



# Progress Despite Pressures

**“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32).**

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**“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33).**

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet” (Acts 4:32-37).

A songwriter captured it well when he penned:

“So I thank God for the mountains  
And I thank him for the valleys  
And I thank him for the storms he brought me through  
For if I'd never had a problem  
I'd never know that God could solve them  
I'd never know what faith in his word could do”

The opposition that arose after the miracle paved the way for more miracles, unprecedented power and blessings on the Church. Note these key developments:

- 1) Unity among the believers “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (vs 32)
- 2) Practical love and sharing “neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (vs 32).
- 3) Divine empowerment for evangelism “And with great power gave the apostles witness of

the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (vs 33)

- 4) Endowment with great grace “and great grace was upon them all” (vs 33)
- 5) Meeting needs of members “Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” (vs24-35)
- 6) Sacrificial and exemplary giving “And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet” (vs 36-37).

It is worth noting that Satan raised the opposition to stop the church, but God frustrated Satan's plans and turn it into an avenue for blessing the church, empowering them for greater service, bestowing upon them great grace and providing for the needs of all.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:25).

God uses adversity to advance His purposes. As He multiplied the Israelites when they were oppressed, He can cause you to triumph in every adversity and make tremendous progress in spite of chaos and pressures. We must therefore make up our minds to focus our faith on God and press through every difficult, unpleasant and harsh situations expecting divine intervention at any moment.