

## UNLEASHED!

### DAY 8— Love Our Family of Faith as Jesus Does

Acts 2:41-47

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#### *Time Alone with God*

#### Prayer

#### Explore the Word

Read Acts 2:41. How would this huge addition to the early church have challenged the love of the early believers?

Insights from Ellen White:

When the grace of Christ is expressed in the words and works of the believers, light will shine forth to those who are in darkness; for while the lips are speaking to the praise of God, the hand will be stretched out in beneficence for the help of the perishing. We read that on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, no man said that aught that he possessed was his own. All they owned was held for the advance of the wonderful reformation. And thousands were converted in a day. When the same spirit actuates believers today, and they give back to God of His own with the same liberality, a wide and far-reaching work will be accomplished. (Manuscript 95, 1907, par. 17)

The first angel's message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God's judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding. In this message, God has sent to the church a warning, which, had it been accepted, would have corrected the evils that were shutting them away from Him. Had they received the message from heaven, humbling their hearts before the Lord and seeking in sincerity a preparation to stand in His presence, the Spirit and power of God would have been manifested among them. The church would again have reached that blessed state of unity, faith, and love which existed in apostolic days, when the believers "were of one heart and of one soul," and "spoke the word of God with boldness," when "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 4:32, 31; 2:47 (*The Great Controversy*, p. 379)

#### Prayer Focus

Ask God to fill your heart with the love you need to care for people He is calling into this last-day prophetic movement.

## *Family/Friend Circle*

### **Connect Activity**

Take turns thinking of one thing that someone in your family/friend circle has done that showed you in a practical way how much you are loved. Act it out and see if your family/friends can guess what it is.

### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

### **Explore the Word**

Read Acts 2:42–44. How did the Holy Spirit transform the way the early church loved one another?

### Insights from Ellen White:

The believers were ever to cherish the love that filled the hearts of the apostles after the descent of the Holy Spirit. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment: “As I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34. So closely were they to be united to Christ that they would be enabled to fulfill His requirements. The power of a Saviour who could justify them by His righteousness was to be magnified. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 241)

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help each person in your family/friendship circle to love each other in word and in deed.