

Acts 1:9-14  
One Accord

There is nothing more destructive to the community of faith than division, a lack of unity or oneness. Does not matter the reason for disunity the truth remains that a house divided cannot endure. **Mark 3:24-25** “<sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.” **ESV** Not only is it destructive, but God also has a distain for those who spread discord, which produces disunity. **Proverbs 6:16, 19** “<sup>16</sup> There are six things the Lord hates— no, seven things he detests....<sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family.” **NLT** And if you weren’t aware, we are a family. Through faith in Jesus, we are brothers and sisters. Church, unity is a powerful force. A people unified around the mission of our Lord Jesus the Christ become a powerful conduit of the Holy Spirit and as it concerns the will of God, there is nothing they cannot accomplish. Jesus, knowing this, prayed for our unity. **John 17:21-23** “<sup>21</sup> I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. <sup>22</sup> I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.” **CEB** Though the Greek word here for unity is different, the intent is the same. More on that momentarily. In preparing this message it became clear to me that any community of faith not on one accord will

eventually fail and this failure will not be due to the absence of the power of the Holy Spirit but rather due to competing interests held by the individuals of that community. Why am I sharing this today. Well, we are entering a phase of life together that will require we fight to stay on one accord. This phase we are entering will bring loss and, in my experience, the tendency for humans in community when facing loss is to get stuck in the loss and discount the opportunity for new life the loss brings. In our text this morning those gathered had experience Jesus death, his resurrection, and now they are standing there watching him ascend, and these disciples have a decision to make. Will they stay together, wait and trust God or will they descend into disunity? No, they stay together, wait and trust God. This morning I want to share how they accomplished this.

**First and obvious thing. They were on one accord. V14 a** <sup>14</sup> "All these with one accord". The fact that they were all together, not just physically, but in purpose and practice is critical. You can be in the same space as someone physically, but mentally, emotional, spiritually find that you and that person are in two different places. **We do well not to ignore in the history of the early church how being on one accord defined their existence and resulted in their effectiveness.** One accord, a Greek compound word that means to rush along in unison. Watch the text. Jesus ascends and they are just standing there looking up (expound)....They arrive, take their places, no confusion, no second guessing, no arguing or posturing. One accord.

**Acts 2:1-4, 46-47** "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with *one accord* in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,

and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” ...<sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” **NKJV**

**Acts 5:12-14** “<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. <sup>14</sup>And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,” **NKJV**

**Second and final thing. The thing I am convinced resulted in them being on one accord. They committed themselves to the same activity. A most powerful activity, prayer. V14b** “were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” Everybody was praying. I imagine some silently, some whispering, others very vocally, even some with tears. But the point is not how they were praying but what they were praying together and for ten days. Given the context I am convinced it could not have been but two things. Come Holy Spirit or come Lord Jesus. Or maybe both were being prayed. Hear me! While you are wait if you pray nothing more than come Holy Spirit or come Lord Jesus, or both you do well. **But the truth of the matter this morning is that far too many of us don’t pray at all or very little. And when this is our reality,**

everything but the Holy Spirit fills us. What are you full of this morning? Fear, disappointment, anger, jealousy, envy, doubt, lust, etc. I dare you. I double dog dare you to start praying and to keep praying come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus.

**Luke 18:1-6** “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?” **ESV**

I choose to believe that his disciples in that room remembered this teaching of Jesus in their time of waiting. Disappointed, they pray...frustrated, they pray...discouraged, they pray...fearful, they pray...doubting even, they pray...confused, they pray...in emotional pain, they pray! Church, pray! In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**