



# SPIRITUAL FAMILY

## MATTHEW 12:46-50

### PART 3 - COMMON PROPERTY

The word “family” is a word that is frequently used by God’s people to describe a group of people who hang out on a fairly regular basis and tend to gather around a purpose or a cause in a building or homes. It’s a word that gets bandied around very casually through conversations and yet there seems to be a reality that is missing, when it comes to the church living as spiritual family.

Let’s take a look at the demonstration of God’s people living as a family and see what we can learn from this about ourselves.

***Acts 4:32-37 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.***

The first observation is;

1. These followers all believed in Jesus Christ ***“And the congregation of those who believed”***.

A true belief in Jesus Christ at the core root of who we are, will empower us to demonstrate a kind of life, to which the Scriptures testify. What we read about in these verses in relation to the incredible outpouring of love and generosity, is all attributed ultimately to a true belief in Jesus Christ at the core of who we are.

This is not a mental agreement or based on an intellectual understanding of Jesus, but a true belief that is birthed in the depths of the inner most being place of who we are. This is a belief birthed through the power of revelation and revelation alone. This is the first part, which in essence is the most essential part in becoming a spiritual family member of God’s family.

This is why Jesus said the first work was to believe. Believe in who He is, His design, who we are in Him and everything He says.

The second observation is;

2. These followers were of one heart and soul ***“were of one heart and soul”***.



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Due to these follower's belief in Jesus and every one of them being baptised in the Holy Spirit and the power of the Spirit, they were of ONE heart and soul (mind, will, emotions), and their actions are a reflection on this reality. The outcomes which we can see being lived out are not happening on the basis of trying to make these things happen, but through the basis of believing and being empowered by Him. This is how a spiritual family is to be.

These followers were all surrendered, devoted and compelled to living out a selfless life.

***“and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them”.***

Once again to the one who hasn't come into a belief of the heart, through being born again of the spirit and being baptised in the Holy Spirit, as these followers were, this reality of not claiming anything belonging to one's self and considering all things to be common property, is a hurdle too high to jump. We are inherently selfish and self centred and the thought of sharing what we have worked hard for, especially with those we may not even know, is foolishness, in fact ridiculous and beyond us.

This is where we get to see whether we can be and live as the family of God, or whether we choose self and protect self. Self doesn't mind giving a little to contribute but it can not contribute like the spirit can, and only those who are surrendered, empowered, devoted and compelled to accomplish the Father's will, can live this way, and choose to live this way.

### QUESTIONS

1. Why would someone who only has a mental agreement of Jesus Christ struggle profusely to live like this?
2. What role does being born and baptised in the Spirit play in being able to live this way?
3. Where does being of one heart and soul come from, through us trying to make this happen through a functioning task or from being in fellowship with Jesus Christ? Why is this the case?
4. If this way of living was required of you today how do you think you would do and why?
5. How incredible would it be to experience this kind of family, where each person plays an active part in living this way? Describe what it would be like.