



# More Than Sentiments

**"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people..." (Acts 5:12).**

Bulletin VCAT15

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"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. [English Standard Version => None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem] 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (Acts 5:12-16).

The events in Acts 3-5 which started with what could be considered as a simple act of going to pray in the temple at the time of prayers had snowballed into a marvellous manifestation of the power of God, which in turn also brought to light key building blocks / pillars to Spiritual Power in the church, namely:

- 1) Steadfastness of the believers
- 2) Practical Love among believers (manifested in sharing, unity and fellowship)
- 3) Purity (as exemplified purging of the church through divine judgement on Ananias and Saphira)

The inevitable results of these was the unprecedented manifestation of God's power on the church as evident in the following:

- 1) "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people" (vs 12). They experienced first hand the fulfilment of Jesus' promise - "... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:20).
- 2) Further unity that galvanised the believers "and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch" (vs 12). The initial unity that started in Acts 2, has not waned away, but rather consolidated and extended to embrace newer arrivals.
- 3) Fond admiration, respect and high esteem of the Christians by non members "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the

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people magnified them". [English Standard Version translates this verse as '**None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem**'] (vs 13)

- 4) God's blessings in terms of balanced and all-round church growth "And believers were the more added to the Lord, **multitudes** both of men and women.)" (vs 14). Things that could constitute barriers in other circumstances (e.g. gender, etc.) simply melted away by the power and love of God who created us all.
- 5) Healing and miracles through the shadow of the apostles "Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them" (vs 15).
- 6) Word of mouth publicity by beneficiaries attracted more people who also participated in the miracles "There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (vs 16).

It is sometimes said that if you want to have what the apostles had, you must do what the apostles did. Their experience of Church growth was beyond a matter of sentimental emotions but the result of their commitment to the course of Christ, steadfastness in faith and service, practical love and unity as well as purity of life. These gave birth to the explosion of powerful miracles in unusual ways and salvation of souls.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. As He worked with these early believers, He is eager to work with us as well in contemporary times, if we are willing to pay the price.