

Being a Spiritually Minded Christian
Part Nineteen
Being in One Accord
Knowing Christ as the Bread of 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.” Once the New King James translates it as “with one mind.”*
- *ὁμοθυμαδόν (homothymadon) means “pertaining to mutual consent or agreement, with one mind, by common consent, unanimously, in togetherness, as one.”*
- *Of the 12 times “with one accord,” ὁμοθυμαδόν (homothymadon) is used in the New Testament, 11 of those times are found in the Book of Acts and 7 of those occurrences are in reference to the Church and the other 4 are in reference to unbelievers.*
- *If we study the 4 times of how “with one accord” is used in terms of unbelievers we will notice two things:*
- *The first thing we can note is how the unbelievers united together “with one accord” to strengthen their resolve to oppose the Gospel message. When Stephen was preaching Jesus Christ, they tried to block out his words by stopping their ears and stoning him to death. “Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.” (Acts 7:57–58).*
- *The second thing we note is that no matter how persistently the unbelievers banded together “with one accord” to stop the work of God, they were unable to overcome and suppress the Gospel message or stop the Church. “When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, “This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” (Acts 18:12–13). In fact, the death of Stephen so impacted Saul, who had severely persecuted the Church and consented to the death of Stephen, that he became Paul, one of the strongest voices for Jesus Christ.*
- *One of the reasons the Jewish religious leaders and the entire Roman Empire were not able to overcome the Church was that the believers were “in one accord.”*
- *“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).*
- *At the very moment we put our faith in Jesus Christ and were born again we were baptized into His Body and became part of the family of God. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13).*
- *Some people are unhappy with the gifts and callings that God has given them and want to be like someone else. However, each of our gifts and callings are equally important and specifically given to us from God. "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." (1 Corinthians 12:18).*
- *The Body of Christ is not one member but a multitude of different and unique members who together form His Body. "For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?" (1 Corinthians 12:14-16).*
- *It is absolutely essential that we embrace the specific gifts and callings God has given us. If we were all the same we would be just a bunch of eyeballs rolling around but because we are each unique individual members of His Body, His Body can function on the earth. "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?" (1 Corinthians 12:17). "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." (1 Corinthians 12:27).*
- *We need to acknowledge the importance of each member of the Body of Christ, including our part, and care for one another, "that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another." (1 Corinthians 12:25).*
- *It is only when we learn to be "in one accord" that the Body of Christ can operate properly and that we can co-labour with Christ to see His will done on earth as it is done in Heaven and see His Body built up in love. "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,*

according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (*Ephesians 4:16*).

- *When we are isolated from one another we will discover a lack in our lives and a lack in the Body of Christ. Even though we each have gifts and callings from God, they are only activated and flow properly when we are in right relationship with one another.*
- *Ephesians 4:16 does not say, “by what every member supplies” but “by what every joint supplies.” The Greek word for “joint” means “ligaments, that which binds together, the joints of the body which binds the different parts together.” The joints are not the members, but are the place where the members connect to one another to work together. It is only when we connect together in harmony that the grace of God freely flows into us and through us for our own edification and for those around us.*
- *Great effort and grace is required for us to be in “one accord,” but it is only when we learn to be in “one accord” that we are able to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind (Gr. with one accord) and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Romans 15:5–6*).*
- *The New Living Translation of Romans 15:6 interprets the meaning of “with one accord” as a symphony of voices blending together to praise God. “Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- *Ephesians 4:3 asks us to “keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” It does not speak about creating but maintaining unity in the Body of Christ. The next verse, Ephesians 4:4, clearly states that we are already unified in one Body, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.” The exhortation speaks to the quality of that unity.*
- *Here is part of Christ’s priestly prayer in John 17:11. “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” does not contradict the reality that as believers we are already joined together and united in Christ, but His prayer was for the quality of that unity. The quality of our unity should mirror the same perfect harmony and love that the Father and the Son share.*
- *Seven times in the Book of Acts the Greek word for “with one accord” is used to describe the early church. Each reference reveals a different purpose, benefit, and aspect of Christians gathering together in fellowship around Christ.*

- *When unbelievers unify in one accord it intensifies and strengthens their fleshly sinful impulses. At the tower of Babel, the unbelievers joined together in one accord and became so powerful that God gave them different languages and scattered them over the whole earth. (Genesis 11:1-9). When Christians unify in one accord it strengthens them to develop a greater degree of godly character so they become more spiritually minded.*
- *The Greek word for “with one accord” is used for the first time in Acts, Chapter one.*
- *The last commandment that Christ gave to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven was that they were to stay together and wait in Jerusalem. “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:4-5).*

Just before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus called his disciples together. They believed that this would be the time He would set up His kingdom. “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’” (Acts 1:6).

- *Jesus responded to their question about His return and when He would establish His kingdom by telling them that is not their business. He asked them to follow His commandment and remain together and wait for the Promise from the Father. “And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’” (Acts 1:7-8).*
- *Next, the disciples witnessed the most amazing sight, the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven. “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9).*
- *As they continued to stare in utter awe and amazement into the Heavens, two angels appeared and basically said, “What do you think you are doing? Don’t you remember you are to go back to Jerusalem and gather together and wait?” “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?’” (Acts 1:11a).*
- *However, just before the angels dismissed the disciples they reminded them and encouraged them in the blessed hope of Christ’s return. “This same Jesus, who*

was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (*Acts 1:11b*).

- *We need to remind ourselves of this blessed hope every morning when we wake up. “Jesus is returning.” “teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:12-13).*
- *The disciples were faithful to fulfill Jesus’ commandment and gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem and waited. “Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.” (Acts 1:12-13).*
- *There, in this upper room in Jerusalem, a hundred and twenty disciples waited. They didn’t know for how long or exactly what was to happen. But they were faithful to obey and wait. They didn’t know how long they would wait and they couldn’t have imagined in their wildest dreams what they would experience, something that no human being prior to this event had ever experienced, the baptism in the Holy Spirit accompanied by speaking in unknown tongues.*
- *What a sharp contrast we see here between the unbelievers in one accord against God at the Tower of Babel and the believers baptized in the Holy Spirit and in one accord with God. At the Tower of Babel, the unbelievers were scattered and their plans came to nothing. On the Day of Pentecost the Church was empowered and sent out to enlarge God’s kingdom by preaching the gospel in all the earth. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 24:14).*
- *As Jesus stood on the Mount of Olives, just before His ascension, the disciples were anticipating He would at that time set up His kingdom but in fact He was going to first enlarge His kingdom to include innumerable more people through the preaching of the Gospel, both Jews and Gentiles from all the nations of the earth.*
- *This pattern of patiently waiting upon the Lord, knowing and believing that God is faithful to fulfill His promises, is seen repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Hebrews 6:11-12).*

- *Not only is God faithful to fulfill His promises, but the fulfillment of His promises is so much greater and better than anything we could ever imagine or ask for and ultimately the greatest fulfillment will be Heaven. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Ephesians 3:20).*
- *It was important that the disciples were gathered together in that upper room but it was equally important what they were doing there while they waited. “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” (Acts 1:14).*
- *Verse 14 describes the quality of their unity. It not only states what the disciples were doing, that they were “in prayer and supplication,” but how they were doing it, “with one accord” and their commitment in doing it, “these all continued.”*
- *In the upper room, the disciples didn’t just wait there without a focus, halfheartedly obeying Jesus’ last command to them, nor did they spend their time speaking about the evil intents of the Jewish religious leaders or the cruelty of the Roman Empire, words which could instill fear and doubt in their hearts. Together, they collectively turned to God in prayer and intercession which strengthened their faith and prepared them for the new things that God was about to do.*
- *The Church was birthed through prayer, revivals are ignited by prayer, and our lives are changed in prayer.*
- *The Greek word translated as “continued” means “to stay by, to persist at, to remain with, to occupy oneself diligently with something, to pay persistent attention to.” The phrase “these all continued” really underlines the disciple’s commitment to Jesus and their perseverance through whatever obstacles from their flesh, or the devil, or circumstances tried to dissuade or distract them from fulfilling Christ’s commandments.*
- *“These all continued with one accord” speaks about how they approached prayer. There was a harmony and a blending together of their hearts as they collectively sought God in prayer and as they fellowshiped together.*
- *In the upper room during those ten days the disciples not only prayed and sought God but they began to share the things Jesus had taught them, specifically during the last forty days after His resurrection and before His ascension.*
- *Peter arose and expounded on the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and Jesus’ betrayal and sacrificial death. “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a*

- hundred and twenty), and said, ‘Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.’” (*Acts 1:15-17*).
- *Obviously, Peter had received instructions from Jesus to replace Judas as an apostle with another from among them to be a witness and one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’ “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” (*Acts 1:20-22*).*
 - *The choosing of a replacement for Judas was necessary to keep the disciples in divine order as Christ had taught them. In the upper room, as they continued in prayer and supplication with one accord, God was putting into place everything that was needed for them to be ready for the new move of God, the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.*
 - *It is interesting to note how the disciples chose the man who was to replace Judas as an apostle. “And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, ‘You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.’ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” (*Acts 1:23-26*).*
 - *Why would the disciples cast lots to know God’s will concerning who was to replace Judas as an apostle since we do not see that example of seeking God’s will anywhere else in the New Testament, nor is it a practice that we observe in the Church today?*
 - *Before the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given, the disciples were in a time of transition. They looked to the Old Testament to provide the pattern for seeking God’s direction and will. One of those ways was by the casting of lots. However, when the Day of Pentecost came each believer received the gift of the Holy Spirit through the baptism in the Holy Spirit and now through the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit God can lead us directly. We no longer need to cast lots, for the Holy Spirit can speak directly to each of us, both corporately and individually.*
 - *Before the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given, the disciples were still uncertain as to how God was going to direct them, since Jesus had now ascended and was at the right hand of the Father. They had no Old Testament*

prophets. This could have been a time of great uncertainty, confusion, and fear. However, Jesus had instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.”

- *Of course we see that Jesus had the perfect solution. He was going to give us the Holy Spirit so He could guide us, direct us, and comfort us. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7).*
- *Unlike the Old Testament prophets who experienced temporary visitations of the Holy Spirit, we as members of Christ’s Body have an unbroken, permanent, and eternal relationship with the Holy Spirit. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” (John 14:16).*
- *The Holy Spirit is always with us and He is the one who will guide us, teach, and instruct us every day. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26). What awesome security and joy we can experience if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us every moment of every day!*
- *However, before the Day of Pentecost and before the believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit were operating, it could have been a time when the disciples might have been filled with uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Jesus was no longer with them to guide them. It was a very critical time in the history of the Church. That is one of the reasons Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem together until they received the Promise from the Father.*
- *Looking back at the disciples, after Christ’s resurrection but before His ascension gives us insights into some of the internal struggles the disciples faced.*
- *As we study the disciple’s reaction to the initial reports that Jesus was resurrected, we can note that they still had a lot of fear and uncertainty. “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” (John 20:19).*
- *When Jesus appeared to all the disciples that first time, He continued to reassure them that everything was proceeding according to God’s plan and that they could be free from fear and be filled with peace. “When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when*

- they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you!’” (*John 20:20-21a*).
- *Beyond Jesus’ reassurance that everything was wonderful and He had overcome death, was the purpose He had for their lives and for His Church, “‘As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (*John 20:21b-22*).*
 - *Another intriguing response that the disciples had shortly after Jesus’ resurrection is found in *John 21:2-3*. “Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We are going with you also.’ They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.”*
 - *One would have thought that after the disciples had seen Jesus, their hearts and minds would be filled with so much excitement and joy that all they could talk and think about would be about Jesus and all that He done and taught them and the plans He had for their lives. However, instead they responded as naturally minded men, “Today is a good day for fishing.”*
 - *There is no indication that their conversation was about the things that Jesus had taught them or what He meant when He told them, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” It seems they thought they were to return to their former occupations and former goals before they had met Jesus three and half years prior.*
 - *When Jesus first met His disciples, at the start of His ministry, He had called them to follow Him and they left their fishing nets and boats to follow Him and He promised He would make them fishers of men. “Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’” (*Matthew 4:19*). But now they were turning back as if what Jesus had taught them in those three and half years were nothing more than memories from the past.*
 - *On this fishing trip after they had already seen the resurrected Christ and after an entire night of fishing, Jesus appeared to them on the shore but they failed to recognize Him. “But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.” (*John 21:4*).*
 - *Jesus asked them one simple question. “Have you been successful? Did you catch any fish?” Their answer revealed their lack of success. “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Children, have you any food?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’ (*John 21:5*).*

- *Jesus had a wonderful plan for them that would involve the entire human race. They would become the apostles who would establish the Church and become the most successful fishermen in the entire history of mankind. “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.” (John 17:20). Every believer is part of their catch!*
- *As we have just seen, after Christ’s ascension, believers faced at least two enemies that threatened to derail God’s plan for them and for His Church: fear and distractions.*
- *The disciples’ fears of being caught and executed by the Jewish religious leaders and the Romans could have caused them to disperse.*
- *The distractions of daily life could have caused Jesus’ Words to fade from their hearts and mind.*
- *The solution to these two enemies of the fledgling Church, the fear of death and the distractions of this life, was for them to come together “with one accord.”*
- *In the Book of Acts, the Church came together seven times “with one accord,” and Jesus made seven statements about being the great “I am” in the Gospel of John. It appears that these seven “with one accords” found in Acts and the seven “I am”s in John correlate in the same order.*
- *Each of these seven times in the book of Acts where the believers are seen coming together “with one accord,” a different aspect of Christ was revealed to them and manifest through them.*
- *The first time Jesus proclaimed in the Gospel of John that He is the great “I am” He declared, “I am the bread of life. (John 6:48).*
- *Jesus declared that He is the true Bread from Heaven and whoever partakes of Him will never die but have eternal life. “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” (John 6:49–51).*
- *The manna was a prophetic picture pointing to the One who would come and give eternal life to all those who believe in Him. Eating the manna only sustained natural life temporarily, but when we receive Christ, the true Bread from Heaven, we will never die.*
- *Jesus came to the earth to die for our sins so we could be saved and freed from the fear of death. “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and*

blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
(Hebrews 2:14–15). Jesus put death to death!

- *As the believers came together with one accord in the upper room and fellowshiped, prayed, and interceded, they were no longer afraid of what the Jewish religious leaders or the Romans may have been planning. They were experiencing Christ as the Bread of Life and the fear of death no longer had a grip on them. They were free to rejoice with great hope and expectation of what God was going to do and they were not disappointed.*
- *As they were gathered together with one accord in the upper room the believers were partaking of Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life, they found a satisfaction and fulfillment with which no earthly success could ever compare. No longer were they labouring to find temporary satisfaction for they had partaken of the true Bread of Life, Jesus. “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.” (Isaiah 55:2).*
- *Just as the early Church faced great challenges and times of economic, political, social, and military upheaval, we find ourselves in similar circumstances. “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” (Matthew 24:6–8).*
- *We are living in times of tremendous growth in lawlessness, sin, and immorality. Many believers have either been caught up in sin or have become hardened and bitter, resulting in their love growing cold. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12).*
- *We are also living in times where fear is filling the hearts of many and as things grow worse, fear will begin to sweep across the globe. “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).*
- *However, the solution is for us to come together as believers with one accord and share and encourage one another in Christ and to know Jesus as the Bread of Life who has given us eternal life and provides true and unquenchable satisfaction.*
- *Although we are living in times of increasing uncertainty and global instability, Jesus has promised us that the Gospel of Christ will be unstoppable and*

everyone will hear it whether they want to or not. “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).

- *For those who receive Christ, the Gospel is Good News, but for those who reject Christ it becomes a dire warning.*
- *Communion reminds us of many things. It reminds us of all that Jesus did for us. It reminds us that we are joined to Him and we are joined to one another. It reminds us of Jesus’ words, “I am the Bread of Life,” so that we can have great joy and security in Him. “when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24).*