothers, although we have been separated from you for a little while - in person but not in heart - we eagerly desire to see you again **face to face.*** 1 Thessalonians 2:17 ISV

What happens when we come together? God moves in and through our lives to change us and the world around us in powerful key ways.

1. **Our prayers become more empowered.** Matthew 18:19
2. **Our resilience grows stronger.** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

   The power of two or more working together can overcome far more than just us alone.
3. **We grow in our love for God and in our love for one another.**

   *If you find any comfort from being in the Anointed, **if His love brings you some encouragement**, if you experience **true companionship** with the Spirit, if His tenderness and mercy fill your heart; then, brothers and sisters, here is one thing that would complete my joy—**come together as one in mind and spirit and purpose, sharing in the same love.*** Philippians 2:1-2 Voice
4. **We are refreshed in the Lord.**

   ***For they refreshed my spirit and yours also**. Such men deserve recognition.* 1 Cor. 16:18

The essence of the Christian life, is deep fellowship with God and with His people! This is how God made it to work!

Core Statement: I believe in the power of togetherness! I will pursue the value found in the fellowship of the spiritual family God has made for me. I know I can't do it alone. God wants to use me to be a blessing to His church and His higher purposes for my life!