

Being a Spiritually Minded Christian
Part Twenty-Three
Being in One Accord
Knowing Christ as the Resurrection and the Life 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.*
- *Each of the seven “I am’s” in the Gospel of John reveals a different aspect of who Jesus is and who Jesus is in our relationship with Him.*
- *Knowing Jesus as the Bread of Life satisfies our need for self-perseveration. (John 6:48). Jesus as the Bread of Life frees us from the fear of death.*
- *Knowing Jesus as the Light of the World satisfies our need for self-expression so we can express Jesus’ light through us to this world. (John 8:12). We no longer need to walk in darkness but we can live in the light of Christ.*
- *Knowing Jesus as the Door satisfies our need for security. (John 10:9). We can be free from the fear of the enemy and his attacks. We can be secure and free from the fear of the uncertainties of the future because we know Jesus is our door of protection and provision.*

- *Knowing Jesus as the Good Shepherd meets our great need to know that Christ is loyal to us, even to the point of dying for us. (John 10:11).*
- *We can respond to and reciprocate His loyalty by being fully loyal to Him. We become loyal to Him by being fully obedient to Him and laying our lives down for Him.*
- *The fifth time that Jesus declared Himself the great “I am” He stated, “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25).*
- *To fully appreciate what it means that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and how this revelation impacts our lives and our relationship with God, we must study the context of John 11:25. The context of the passage is the illness, death, and the subsequent miraculous resurrection of Lazarus.*
- *As we study John, Chapter eleven, we will recognize a few important truths.*
- *First, God has a wonderful and specific plan for each of our lives.*
- *Second, as Christ directs our path we may not initially understand how the circumstances and experiences of our lives make any sense, or how they can produce something joyful or fruitful.*
- *Third, for us to see God’s plan fulfilled in our lives requires that we surrender control of our lives fully to Him. The only way we can surrender control of our lives to God is to truly know Jesus as “I am the Resurrection and the Life.”*

John 11:1–53 (NKJV)

¹Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

²It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

³Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

- *The story begins against the backdrop of Jesus’ relationship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. They did not just know Jesus on a casual basis; He was their close personal friend with whom they spent considerable time. Jesus even spent time in their home. They had come to love and trust Him.*
- *The tenderness of their relationship with Jesus is emphasized by identifying Mary as the one who would anoint Jesus’ feet before His great suffering and death at Calvary. “It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair.” Six days before His crucifixion at Calvary Jesus went to visit them in their home. (John 11:2).*

- *When Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus regarding Lazarus' illness they identifying their brother as the one whom Jesus loved. "Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.""*

⁴When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

⁶So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

- *When Jesus heard the news of Lazarus' sickness He was neither troubled nor was He indifferent. He clearly stated that God had a plan and a purpose for allowing this illness to strike His close friend, Lazarus. "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." The purpose of this sickness was not to bring an end to Lazarus' life, but to bring glory to God and manifest who Jesus really is.*
- *The illness wasn't from God but God had a plan that would not only thwart the destruction that the devil intended but would result in God's purposes being fulfilled. What the enemy intends for evil, God redeems to manifest His glory!*
- *At the end of the story, when Jesus resurrected Lazarus, we see how God's glory impacted the people. Jesus' followers had their faith strengthened. Some who had not yet believed put their faith in Christ. Others, along with the religious leaders, became incensed and plotted to kill Jesus. "Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did." (John 11:45-46).*
- *Some responded positively to Jesus' miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus, which revealed Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life, while others chose to rebel and plot against God's plans and purposes. Here's the amazing thing about God's plan. God used the plans of those who tried to thwart His plan to fulfill His own plan of salvation for mankind.*
- *The reaction of the religious leaders to the news of the resurrection of Lazarus revealed the true sinful condition of men's hearts. If the reaction of the chief priests and religious leaders, who supposedly reflected the best and the ones most dedicated to God was to plot to destroy Jesus and rebel against God, then what hope was there for any person to be found righteous?*
- *Paul summarized the true condition of men's hearts if left to their own devices. "As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." (Romans 3:10-12). This is the reason Jesus had to die for our sins. Mankind is incapable of becoming righteous or seeking God, so Jesus came to redeem us by dying in our place.*

- *As Jesus hung on the cross, and was breathing His final breaths, He spoke words of forgiveness for those who crucified Him. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:34a). Jesus’ words provided an opportunity for even those who betrayed and crucified Him to repent and find forgiveness and salvation through His sacrifice. In fact we see that many priests later came to faith. “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7).*
- *As we study the reaction of the chief priests and Pharisees we can conclude that the resurrection of Lazarus was one of the catalysts that caused them to move forward in their plot to put Jesus to death. “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”” (John 11:47-48).*
- *“For he (Pilate) knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.” (Matthew 27:18). The religious leaders besides being motivated by envy were trying to devise their own plan for the preservation and salvation of their nation. “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”*
- *In God’s divine irony and providence, God’s plan of salvation and the Jewish religious leaders’ plan to save their nation intersected. God’s plan was motivated by love, while man’s plan was motivated by envy, hatred, and fear. “And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”” (John 11:49-50).*
- *Both God’s plan of salvation and man’s plan came to the same conclusion. “Jesus must die so that the people will not perish.” However, they reached the same conclusion for very different reasons!*
- *Lazarus’ resurrection from the dead was pivotal in the chief priest’s decision to put Jesus to death quickly, so His crucifixion would coincide with the Jewish feast of Passover! “Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.” (John 11:53).*
- *When Jesus said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” we can understand the importance of what was to take place through Lazarus’ resurrection. The glory of God that would be revealed was much more than Lazarus’ temporary resurrection. The glory of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection would fully reveal Him as the Son of God, the Messiah, and the long awaited Saviour whom the Father had sent!*
- *Jesus, as the Resurrection and the Life, would demonstrate that He put death to death. Life was victorious over death, and the final enemy was conquered. (1 Corinthians 15:55).*

- *The story of Lazarus being raised from the dead culminated in Caiaphas, as the high priest that year, declaring over Jesus and prophesying that He would die for the nation and not just for the nation but for all mankind. “Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.” (John 11:51-52).*
- *God used Lazarus’ temporary illness and death to impact everyone by revealing His glory and power. Some responded to God and others rebelled against God. But through it all, God’s plan moved forward because Mary and Martha were willing to trust Jesus regardless of the outcome.*
- *Now that we see the glorious outcome of Lazarus’ illness, death, and resurrection let’s return to study how Jesus revealed Himself as the Resurrection and the Life and the journey Mary, Martha, and Lazarus needed to travel to understand God’s plan and to learn to relinquish control to God to see His plan and glory manifested.*
- *With Lazarus facing a serious and life threatening illness, Jesus’ love for them is reinforced. “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (Verse 5).*
- *If we fail to remember Jesus’ love we will misunderstand His actions and the events of the story as they unfold. The same is true for our lives. If we do not see everything that God does in the light of His love we can easily misinterpret what God is doing when we are going through times of hardship or trials. God is always motivated by love, and His purpose is to fully redeem our lives and the lives of those around us.*
- *What God was going to do through Lazarus, Mary, and Martha was not only for their benefit, but for everyone’s benefit, and especially those who would be willing to open their hearts to Him.*
- *When Jesus heard about Lazarus’ illness, His response may initially appear surprising and even troubling. “So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.” However, as the story progresses and concludes we understand that not only were Jesus’ actions reasonable and appropriate, they were the perfect response to the situation and they brought forth glorious and marvelous results.*
- *There are times in our lives when we go through difficult or painful times and God appears to be indifferent and distant. However He is neither. God’s delay does not indicate indifference. In reality God is with us, right beside us, and patiently waiting as He works in our hearts and lives to bring forth much fruitfulness and glory.*

John 11:7-10

⁷Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

⁸The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”

⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

¹⁰But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

- *After Jesus announced to His disciples they were going back to Judea to visit Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, they became alarmed and reminded Him of the danger and threats from the Jewish religious leaders. “The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?””*
- *However, Jesus’ response reassured them that not only was He fully aware of the situation, but that they were walking in the light of God’s plan. “Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.”” When we are looking to God for His Word to guide and direct us we do not have to fear that we will stumble because His light guides us. “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105). God’s Word provides light for our first step and light for our overall direction.*
- *In the disciples’ minds it was dangerous for Jesus to go back to Judea because the Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Him. Their observations were totally correct and accurate. What they failed to understand is that was exactly the reason Jesus had come in the first place and the reason He had to return to Judea. “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.” (John 12:27).*
- *When we allow discouragement, fear, and self-effort to draw our eyes away from Jesus and His Word, we will soon find ourselves walking in confusion and darkness, stumbling around without purpose or direction. This is one definition of becoming backslidden: “Having lost our vision of Jesus and no longer trusting His Word to direct our lives.” Jesus never took His eyes off the Father nor strayed from God’s plan for His life.*

¹¹These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”

¹²Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.”

¹³However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

- *Jesus’ description of Lazarus’ death provides insights into how differently we can see things when we view them from an eternal perspective instead of an earthly and temporal one. “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” “Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.”*
- *When we only see things from the point of view of the temporal we evaluate loss and gain quite differently. Worldly-minded people rejoice in temporal successes while ignoring the eternally consequences. “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the*

whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (*Matthew 16:26*).

¹⁴Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

¹⁶Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

- *Jesus made it clear to them that Lazarus was dead, but then He said something unexpected and surprising. "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there." Jesus explained the reason why He was glad that He had not been with Lazarus to prevent his death—"that you may believe." Jesus was not indifferent to Lazarus' death or the grief of those who were mourning. His words show the great eternal value and importance that Jesus places on faith.*
- *Faith in Jesus has great and eternal value and it is one of the elements by which the economy of God functions. God will do whatever is necessary to develop our faith until it shines brighter and purer than refined gold. "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:7).*
- *As we go through times of trials and testing, God uses those experiences to produce a confidence and faith in Him as He shows His faithfulness and love for us. Without faith we cannot please God. (Hebrews 11:6). He wants our faith to shine ever brighter.*
- *His disciples had to grow in their faith and confidence in Christ, His Word and His plan until their faith would be unstoppable no matter what opposition or trials they faced. Ultimately His Gospel will be preached to all nations. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14).*
- *The faith that Jesus had planted and cultivated in the hearts of His first disciples will culminate in all of mankind hearing the Gospel no matter how much Satan or man tries to oppose it or stop it or persecute it! "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18).*
- *Sometimes God allows us to experience difficult and painful events so that He can develop proven godly character in us and produce unshakable faith as He takes us through difficult times into complete victory. He proves His faithfulness to us and through us in both good times and in times of trials and hardships. "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses." (2 Corinthians 6:4, KJV).*

¹⁷So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

- *When Jesus and His disciples arrived, Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. The disciples' faith was strengthened when they realized that what Jesus said would happen actually had happened.*
- *Sometimes God tells us in advance when we are going to face a time of testing or trials. This is not meant to cause us to become fearful or have a sense of foreboding but to enable us to develop a strong confidence that God has not only foreseen what we will face but He is in control and He has a plan and He has already provided for our needs.*

¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away.

¹⁹And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

²²But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

- *Martha still did not have a strong grasp on God's infinite and unlimited faithfulness and provision. She knew that Jesus loved them deeply. However, she viewed His power and foreknowledge to be limited. "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*
- *Martha's view of God was not as much incorrect as it was limited. Her confidence in Jesus' love and faithfulness was unwavering, but she still evaluated God's ways from a human and earthly perspective. "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,'" says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'" (Isaiah 55:8–9).*
- *From Martha's earthly point of view, Jesus had arrived late, but according to God's timetable He came just at the right time—both for Lazarus and for all of mankind. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4–5).*
- *One of the amazing things to note about Martha's faith is how much it had grown! Although she was mourning the sudden loss of her brother she didn't feel let down by God or disappointed with Jesus. She affirmed both His faithfulness and the future resurrection. "But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

- *Martha believed in an ultimate resurrection. But it's one thing to believe in a future resurrection and to meet Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. God is not only the God of the future, but of the here and now.*

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

²⁶And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

- *In the context of the death of Lazarus and what appeared as if Jesus had arrived too late to prevent his death, Jesus proclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus is saying in effect, "Everything is under control and what appears to be loss and sorrow I will turn into victory and rejoicing." God has promised to turn our mourning into joy. (Jeremiah 31:13). God's plans for our lives are perfect and all it requires of us is to turn to Him and trust Him to lead us.*
- *Martha made a wonderful and full confession of her faith in Jesus Christ even while still mourning the loss of her brother. "She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." (Verse 27).*

²⁸And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."

²⁹As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him.

³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him.

³¹Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."

³²Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

- *Mary's response to Jesus was similar to that of Martha's. She was not shaken in her faith in Jesus' love for them but mistook Jesus' arrival as coming too late.*

³³Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

³⁴And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

³⁵Jesus wept.

- *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15, NIV). Jesus did not try to comfort Mary with hollow words but shared her pain. Jesus didn't weep because Lazarus had died, because He had come to resurrect him. He wept because His heart was moved by the grief of the mourners.*
- *Jesus' response to seeing the weeping and grief of Mary, Martha, and all of the people appears highly unusual. It says that "He groaned in the spirit and was troubled." The Greek word for "groaned" means "to snort with anger, to be moved with anger or*

indignation.” The Greek word for “troubled” means “to cause acute emotional distress.”

- *When Jesus saw all the sorrow and suffering that death, sin, and the devil had inflicted, not only on these mourners, but on all mankind, a deep anger and indignation filled Him. This indignation and anger was not directed toward mankind but toward the suffering, sin, rebellion, and death the devil had caused.*
- *Jesus had introduced Himself not only as the Resurrection, but as the Life—and that’s exactly what He intended to bring to Lazarus—life!*
- *With this resolve in His heart He not only raised Lazarus from the dead but went all the way to the cross to bring an end to death. “He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14b).*
- *Dwight Moody once said this: “One day you will hear that D. L. Moody is dead. Don’t you believe it! That day I will be more alive than I have ever been before!”*

³⁶Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

³⁷And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

- *As the people recognized that Jesus was deeply moved by the suffering, they asked, “Could He not have kept this man from dying?”*
- *At the sight of the tomb Jesus once again groaned in Himself and was stirred with anger and indignation at what sin and the devil had done to mankind.*

³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

- *Jesus stood before the tomb and instructed them to remove the stone. Martha’s reaction was immediate. “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” Martha questioned the wisdom of Jesus’ instructions based on current and past wisdom. There was tension in Martha’s heart between following Jesus’ instructions and following what she knew made the most sense—keeping the tomb sealed.*
- *Jesus then challenged Martha. “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Jesus basically said, “I have a wonderful plan that will*

bring joy to you and glory to God but you have to believe and surrender control to Me if you want to see it manifest.”

- *A few moments before Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Now Martha and the others had to decide if they were going to trust Him and choose to submit to His plans, His Word, and His Ways.*

⁴¹Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

⁴²And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

⁴³Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

⁴⁴And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

- *They made the decision to believe Jesus’ words and act upon them. “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.”*
- *Only after they took the stone away from the tomb did Jesus pray and command Lazarus to come forth.*
- *If they had not chosen to put their faith in Jesus’ words and obeyed Him they would never have seen this miracle and would never have known what God intended to do. Many times God is calling us to simply trust Him and obey His Word so He can bring about His glorious plan for our lives. We simply have to decide if we are going to trust Him.*
- *The resurrection which Lazarus experienced was a temporary one because he was still in his mortal body. However, very soon Jesus was going to face the cross with an indignation and anger against what sin and the devil had done to bring forth a resurrection that would be eternal. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:53-54).*
- *The fourth time the church is seen “with one accord” is in Acts 5:12.*

Acts 5:12–16 (NKJV)

¹²And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.

¹³Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

¹⁴And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

¹⁵so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

¹⁶Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- *As the Church came together with one accord the power of God was manifest. There was a confidence in God's plan and ways. The Church continued to grow "And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."*
- *The early Church was not a dead Church but one that was vibrant and alive because they knew Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life and they were confident in His plan and they were willing to surrender control to Him.*