

WORD AT WORK

The Call To One Accord II
May 2002

Dear Friend:

Jesus prayed in John 17:20,21 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” Jesus prayed for each one of us who name the Name of Christ that we would love each other so the world would believe the Father sent Him! Occasionally, we must survey the spiritual landscape to see if any progress exists.

Jesus’ prayer thrusts us into a “grace” dilemma. Ephesians 4:4-8 says, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.’”

Since we were saved by grace, God demands we extend each other the same grace extended to us. The essence of our call as Christians is to live as walking advertisements of God’s grace. What does the world see and hear when they look at us responding to each other’s failures?

Do we speak words of life or words of criticism? Do we demonstrate rejection or acceptance, condemnation or encouragement, judgment or mercy? How we treat each other determines the world’s response to the gospel. If the world is not flooding the Church on Sunday morning, are we failing to extend the same grace we’ve received? Do we routinely impart to each other the same level of grace and mercy imparted to us? Christ-like compassion works like a magnet when fully exhibited.

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORK AT WORK

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The Call To One Accord II

WEDNESDAY, May 1

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-8

In Ephesians 2:4-8 we find God has a very specific purpose for all who accept the gift of salvation, "...that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,...." When God calls us, He calls us into life and harmony with Him. His **grace** brings us into a unity and harmony that we must honor with our choices. The **grace** by which we have been saved is not of ourselves, it is a **gift** God gives and the only way possible to honor that gift is to extend it according to the same pattern as the **grace** which brought it to us. If God extended **grace** to us in the gift of salvation, He demands we extend **grace** to others. The product of extending **grace** to others is harmony, unity and being **in one accord**. If we do not find ourselves **in one accord** it's because we have not extended the same level of **grace** to others that came to us in salvation.

THURSDAY, May 2

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7-11

In Ephesians 1:7-11 we are told, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him, in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,...." The **grace** which came to us bringing redemption also manifested forgiveness of sin. The forgiveness of sin was proportional to the **grace**. God purposed we could not only receive it but then expected in receiving it we would be obligated to extend it to each other. His purpose was that the Church would grow into a body where they could walk together in a high degree of unity and harmony. It is not according to our individual desires, but according to **His divine purpose**. The inheritance He has given us demands we extend to each other the same level of **grace** God extended us. The natural result is a unity and harmony of the spirit that brings forth the soil which qualifies as seedbed for the creative power of God. How is our soil?

FRIDAY, May 3

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Verse 10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Each of us have a unique and specific assignment which we are to accomplish. God had a purpose in bringing us into the generation in which we live. That purpose demands we make a contribution to the Church. The first and foremost expectation enabling us to make our contribution is extending the same **grace** to each other God extended to us in salvation. How great was that **grace**? There is a

tremendous warfare against us to forget the level of **grace** which brought us into the kingdom and consequently not extend it to each other – denying us then the platform God intended to manifest the full measure of His power. Are we extending **grace** or judging each other?

SATURDAY, May 4

Scripture: Ephesians 4:4

We are told in verse 4, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;...” Each individual has a very specific call with pre-ordained works that are absolutely essential to a corporate body making a generational impact. The enemy attempts to devalue each person and their contribution ultimately incapacitating the Church! The average person really doesn’t believe he can make an impact on his generation. We really don’t expect to make an impact on our generation. This is the fruit of the warfare we have against our individual callings and pre-ordained assignments!

SUNDAY, May 5

Scripture: Ephesians 4:5-7

Verses 5-7 say, “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” God did not call us and assign us specific works to accomplish without guaranteeing us the ability to do them. This ability is called **grace**. Verse 7 is explicit when it declares, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” When we stand at the Judgment Seat of God not one person will have a single excuse for not accomplishing everything assigned. That means we need to realize the value God places on us individually and commit to making our corporate contribution enabling the Church to impact a generation. How do you see yourself in God’s eyes? How do you see your assignment? Do you believe in your heart that you have been called to make a very important contribution to the kingdom and possibly impact a generation?

MONDAY, May 6

Scripture: Ephesians 4:8-13

The whole purpose of five-fold ministry exists for one reason – to help each individual achieve the anointing that parallels their assignment so they may accomplish their pre-assigned works and contribute to God’s purpose in the earth. The only way we, as five-fold ministries, will be able to stand in the Judgment is to point to those whom we have enabled, equipped and empowered to accomplish God’s purpose and call. We stand or fall based on the growth of the people to whom we minister. Can you imagine standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ and giving an account for the **grace** you’ve been given to accomplish your gift when the testimony against you consists of the retarded church to which you were assigned. When we realize God’s five-fold ministry has a very strong purpose and that purpose is **not** the building of their own kingdoms, but the development of each individual member into the full measure of their gifting and calling, then perhaps we can see “Early Church” manifestations!

TUESDAY, May 7

Scripture: Ephesians 4:14-15

Verses 14 and 15 tell us, “...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ --” The five-fold ministry exists to demonstrate by example the difference between the holy and the profane. If we cannot show people what is right and what is wrong so they can judge or discern the difference then we have absolutely failed. A perfect example of that is how church people vote in elections. If the ministry is not doing its job then there is very little discernment concerning choosing government leaders. The result appears when our leaders make

choices which bring judgment on the land. Look at the condition of our nation. The condition of our nation is a product of the condition of the Church. If we perceive our nation is in trouble, then we should understand we got here because churches couldn't accurately discern the difference between right and wrong.

WEDNESDAY, May 8

Scripture: Ephesians 4:16

Verse 16 says, "...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." The five-fold ministry has a call and it's to unite not separate the Church. Will God hold the five-fold ministry accountable for unifying and not separating the Church? He certainly will. If that is the case, then we need to ask ourselves – are we contributing to unity and harmony in the Church? What are we teaching God's people? Are we teaching them the necessity of doing what Jesus prayed in John 19 and really loving each other? Are we giving them the idea, by our example, its okay to break covenantal relationship, split and separate just because we have a disagreement. The five-fold ministry may be the ones in the biggest trouble on Judgment Day. Let's read God's word and start acting on it. Now there is a novel idea.

THURSDAY, May 9

Scripture: Second Timothy 1:6-8

Second Timothy 1:6-8 says, "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,...." Every individual has a calling and pre-ordained works God has assigned as a contribution to the body of Christ. Our individual calling demands a certain level of anointing or power to accomplish. The power to accomplish our calling demands a preparational price tag which the apostle Paul, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, termed "suffering" "warfare" "resistance" or "adversity". The general idea is, once we embrace the call of God on our life we will be facing a significant increase in personal warfare? What are we doing? Are we really preparing? Are we ready to walk it out? Or are we just looking for a nice little church where we can sit and placate our conscience on Sunday morning without really fulfilling what God called us to do? If that is the case, we are taking spiritual tranquilizers and one day when we wake up it may likely be to late!

FRIDAY, May 10

Scripture: Second Timothy 1:9

Verse 9 says, "...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,...." Our calling is holy. How holy are we? Are we embracing our calling? If we are embracing our calling, then surely we realize the adversity required to qualify for the power is developing our character to handle the call. In days gone by, when leadership failed, have we not had too much charisma with too little character resulting in personal failure bringing shame on the Church and not accomplishing all God has for us to do? We must realize and embrace the full magnitude of the price necessary to carry out what God has called us to do!

SATURDAY, May 11

Scripture: Matthew 12:38-42

In Matthew 12:38-42 Jesus made it very clear we have a generational call. He said both the men of Nineveh and the queen of Sheba had the same thing in common – they would rise and declare, out of their own life, judgment on the generation to which Jesus ministered. Now what was the difference between what they did and what the generation hearing the Lord Jesus failed to do? The men of Nineveh and the queen of Sheba

demonstrated by their action they were **doers** of God's word. The generation who heard Jesus preach did not. With that in view we must ask ourselves how much action are we placing behind the call of God on us individually and corporately? If we are Sunday Wednesday Christians or if we are not applying any shoe leather toward our call then we may wake up finding ourselves having way to much in common with the generation hearing Jesus.

SUNDAY, May 12

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Scripture: Matthew 12:43-45

Every call has three aspects – generational, corporate and individual. Jesus taught we would be better off to have never heard His words than once to have heard them not to do them! Are we doing God's word? If we are not **doing** God's word then we have a lot more to answer for than we could ever give answers on the Day of Judgment. God takes our gifting and calling very serious. He takes very seriously the **grace** He gave us to accomplish that gifting and calling, so it is time we faced what He has for us in that dimension. There comes a season when God demands the Church begin to move toward their gifting or forfeit the calling to the next generation! It feels like we are in such a season.

MONDAY, May 13

Scripture: Matthew 12:22-27

In Matthew 12:22-27 we have what is considered a generational failure. The interesting thing about generational failures is that it is possible for them to be redeemed. The redemption can also be a two-edged sword. In the process of redemption, what the second generation accomplishes simultaneously becomes judgment for failures of the first. Moses' generation failed to take the Promised Land. Joshua's generation learned what they had to do from Moses' generational failure - and they took the Promised Land. If we learn from our forefather's mistakes, then we can certainly make a contribution that will help redeem them. Jesus promised when there is generational failure our children would be our judges. Let's not forfeit our generational call only to see our children embrace and carry it out.

TUESDAY, May 14

Scripture: Numbers 14:26-29

In Numbers 14:26-29 we see the fruit of a generational failure. God speaks specifically to Moses' generation in verses 26-28 and very clearly addresses the issue of their rebellion. The Bible says, "Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who murmur against Me? I have heard the murmurings which the children of Israel murmur against Me. Say to them, "As I live," says the LORD, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:...."'” Joshua's generation learned from their father's failures and when Joshua extended the sword he did not bring it back until total victory was accomplished. It may be possible that we are observing such an opportunity in U S national politics. The failure to dispense with one of the leading terrorists in the world during the Iraqi war in the early '90's may now have become an assignment for a President's son. This may be God's hand demonstrating a Divine principle to the Church. If the Lord is revealing, it can only be because we must utilize it. If this is the case on the national level, should we not expect God to do something similar in the Church?

WEDNESDAY, May 15

Scripture: Numbers 13:30-33

Moses' generation failed because when they encountered the giants it appeared to them the giants were way to big and imposing for them to overcome. The giants looked insurmountable! Do we not face the same thing today in how we see our gifting and calling? Don't we look at ourselves as not really capable of impacting a generation? Do we not face the same giants today attempting to block our promised manifestations? The giants still represent demonic assignments yet unchanged. They are as consistently determined against our generation as

they were against Moses'. At this point, it seems they have been equally successful. Isn't it time we made a choice and deal with the giants who are attempting to discredit and diminish our gifting and calling? God has a contribution for us to make and we need to be willing to step out and make it without self-destructing in strife!

THURSDAY, May 16

Scripture: Numbers 13:22; Joshua 15:13 and 14:26-32

The grandfather of all the giants occupied the city of Hebron where Abram was first to shoulder his **call**. Joshua 15:13 tells us that Arba was the first of three generations. Anak became the second generation. In the third generation there was Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai. Just as God established His covenant with three generations, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the giants attempted to solidify their hold on territory with three generations. In order to overcome the giants, they not only had to face the adversary but to learn something from the failure of previous generations. God expects us to learn from the previous generation, Joshua learned ***once you extend the spear you do not withdraw it until*** your enemy is totally destroyed!

FRIDAY, May 17

Scripture: First Samuel 26:1-3

Just as Joshua had to redeem the failure of Moses' generation, David had to redeem the failure of Saul's generation. David spent a number of years traveling from cave to cave having all the characteristics of rotten leadership displayed before his face. During this period, he made a determination about how he would live - what he would do and what he would not do. He learned that to garner God's favor, he could not destroy the man who was attempting to kill him because God had anointed him and placed him in a leadership position. He would have to wait and let God do the removing. Perhaps one of the greatest lessons of all is when we live in the midst of generational failure and are forced to wait for God to end their term of office making what we learned from cave to cave essential. Only God can bring us out of the caves. Only God could plan the end of Saul and transition for David. David had to wait probably a lot longer than he would have liked. But God knew how long it would take to create the character necessary to be a man after His own heart. He spent every week of every month perfecting what David probably misunderstood. What was agony for David was in fact preparation to be a far different leader than Saul. The **call** is what determines the price and the suffering to build the necessary character. Do we feel we're ready to come out of the caves? The question is – how far and how deep has Christ-like quality permeated our life?

SATURDAY, May 18

Scripture: First Samuel 26:6-11

In First Samuel 26:6-11 David had the chance to kill Saul but chose instead to save his life. How difficult it is to redeem generational failure when the generation we have to redeem is trying to kill us. How much **grace** does it take to walk out such gifting? Some of David's men pleaded with him in verse 8 saying, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!" How often do we strike with the spear of our words when God wants us to save their life, redeem their failure and speak grace and mercy? Can we receive God's grace and mercy necessary for the depth of our calling? Surely the time has come. Cave dwelling may be coming to an end and if so, we have come to a season when ***character really counts!*** Are we thoroughly prepared?

SUNDAY, May 19

Scripture: Acts 17:24-26

One of the questions we have to settle is how important are we in God's call? If we have just a miniscule calling shouldn't that demand a very small price tag and not very much character development? It probably would unless you were caught in a generation that had a very high calling. You would still have to pay the price of character development generationally even though your contribution might be perceived as small. Acts 17:26 shows us how very important we are in the purpose and plan of God. It says, "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their habitations...." In the construction of this sentence the aorist participle is not later in time than the main verb – meaning God looked down through history at the condition of the nation *before* He determined who to create and bring to birth. The giftings and call are equal to the obstacles in your land. The condition of America in the 21st Century determined the gifting and anointing of those in the Church who live right now. The condition of Australia in the year 2002 determined the gifting and equipping of who God brought to birth and currently occupy the Church in Australia. What can we say concerning God's purposes? The fact we are alive today, whether we were born in a nation, or moved there at His direction, speaks of how much faith He has in us to make an impact on our nation and turn it back to God. We are absolutely essential. Our contribution is utterly necessary. The magnitude of importance of each person in the Church living up to our gifting and calling cannot be over emphasized. The determination of man's home preceded his creation in the Divine plan.

MONDAY, May 20

Scripture: Acts 5:14-16

These verses say, "And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so 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. Also 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." For years, actually decades, we have sought the power of the Holy Spirit to manifest in such a way as to duplicate what the Early Church experienced. We have asked God and sought for the same manifestations they experienced believing this to be our covenantal right. Certainly what we find the Early Church walking in is very much within the parameters of spiritual privilege if we can but qualify. The problem has not been a lack of our seeking God to do once again what He did in days of old. The problem is we have sought it not based on pattern, not recognizing perhaps there was a consistent covenantal relational issue God demanded before these manifestations became reality. We have looked to power and forgotten the preparational price.

TUESDAY, May 21

Scripture: Acts 5:12

Acts 5:12 says, "And 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." Is it possible there is a direct correlation between a congregation **in one accord** and the anointing manifesting in which no sickness or disease could stand? If the requirement was corporate unity and harmony then we could certainly change our focus to first achieving the biblical standard before demanding God heal everybody. We would at least know what is required to till the soil before we planted the seed of faith expecting God to perform again what He did in days of old. The only thing left is to search the scriptures to see if this is the continual pattern. If it is, then it is not enough to pray in faith and stand on God's covenant. We must begin to apply ourselves toward interpersonal relationships. Our faith may be great for a mighty move of the Spirit but how great is it to help us overcome offenses of our brothers and sisters?

WEDNESDAY, May 22

Scripture: Acts 4:31

Acts 4:31 says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31 records the second filling of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church. They had now possessed a double anointing and that double anointing carries them into some dramatic manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Who would not want the experience of verse 31? What congregation would not want to be filled with the Holy Spirit a second time and suddenly be empowered to speak the word of God with unflinching boldness? This sounds exactly like what we need when facing an obstinate and contrary government. But if we set our faith to believe for this boldness, is there a preparational requirement? If so, does it fit a pattern? When we answer this question we may be able to discern why it has taken so long to see the measure of God’s anointing in manifestation which the Early Church lived in for decades.

THURSDAY, May 23

Scripture: Acts 4:23-26

Verses 23-26 say, “And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: “Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.”’” So far we have two incidents in which major power manifestations are directly preceded by the body being **in one accord** – in harmony, unity and agreement. Possibly just two consecutive incidents are not enough. Perhaps we need more. But one thing we can note and state for certainty is that the potential for this pattern is definitely increasing. It is increasing to the point we need perhaps to take notice of the fact that when Jesus gave a commandment to love each other as He loved us – He wasn’t kidding. The outcome of our obedience on that issue may in fact determine whether or not we get power manifestations that parallel what the Early Church saw. Certainly the need for them is dramatic in our day.

FRIDAY, May 24

Scripture: Acts 3:1-6

In Acts 3:1-6 Peter encounters a lame man who has been in this condition for years. The man was begging for alms that he may survive. Peter looked intently at him and stated, “And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, ‘Look at us.’ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.’” Could we describe the anointing present to heal as a resident anointing in the house? Notice Peter does not have to pray and ask God to heal the lame man. He simply declares “such as I have, give I thee.” When you can make that declaration, you are living in or surrounded by a resident healing anointing. John was also there. He was very much a part of the process. This was certainly not limited to Peter. The Early Church had birthed a resident healing anointing in the house. It was so prevalent that the issue at that point was not “prayer” but a simple “proclamation” - in the name of Jesus rise and walk! If we find this resident anointing is preceded by the congregation being **in one accord** then perhaps we have found the root of our current resistance. We have sought God’s presence and power without considering any preparational price thinking when Jesus said, “it is finished” – that it was all complete and there was nothing left for us to do except pray and receive the anointing bought and paid for at the cross. Perhaps we missed the power of the process as a preparational pattern to be embraced.

SATURDAY, May 25

Scripture: Acts 2:46-47

Acts 2:46-47 says, “So 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, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” It should not be a surprise that the resident anointing birthed in the house displayed in Acts 3, is preceded by the congregation being **in one accord** in Acts 2:46-47. This is now the third incident in which this pattern consistently occurs. Surely we can speculate at this stage the Early Church learned what the preparational price for power involved. They had not only learned but determined to pay the price and possess. What level of unity do we have in our local churches? Are we satisfied with the level of power? If we’re not satisfied with the level of power perhaps the place we need to focus is not in covenantally seeking God for more manifestations, but in covenantally uniting with our brothers and sisters so we can duplicate the level of unity and harmony that the Early Church achieved. If we find this pattern consistent throughout the book of Acts then surely we have found a key that must be addressed before we proceed toward prophetic fulfillment.

SUNDAY, May 26

Scripture: Acts 2:4

Acts 2:4 records the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, “...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The Church began empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the last hundred years of Holy Spirit restoration, God has consistently for every **chronos** leadership generation widened the circle. Consistent inroads have been made in evangelical churches. Holy Spirit power is a product of embracing and using our prayer language which was given for the purpose we might relate to each other, overcome offenses and stay **in one accord**. Surely the pattern we have noticed will consistently continue. If it does, we have four consecutive witnesses in which power manifestations are all preceded by the body being in unity and harmony. If this is the case, perhaps we’ve found the place where we really need to focus.

MONDAY, May 27

Scripture: Acts 2:1

Acts 2:1 says, “Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” If the Church had to be **in one accord** to qualify for God’s manifestation of power, then we have discovered a pattern that now demands our total allegiance. Is it possible to seek for the same manifestations the Early Church enjoyed and totally deny and disregard the pattern they lived? Such inconsistency guarantees a faith failure when we pray and ask for Divine manifestations. We simply can no longer allow divisions, disharmony, criticism, judgment and strife now so prevalent in the body of Christ. It is hindering an end-time harvest. It is delaying a generational transfer of God’s anointing and it is literally postponing what God seeks to do in the Church. Will we stand before the Lord and give an account for using our faith for manifestations and not embracing the crucifixion of preparation? If so, we as a Church generation are in very deep spiritual trouble!

TUESDAY, May 28

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-3

In Ephesians 4:1-3 we are encouraged to walk worthy of our call. This passage says, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians is considered the pinnacle revelation of the New Testament Church. It is very apparent that unity and harmony is absolutely essential if the five-fold ministry is to ever bring the Church into the full measure of the stature of Jesus Christ. God’s purpose for the Church is to show the fullness of Christ to the world. That means doing everything the Early Church did – healing the sick – raising the dead – bringing people into deliverance from bondages – stilling their tribulatory storms and setting aflame the candle of the Holy

Spirit in their lives. Is it possible that we should have sought covenant relationships with each other rather than to build our faith for manifestations of the Holy Spirit? Perhaps we have more faith than we need for the manifestations, but God has withheld them because we haven't used that faith on our flesh to stay in agreement with each other. Is God after our heart in the issue of relationships? Is He demanding we love each other as He loved us? You can just about bank on it.

WEDNESDAY, May 29

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1

Verse 1 says, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,...." The Greek word for "walk" means the trail you have left behind. When we look behind us what is the trail of relationships we have left? Have we left a trail of harmony or have we left a trail of division and strife? Sometimes when we are prophetic we don't have any choice but to leave a trail of strife because the Church refuses to hear what God is giving through us. But the ultimate question is really have we endeavored to live in peace with all men? This, of course, is the admonition of Ephesians 5. Shall we then continue seeking for the power of God apart from the necessity of loving each other as Jesus loved us? When Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment that you love one another as I have loved you", is it possible this commandment is preparational, a seedbed, or a platform for the manifestations of the Holy Spirit? It would appear from Acts chapters 1-5 that is certainly the case. Now it becomes incumbent on us to practice it. We need to use our faith on our flesh – to love each other. Perhaps then we can have the power manifestations for which we have been seeking.

THURSDAY, May 30

Scripture: Psalm 119:165

Psalm 119:165 is one of the ways we can contribute to a walk worthy of our calling. Verse 165 says, "Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble." The King James says, "...nothing shall offend them." So the commitment which brings about overcoming offenses is to **do** God's word. If we choose God's word and His pattern that we've uncovered in Acts then we have no choice but to love each other. Surely God's word was given for us to overcome our flesh. These are the people of whom God is **not ashamed** in Hebrews chapter 11. If we can't do the simplest of things – love each other in the covenant community of the Church – then God is actually ashamed to be called our God. It's time we live up to the biblical pattern which is a matter of choice.

FRIDAY, May 31

Scripture: Isaiah 14:12-14

Perhaps the reason we have had such warfare in embracing and walking out this pattern is the enemy's ability to offend exceeds our commitment to love! If our adversary understands full well how God loves to pour out His power on the Church and fully realizes the greatest point of resistance will come in our interpersonal relationships, then we can expect relational warfare. Isaiah 14 shows us how the worship leader of heaven became the enemy of all mankind. We are told in Isaiah 14:12-14, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: '**I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High.'" These five "**I wills**" that caused Lucifer to become Satan were actually transferred to man when Adam bowed his knee and yielded to Satan. At that point being born on this planet meant humans inherited five seeds of rebellion. All men were now born in sin. The sad fact is Romans 5:12 says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned --...." Adam allowed the seeds of Satan to be sown in mankind. The only way not to have the five "**I wills**" is to not be born! Once we realize all of us have them and they correspond to the giants of Numbers 13, we can begin to look

at their manifestations with an entirely different eye. We can look at them and study them in order to understand how the enemy will attempt to offend keeping us from obtaining our personal and corporate Promised Land! If we can bring a body of believers into unity and harmony then we can have the manifestations of the Holy Spirit the Early Church had. Our warfare is in getting into agreement and staying in harmony. We have giants to fight in that area and specifically five of them corresponding to the five seeds that turned Lucifer into Satan - he has sown them in us – there is no way to get around it – we’ve all got them - and it is time we extended each other some mercy and grace when they surface and manifest. Then and only then can we walk **in one accord** and prepare for the full visitation of the Holy Spirit.

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ITINERARY
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May 2-15

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**When surrounded by giants
What is your defense?
Link arms with the brethren
And build up the fence !**

**For in corporate oneness
There is strength to prevail
Over each of the giants
Setting out to assail**

**Those who stayed linked with
“family”
Find great substance to grow
They’ll emerge then victorious
Casting off every foe**

Jayne Houghton