

“Together-Together Doing God’s Work”

Acts 9:20-30

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Introduction: Last Sunday morning, Dottie shared from her heart about our 32 years here. In her remarks, she mentioned that one of the things she liked about our church is that it is “together-together.” We read about that in Acts 2:1.

- “With one accord”
- “In one place”

Before ascending back to heaven, Jesus told the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem and to wait for the Promise of the Father (Acts 1:4).

- Jesus ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:9-11).
- The disciples returned to the Upper Room (Acts 1:12-13).
- And waited 10 days after the ascension.
- The key: they were “together-together.”
- They were together physically in the Upper Room.
- They were also together spiritually doing what Jesus had told them to do.

Illustration: You can be together in a room or house and still not be “together-together.” This is true in marriage. A husband and wife can live together in their home, yet not be “together-together.”

Illustration: Another example of this is in Congress. They are in the same room, but they are not together-together on anything!

Being “together-together” does not mean that we have to agree on everything, but it does mean that we have to be “together-together” on the main things (Jesus is God; the blood atonement; Jesus is the only way to heaven, etc.)

T.S. The story in Acts 9:20-30 is an example of believers being “together-together” doing God’s work.

Text: Acts 9:20-30

- In Acts 9:1-22, we read about Saul’s Damascus Road experience.

- In Acts 9:23 we read the phrase “Now after many days were past.” This refers to the three years in Arabia where God prepared Paul for his ministry. We read about this in Galatians 1:11-19.
- Acts 9:20-30

In Acts 9:25, we see a good snapshot of being “together-together” doing God’s work.

1. Some do God’s work inconspicuously.

- The people holding the ropes are unnamed.
- We know nothing about them.
- The Bible “spotlights” its Abrahams, David’s, Elijah’s, Peter’s, etc. But behind the scenes there are those not in the spotlight—low profile, unnamed people.

Illustration: A Biblical example would be Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. Had Andrew not brought his brother Peter to Jesus (John 1:40-42), Peter would never have preached his sermon at Pentecost.

Illustration: In our church, there are many behind the scenes people doing their part God’s work (ministers and members).

2. Some do God’s work optimistically.

- The unnamed people holding the ropes knew who was in the basket, but they did not know what Paul would one day accomplish in God’s work.
- Their optimism about God’s work was their motivation.

Application: We never know how God will use the kingdom work we do.

3. Some do God’s work persistently.

- Those who held the ropes for Paul did so until the basket reached the ground.
- They stayed with it to the end.

Illustration: There are those who remain faithful in God’s work, but there are so many who start and fizzle out.

Illustration: Jesus said, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Application: This should be the heart and desire of every Christian.

Conclusion: Every Christian can do something for God. Some can get in the basket. Others can hold the ropes.