

Being a Spiritually Minded Christian
Part Twenty One
Being in One Accord
Knowing Christ as the Door through Fellowship

- *The Greek word ὁμοθυμαδόν (homothymadon) is used 12 times in the New Testament and it is usually translated as “with one accord.”*
- *ὁμοθυμαδόν (homothymadon) means “pertaining to mutual consent or agreement, with one mind, by common consent, unanimously, in togetherness, as one.”*
- *“ὁμοθυμαδόν (homothymadon) is a compound of two words meaning to ‘rush along’ and ‘in unison.’ The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concertmaster, the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ’s Church.”*
- *Unity is not conformity. Unity is harmony where everyone plays their unique part using their special gifts and blending their hearts and lives together to reveal the person of Christ. “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12).*
- *The Greek word for “with one accord” is used seven times in the Book of Acts to describe the early church. Each reference reveals a different purpose, benefit, and aspect of Christians gathering together in fellowship around Christ.*
- *In the Book of Acts, the Church came together seven times “with one accord,” and in the Gospel of John, Jesus made seven statements about being the great “I am.” It appears that these seven “with one accord’s” found in Acts and the seven “I am’s” in John correlate in the same order.*
- *In the Gospel of John, the first time Jesus proclaimed that He is the great “I am,” He declared, “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:48). Jesus declared that “He who eats this bread will live forever” (John 6:58), thus freeing us from the fear of death and eternal damnation.*
- *The Greek word for “with one accord” is used for the first time in Acts, Chapter one. As the believers gathered together in the upper room, all fear of the Jewish leaders and the Roman soldiers was dispelled. They no longer feared for their lives. As they gathered together with one accord in prayer and fellowship they became confident in Christ as the Bread of Life.*

- *The second time Jesus declared Himself to be the great “I am” is found in John, Chapters eight and nine when Christ declared, “I am the Light of the World.”*
- *In Acts, Chapter two, we find the second time that the Greek word “with one accord” is used in the context of the Church. This illustrates how when believers are gathered together and operate within a local church with one accord that Christ as the Light of World shines brightly. “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1, 4).*
- *Just as light illuminates everything that it shines on, Jesus as the light of the world wants to shine through us so that we will be the light of the world. “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14a). The light of Christ dispels the darkness.*
- *When the church comes together “with one accord” the light of Christ shines so brightly that the world cannot ignore it, just as the light of Christ shone brightly on the day of Pentecost through His Church.*
- *The third time Jesus declared Himself as the great “I am” is found in John, Chapter ten, when He declared, “I am the Door.”*

John 10:1–10 (NKJV)

¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

⁵Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

⁶Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

⁷Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

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³To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

- *As Jesus prepared to reveal Himself as the Door, He began using an analogy of a door that protects the entrance of a sheepfold.*
- *The Greek word translated as sheepfold means “a walled enclosure either to enclose human activity or to protect livestock.” Thus a sheepfold is a walled enclosure where the sheep would congregate at night to protect them from predators or thieves who sought to devour or steal the sheep.*
- *Most predators and thieves are active at night where they can hide in the dark at a time when the sheep are unable to clearly see them. A sheepfold is critical for the protection of the sheep at night.*
- *Since the door to the sheepfold is closed and guarded at night the only way a thief could enter is by climbing over the wall. “He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”*
- *In contrast to a thief or robber, the shepherd of the sheep has a legitimate right to enter into the sheepfold, so he comes in through the door. “But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.”*
- *Up to this point, the analogy seems pretty clear. Jesus is the Shepherd of the sheep and the thief and robber is the devil. However, suddenly Jesus introduces another component—the doorkeeper. “To him the doorkeeper opens.”*
- *Who is this doorkeeper and how does he fulfill his duties?*
- *There have been many thoughts as to who the doorkeeper is. Some have suggested He is the Holy Spirit. Others say that the doorkeeper does not represent anything specifically, but was just added to complete the analogy. However, I don’t believe that God just randomly adds details to the Scriptures, but everything has meaning even if at times we may not know the meaning.*
- *In Jesus’ analogy the thief and the robber is a trespasser since he does not come through the door but climbs up some other way.*
- *The first sheepfold depicted in the Bible may be seen as the Garden of Eden and the first intruder, trespasser and thief may be seen as the serpent. “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God*

had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”” (Genesis 3:1).

- *The serpent was really the Devil and Satan just as it states in Revelation 12:9. “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.” The serpent did not come into the garden legitimately, but came in some other way as an intruder and trespasser.*
- *If the serpent is the trespasser then how would Adam and Eve have recognized that he hadn’t entered by the door but by some other way? They would have recognized that he was an intruder because the doorkeeper would not have opened the door to him.*
- *Who then was the doorkeeper that God had given to Adam?*
- *The doorkeeper was God’s Word of instruction and warning that He gave to Adam. “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”” (Genesis 2:16–17). God’s Word would have enabled Adam to know if the one he spoke to was either from God or a trespasser and deceiver.*
- *The serpent’s words didn’t line up with the word God had given to Adam; in fact, his words were in direct opposition to God’s word. “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” Immediately, they should have known that the serpent did not come through the door but was an intruder and trespasser and that his presence was illegitimate and his counsel was destructive.*
- *The serpent wanted to be their shepherd and pretended to be concerned for their welfare. “Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”” (Genesis 3:4–5). However, in reality he was a thief and robber whose only motivation was to steal, kill, and destroy, and to lead them away from God.*
- *A thief uses cunning and stealth and a robber uses force and intimidation. Satan used both.*
- *First, the serpent acted as a thief by causing Eve to doubt the clarity and simplicity of God’s Word. “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3). They left the protection of His commandments by transgressing them and eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*

- *Next, Satan acted as a robber through force and intimidation as he heaped shame and condemnation on them so they fled from the only one who truly loved them and could help them which is God.* “Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”” (*Genesis 3:9–10*).
- *The devil still uses these same two tactics today. As a thief he tries to deceive us into yielding to sin and temptation by promising the false hope of satisfaction and happiness. Then, as a robber he heaps condemnation and shame on us when we do yield to sin, hoping we will flee from God instead of turning to Him for forgiveness and redemption.*
- *God’s response to man’s sin was to provide the first Messianic prophecy that would pave the way for man’s redemption and deliverance from sin and Satan’s cruel hand that was now wreaking havoc upon the human race.* “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (*Genesis 3:15*).
- *The next thing we see in Genesis, Chapter three, is that the way to the Tree of Life was barred by a flaming sword which turned every way.* “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” (*Genesis 3:24*).
- *The Tree of Life is a picture of Jesus Christ who is the Life. The flaming sword is the doorkeeper which bars the way to the Tree of Life. The flaming sword may represent the Word of God which is the doorkeeper. The Bible depicts God’s Word as a two-edged sword.* “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (*Hebrews 4:12*).
- *The Word of God is both the doorkeeper to the Tree of Life and also the doorkeeper to the sheepfold.*
- *The Word of God is the doorkeeper who opens the way for us to partake of the Tree of Life. The Word of God instructs us on the only true and legitimate way to approach God so we can receive salvation—through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.* “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (*Romans 3:21–24*).

- *The Word of God is also the doorkeeper which only opens to the true shepherd so that we would know who the Messiah is. The Word of God was given so that we could identify the true Messiah. The true Messiah would fulfill all the criteria given in the Word of God. “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” (Matthew 5:17).*
- *The most foundational purpose for God giving us the Word of God beyond anything else was to enable us to identify Jesus Christ the true Shepherd and our Saviour so we could receive eternal life. “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (John 5:39) and “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.” (John 5:46).*
- *The heart’s cry of Moses and the prophets and of the entire nation of Israel had been for millennia, “When O God will you send Your Messiah to save and deliver us?” “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.” (1 Peter 1:10-11).*
- *Everything starting from Christ’s miraculous virgin birth and the exact location of His birth to every detail of His life lined up with every prophecy given in the Word of God which identified the Messiah. The entire New Testament, but especially the Gospel accounts, overflow with Old Testament prophecies which Jesus fulfilled. Repeatedly, the New Testament writers cite the voluminous number of Messianic prophecies, and they use phrases such as “and it was fulfilled as it was written.”*
- *Jesus’ sacrificial suffering and death on the cross and His glorious resurrection were all part of God’s detailed plan to redeem mankind.*
- *After Jesus’ resurrection He carefully explained to two of His broken hearted disciples on the Road to Emmaus that everything that had happened to Him was prophesied. “Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:25-27).*
- *Every detail of Jesus’ life was like a tumbler in a lock. Each time Jesus fulfilled another Old Testament prophecy it was like another tumbler lined up in order to prove that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world.*

- *The last tumbler in the lock was the resurrection of Jesus Christ, “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Romans 1:4). At His resurrection the lock opened and the doorkeeper, the Word of God, revealed that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. The door opened and our Good Shepherd entered in so we could be saved.*
- *Another picture of the doorkeeper found in all four Gospels is John the Baptist whose ministry was prophesied as the forerunner of the Messiah. “For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”’ (Matthew 3:3). He was the one who pointed to Jesus and proclaimed, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29b).*
- *The doors or gates of a city provided a number of important functions. Besides being part of a city’s protection against invaders, it was the place where important business transactions were made, court was convened, and public announcements were heralded.*
- *In the Book of Ruth, it was at the city gates where Boaz, a type of Christ, met with the elders of city to determine if he had the legal rights to be the kinsmen redeemer to redeem Ruth and her entire family. (Ruth 4:1-2).*
- *God made it abundantly clear through the doorkeepers, to all who were willing to listen through both the innumerable fulfilled prophecies, and John the Baptist’s testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the true Kinsman Redeemer, and the promised Saviour.*

John 10

⁴And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

⁵Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

- *Jesus continued with the analogy by describing the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, “and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”*
- *The shepherd leads the way and they follow him and therefore they can never get lost or go astray, “when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him.”*
- *The way that the sheep recognize their shepherd is not with their eyes, but with their ears “for they know his voice.”*

- *Not only do the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice but they are not fooled by the voice of strangers and “they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”*

John 10

‘Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

- *Even as the disciples did not understand this illustration which He had spoken, there is one aspect to Jesus’ analogy which seems puzzling. Jesus stated that His sheep will not be fooled by the voice of a stranger nor will His sheep follow the voice of a stranger.*
- *However, Jesus warned His followers not to be fooled by false teachers who would lead them astray from the truth, implying that some of His followers would be led astray. “And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them.”” (Luke 21:8).*
- *If Jesus’ sheep will only follow the shepherd’s voice and will flee from the voice of a stranger how is it that some believers are misled by false teachers and false leaders and can even become entangled in cults?*
- *The key to understanding how Christians can be misled is found in two key points: one is that there is a difference between a sheep and a lamb and the second point is found in the way the sheep are trained to recognize the true shepherd by His voice.*
- *A lamb is a young sheep that has not yet grown into adulthood and therefore is still both untrained and immature.*
- *A sheep has been trained and is highly attuned to the voice of the shepherd.*
- *Just as a lamb is trained to recognize the voice of the shepherd by being close to his chest, we need to grow and mature by listening to Jesus’ voice and by being total dependent upon Him. As a lamb is cradled against the chest of the shepherd not only does he recognize the voice of the shepherd but he learns to trust the shepherd and to know that the safest place to be is right at the bosom of his shepherd.*
- *A beautiful picture of a lamb learning to know the heart of Jesus is the Apostle John, “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”” (John 13:23–25). John went from being a person wanting to call*

down fire from heaven just as Elijah did (Luke 9:54) to becoming the apostle who wrote the most about love.

- *Some Christians can remain as lambs even if they have been many years in the faith because they have never allowed themselves to be cradled by our Shepherd and have never spent time learning to recognize His voice.*
- *Sometimes the things that hinder a Christian from maturing from a lamb to a sheep is their desire to appear strong and mature instead of coming to Jesus in their weakness and vulnerability.*
- *How do we learn to recognize His voice? By spending time with Him in His Word and in His presence through prayer.*
- *Jesus is waiting to spend that time with us daily so that we can get to know His voice and His heart of love. However, the busyness of life can drown out His voice and our own immaturity can cause us to neglect our time of fellowship with Him. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20).*

John 10

⁷Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

- *Jesus now identifies Himself as the door of the sheep.*
- *All those who came before Jesus and tried to usurp the position that was only to be for Jesus were thieves and robbers by pretending to be the rightful king, such as Herod. None but the rightful King and Shepherd could enter through the door because Jesus Himself is the door!*

John 10

⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

- *Jesus as the door provides security—not just so we can stay in the sheepfold but so we can be led out without fear to find pastures and to do our master’s bidding.*
- *Whether Jesus leads us into the sheepfold in times of danger or leads us out in times of ministry we can be secure that He goes before us and we can trust Him.*

- *When we know Jesus as the Bread of Life He frees us from the fear of death and through His redemption we are freed from mankind's greatest fear. "and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Hebrews 2:15)*
- *When we know Jesus as the Light of the World He removes those insecurities and frees us from low self-esteem because we are no longer seeking the approval of men but seeking to let the light of Christ shine through us so that we become the light of the world!*
- *When we know Jesus as the Door it provides a deep sense of security in a world that is filled with so much uncertainty and upheaval in every realm—from political, to economic, to natural and man-made disasters, “men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Luke 21:26).*
- *The joy of knowing Jesus as the Door is being able to take all the uncertainties of this life and all of the “what ifs” that the future holds and hand all those heavy burdens to Him. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30).*
- *The wonderful experience of knowing Jesus as the Door is that when the door is closed we can rest until He opens the door and leads us out. We can experience perfect peace and rest. “I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4:8).*
- *We don't have to try to force a door open that is closed and we do not have to fear walking through a door that He has opened. “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”’ (Revelation 3:7–8).*
- *To know Jesus as the Door will provide security and rest for our presence circumstances and for our future challenges. We can be secure in what awaits us because He is the one who leads us and we can pray the perfect prayer of surrender that will bring total rest to our souls, “nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42b).*
- *To surrender our lives and our future to God as we know that Jesus is the Door does not mean our lives will be free from hardships or trials. What it does mean is that everything that God allows in our lives will be for His glory and will*

enable us to be doubly fruitful and to produce the hundred fold increase. What could be better than that?!

John 10

¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- *For us to be secure and protected from the thief, which is the devil, is to be able to know Christ's voice intimately and to be confident that He is the Door that opens for the opportunities He has for us and closes when the enemy would try to cause harm.*
- *When we fail to recognize the shepherd's voice and trust that His leading as the Door is perfect then we begin to listen to the thief who brings accusation against God to distort His character in our eyes and to make us believe God is unfair. This is the same tactic he used when he spoke to Eve in the garden.*
- *How many times do Christians get upset with God because they have failed to understand God's heart and have begun to believe the devil's lies that God is unfair? The thief then steals our joy, kills our desire to serve God, and tries to destroy God's plan for our lives.*

Acts 2:40–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- *The third time the Bible describes the Church as being “with one accord” is in Acts 2:46. In that first day alone the Church grew from one hundred and twenty believers to over three thousand! That type of growth although exciting can also cause people to become overwhelmed and uncertain of how to deal with this influx of brand new believers.*

- *However, we see such a wonderful degree of unity and love as they continued to study the Scriptures, have fellowship and have a deep prayer life—both corporately and personally.*
- *We also see that the supernatural move of the Holy Spirit was a normal part of their daily experience that caused the reality of God to permeate their consciousness. “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”*
- *Another attribute of the Church at the beginning was a sense of community and security. “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”*
- *This example of sharing their belongings with one another does not mean that the Bible teaches that believers need to have a structure of communal living because later on we see that this pattern of communal living was not replicated.*
- *However, the example of sharing their possessions with one another emphasizes the security which the believers felt in regard to God’s faithfulness to provide for them presently and in the future although at that moment the future was filled with complete uncertainty as to what would happen next.*
- *The believers exuded a complete confidence in Christ as the Door and the One who opens and no man shuts and shuts and no man opens. They fully trusted that Jesus was the One who was going on before them, and that their future was secure from every challenge they would face, whether it included persecution from the Jews or the Romans.*
- *As the believers came together with one accord they were able to feel completely secure in God’s plan for their lives both corporately and personally.*
- *If we, as believers will come together in one accord and support one another through prayer and fellowship during easy and difficult times, we will find that the rest and peace of knowing Jesus as the Door will fill our hearts and that we can trust Him for whatever the future holds.*