

Living THIS II
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Acts 2,4,8
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Community and relationships have a role to play in our formation
We are all different in our capacity for relationships.

- *What is your capacity for relationships?
- *How does this capacity affect your ability to grow spiritually?
- *When it comes to walking by the Spirit, how should we approach the role of relationships?

When the Spirit lives within people who believe, it impacts their relationships

Read and discuss these passages in Acts (NIV)

2⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.

43² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

8 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. **2** Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. **3** But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. **4** Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

- *What do these passages show about the impact of the Holy Spirit in relationships with each other?
- *Do you see anything similar happening in your own community of believers?

Living by the Spirit causes us to find transformative relationships wherever and with whoever we find ourselves

This is a shift from our oft-assumed idea that if we could just find the right people, they would help us grow.

- *Have you ever felt or believed this false concept regarding your own relationships and growth?
- *Can you think or share about a time when this idea caused you to resent, complain, or criticize your community?

God's goal is not for us to find the right people

But to find the available and interested – and engage them well.

*Besides the Questions resource, what other practices or ideas might be helpful for deepening relationships and making space for God in them?

*What is an honest assessment of how intentional you are being with the relationships you've been given?

*Which relationship is the Spirit nudging you to make the most of right now?

[Access the Intentional Grace-filled Questions resource](#)

[Access Pulpit Rock's Liturgy of the Hours for this week](#)