

Can Two Walk Together, Except They Be Agreed?

A Pentecost 2017 message by Marie Barnes

Before getting started here let's be sure to pause and ask our Father for a word of wisdom. The key is to always ask in faith. He will give you what you need, when you need it, **if** you ask, (Matt 7:7, James 1:5-8)

Scriptures will testify that our Father is in control. The world around us may look at times like the evil-doers have things wrapped up rather nicely the way they want it. But Father allows that "mystery of iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7) to work even today. And Psalm 37 tells us He will put a sudden and permanent end to the wicked and all of their wickedness, at the right time.

However, as Bible students we might sometimes get a little bit antsy, wondering when the end is going to come and what specifically we're supposed to do when the time arrives. While we know the general outline of what's going to happen in the end, we don't yet know all of the fine details and specifics. In short, we do not yet have our personal marching orders from the Lord (where to be, what time to be there, what to say, etc.).

Yet we know everything will transpire just as He said it would, exactly *when* He wants it to, exactly *how* He wants it to, and exactly *with whom* He wants it to. It's our job to stay focused on the task at hand, and to patiently watch as world events line up according to His Word. The good news is that He tells us He won't make a move without telling us about it in advance. And that's exactly what we're going to learn about in this study.

Higher Moral Character

Let's start in the Book of Amos. Amos means "burden." Why a burden? Because this book tells us that God requires righteous behavior from those who call themselves His children. And it tells us that He's willing to chasten His children in order to draw them back to Himself.

Indeed, Revelation 3:19 tells us as many as He loves He rebukes and chastens. That means He corrects us when we get off course. Therefore He wants us to be zealous for His truths, (really dig them out and carry them forth), and repent when we allow the flesh to pull us away from His truths, or from our duties to Him.

Turn to Amos 3:1 and let's take a look at how God feels about His kids that just don't listen to His instructions.

Amos 3:1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

This is God speaking here, not Amos. God is saying "You listen up!" And it's addressed to all Israel, meaning all of the tribes. That's the entire house.

Amos 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

This is the family through which God Himself would come (Emmanuel – God with us). Israel is His immediate earthly family. So He expects a bit more from us than from His other kids.

However, always keep in mind that today His earthly family consists of "***Whomsoever will call upon the name of the Lord... shall be saved***" (Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21.) In other words His immediately earthly family today is made up of whomsoever (of any race) that dwells in the Body of Christ. If they have faith in Christ, they're considered to be "grafted" in to His family body, Israel (Romans 11:17-21). So all who truly believe in Christ are now part of His eternal family.

Those in His eternal family – the Body of Christ -- are considered to be holy, chosen, and are a special people unto Him, above all other peoples. As it's written of the family house of Israel in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

And as it's written of the gentile Christians in the New Testament:

Eph 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

As you can see, our heavenly Father expects His chosen people – the many-membered Body of Christ -- to be of a *higher moral character* than of all the other people on the face of the earth. In other words, He expects more out of us. We're not above all other peoples in status, or race, or position. We're not here to rule over anyone. Instead we're here to *set the right example* for everyone else. And we can't do that if we're acting just like the heathen.

Being chosen and walking within the body of Christ comes with rules, promises, blessings and some very specific marching orders. These marching orders are the same for all of us. We're to conduct ourselves in a manner that the other families of this world will be drawn to. In setting the right example for others, you help draw them back to our heavenly Father and into His eternal family household. God's Word tells us in clear and unequivocal terms how we're to conduct ourselves in and among other people.

Being a part of an elite group of people – and you can't get any more elite than the body of Christ -- always comes with standards and restrictions. When I was in the Navy one of the first things we were taught was how to conduct ourselves as members of the Armed Forces. Take a look at some of those standards:

RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL CONDUCT IN THE ARMED FORCES -- Military life is fundamentally different from civilian life. The military has its own laws, rules, customs, and traditions, including numerous restrictions on personal behavior that would not be required in civilian society. These are necessary because military units and personnel must maintain the high standards of morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion that are essential for combat effectiveness.

Now, re-read the above paragraph, but take the following three terms -- "ARMED FORCES", "military life" and "The military" -- and substitute the term "***The Body of Christ***" in their place. And take the term "military units and personnel" and substitute the term "***God's chosen elect***" in its place.

Let's look at the same standards again, with those substitutions:

RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL CONDUCT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST – The body of Christ is fundamentally different from civilian life. The body of Christ has its own laws, rules, customs, and traditions, including numerous restrictions on personal behavior, that would not be

required in civilian society. These are necessary because God's chosen elect must maintain the high standards of morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion that are essential for combat effectiveness.

My point is that God has high standards for those in The Body of Christ, much like the standards of our own military armies. He expects more out of us. Why? For the very same reason our military expects high standards of morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion from their members... *it is essential for combat effectiveness.* In this same light, here's just a small taste of our Father's orders to us:

Proverbs 4:23-27 -- Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil."

Or, as it's put more succinctly by Christ Himself, in the New Testament:

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

This is called *discipline*, beloved. And it's crucial that we exercise discipline in His Word in our daily lives. After all, we know from Mark 13, Luke 21, Matthew 24, and a host of other Scriptures that Satan and his fallen angels will come to this earth *first*, before Jesus Christ's Second Advent. In other words, there's an intense spiritual battle coming. Satan and his fallen angels are coming to this earth to "make war with the saints" (Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:7) and to "deceive the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). And if we're not thoroughly disciplined in God's Word when they get here, He simply can't use us. We won't be "combat ready."

That's crucial to understand, because we know from the Scriptures that when Satan and his fallen angels arrive, *they're* going to be highly disciplined in the implementation of *their* battle plan (Rev. 17:12-13; Joel 2:4-9).

As it's written in Joel 2:7-8, "*They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust [i.e., jostle] another; they shall walk every one in his path...*" And as it's written in Revelation 17:13, "*These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*"

In other words, they're going to be highly disciplined soldiers of Satan, *single-minded* in their dedication to take down God's elect and to deceive the whole world in the process, acting in unison to pull as many people as possible into the beast system under Satan's control.

And because our enemy is so highly disciplined, we cannot allow *lack of discipline on our part* to get in our way – particularly failure to tame the weaknesses of the flesh (and of the spirit) while we still have a chance to do so.

We must also be disciplined in continual growth in His Word. As it's also written, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (II Timothy 2:15).

If we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard – right now -- we won't be combat ready when the enemy finally arrives. And our heavenly Father won't be able to use us in the great spiritual battle to come. We'll be of no use to Him in His great plan to save His children.

The world around us may not know and understand the nature of the battle ahead. But as God's elect, we *do* know and understand. And because we know what's coming, we should be holding ourselves to a higher standard than the people of the world around us hold themselves to, just as our military personnel must hold themselves to a higher standard of "*morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion*" than the civilian world.

Continuing in Amos 3:2 where God states, "***therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities***".

The word "iniquities" here is translated from the Hebrew word *avon* (see Strong's #5771 and #5773). It means perversity, moral evil, and to make crooked. There will come a time when God will punish His chosen People – yes, even those of the body of Christ -- for all they have made crooked. Yes, He is going to punish those nasty little Kenites, too. But remember, He's talking to all of Israel here in Amos chapter 3. And in New Testament times, that means He's talking to *all of the members of the body of Christ*.

So, at this point you have to ask yourself, have you made something crooked in your life? If so, then get it straightened out, and get back on track, *now*, while there's still time. Why? Because when Satan and his fallen angels arrive, you

don't want to find yourselves stumbled with flesh weaknesses and lack of moral standards and discipline that have reduced your spiritual *combat effectiveness*.

Do you remember how God whittled the combat-ready troops of Israel down from 32,000 men to only 300 men during Gideon's fight with the Midianites and the Amalekites? Do you realize that the Midianites and Amalekites are symbolic of the locust army of Satan? As it's written, "*And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers [i.e., locusts] for multitude...*" (Judges 7:12).

In the battle to come, there will be some 7 billion people on this earth unwittingly clinging to Satan and his fallen angels, and pledging their fealty to them, thinking they are God and His angels. And there will be only 7,000 of God's very elect who will not bow a knee to the enemy, followed by the 144,000 elect along with the kings and queens of the ethnos. In other words, physically speaking we'll be dramatically outnumbered, just as Gideon's 300 troops were. As the Scripture tells us in Mark 13:13, "*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*"

That endurance takes *discipline*, beloved. You have to endure all of the way to the end to be saved. I can't think of any greater humiliation than to end up standing outside the door of the kingdom wedding with all those who were deceived – with the "fearful and unbelieving..." with the "whoremongers and sorcerers"...with the "idolaters and liars" and with all those who joined hands with Satan and sang *We are the World* – just because I couldn't let go of my little ole flesh weakness that was making my life crooked and that was robbing me of the kind of discipline necessary to wage effective spiritual warfare against Satan and his fallen angels when they get here.

At the time of Christ's arrival, I do not want to hear Christ say to me, "I never knew you." Instead, I want to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I'm not preaching repentance here. But if the shoe fits, wear it (and fix the problem while there's still time)!

Can Two Walk Together Except They Be Agreed?

As we've seen in Amos 3:2 above, our heavenly Father warns us that He's going to correct His People (i.e., meaning Christians, prophetically) for all of their iniquities. This means He's going to correct us for our crooked and undisciplined

ways, as a means of getting us back into shape so we can serve Him. Yes, he chastises those He loves. And then, in the very next verse, He asks a vital and very specific question, which is what we came here for:

***Amos 3:3* Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

In Biblical numerics, the number two represents *division*, *union* and *witnessing*. When you come to Christ and embrace the Gospel message, you become united with God the Father through Jesus Christ. But that same uniting with God actually *divides* you from the world and its ways.

Why? Because in order to *walk* with Him, you have to be in *agreement* with Him. And if you agree with Him, that automatically puts you at odds with the world and its ways. It divides you from the world. As it's written, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (1 John 2:15).

Christ also sent his disciples out "two by two" to witness the Gospel message to the world. In other words, when bringing forth the Gospel message Christians were (and still are) to stand in a *united front* before the world. There is strength in unity, with each witness confirming the truth. So in terms of witnessing, the number two also means *augmented strength* through unity. We are to be united with Him, and united with each other *in* Him. And that too takes discipline on our parts.

What does this have to do with the phrase "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Well, that's exactly what we're going to discover in this study. So let's jump over to Acts chapter one for just a moment, and take a quick look at a very specific example of a disciplined walk with Christ that led to the Gospel message being brought to men from every nation on the earth.

Here, St. Paul is writing about the events during the forty days after Christ's resurrection, followed by the ten days that would lead to the very first Pentecost:

Act 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

For 40 days after His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus "showed Himself alive" to his disciples, and taught them of what was to come.

Act 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Here, He gives them very specific marching orders, so to speak. They were not to depart from Jerusalem, but instead, they were to wait in that city for the promise of the Father, which was the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

You can start thinking prophetically, here, if you'd like. The time is coming when God's elect will be delivered up to those trials described in Mark 13, and the Holy Spirit will fill us with wisdom and will speak Father's message *through our mouths* to the assembled peoples of this world. In other words, just as the apostles were "baptized with the Holy Ghost" to speak God's Wisdom to the assembled crowds, so shall we be in the final days of this flesh earth age.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Act 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Christ told His disciples they'd be witnesses unto Him, not just in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, but also "unto the uttermost part of the earth."

So there's that number two we spoke of earlier – which is to say, the number of unity and witness. Those who were aligned with Christ, and were faithfully following His very specific orders, would become His *witnesses to the world* once the Holy Spirit arrived and empowered them. It will be the same in the final days of this flesh generation when the Holy Spirit speaks through the Father's elect. You can bank on it. This example is for us. And what happened? As it's written:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

The phrase “with one accord in one place” means they were working together, and of a single mind. It actually means “unanimously, with one mind.” In other words, they were working together toward a singular goal on behalf of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

They were all in Jerusalem, just as they were supposed to be, at the same time and at the same place. Nothing kept them from being where they were instructed to be (i.e., in Jerusalem) and doing what they were supposed to be doing at that time i.e., celebrating the Feast of Weeks, which is now known as the Pentecost. In other words, they were acting in unison and with self-discipline on Christ’s behalf, waiting for His promised appearance in the form of the Holy Spirit to take place.

Which brings us back to the question, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” The answer is no. But the disciples were clearly walking in agreement with the Lord, and with each other. They were single-mindedly focused on the task at hand, which was wait on the Lord in Jerusalem, and to serve Him as they waited. I suppose they could have taken the day off and gone fishing. After all, it was a national holiday! But they didn’t. They stayed disciplined in God’s Word. They were keeping the Lord’s Holy Day. The next three verses tell us what happened:

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When God entered the room as a mighty wind He delivered on His promise, the promise of the Holy Spirit, the promise that He would not leave us comfortless, which is to say parentless, (John 14:16-18). He wouldn’t abandon us and leave us to figure things out for ourselves. Christ gave His disciples specific instructions in Acts 1:4, and they followed those instructions with discipline. And as a result of that disciplined single-mindedness God fulfilled His promise to them.

Where is Our “Jerusalem” Today?

The disciples were specifically told by Christ not to depart Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise already given them, the promise of the Holy Spirit. But does this apply to us today? After all, we’re not in Jerusalem. In fact, the Holy Scripture tells us to flee Jerusalem in the final days of this flesh earth age. As it’s written:

Matt 24: 15-16 that when we see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand): *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.*

Jerusalem was the capital of Judaea. So, why were the Disciples of Christ instructed not to leave Jerusalem, while *we* living in this final generation are told to flee Jerusalem? What do we do? The answer to that question is found in raising yourself up to a little higher level of thinking:

The word Jerusalem means “habitation of peace.” Who is our Habitation of Peace today? It’s *not* a physical city. It’s not Jerusalem. It’s Christ and His many-membered Body – the true temple of God. That’s the “Jerusalem” we’re not supposed to leave while we await our marching orders from Christ.

You see, after the resurrection, the disciples were not supposed to leave the *physical* Jerusalem, because it would be at that geographical locale that they would start building the *spiritual* Jerusalem, which is to say, the Body of Christ, the true Temple of God. And in the final days of this flesh generation we’re not to leave that *spiritual* Jerusalem, which is to say, the Body of Christ, because it’s our Habitation of Peace. While the world roils in physical and spiritual turmoil, we have relative peace in that disciplined body with Christ as our Head.

If we become undisciplined and leave the Body of Christ, we’ll never be given that which *is essential for combat effectiveness*. We’ll never be given our instructions, our marching orders, like the Disciples of Christ were given by Jesus just 10 days before that first Pentecost day.

Getting Our Marching Orders

Getting back to that question in *Amos 3:3*, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” God is asking, “Can two people meet at a specific place and at a specific time and for a specific purpose, unless they first agree on where and when to meet, and for what reason?” In other words, for the meeting to take place everything has

to be prearranged, just like everything was prearranged for the disciples to stay in Jerusalem before that first Pentecost took place.

Father knows we're not going to understand our marching orders *unless He gives them to us*. By analogy, if I needed a ride from you after I dropped my car off at the local car repair shop, but I failed to tell you I needed you to meet me at 9 a.m. at the repair shop on west main street, not east main street, I'd probably end up walking home. Right? Two must be operating in agreement, or they cannot accomplish a thing.

You might ask then, how do we know He'll instruct us as to the specific place, and time, and exact spot He wants us in the final days of this flesh earth age? Because He *said* he would. Let's jump down to Amos 3:7.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

He won't make a move without revealing it to you at the proper time. In just a moment, we'll come back to who His "servants the prophets" are today. But first...

How does He instruct us where to be and when to be there today? He does it the same exact way He did with His disciples. Through Christ, the Living Word of God, our Father told His disciples not to depart Jerusalem, but to wait for the Holy Spirit to be given them as promised. Christ is still the Word of God today, right? And we will be given instructions from this very same Word of God regarding a specific place and a specific time to carry out our destiny on behalf of the Lord – at which time the Holy Spirit will speak through us, just as it did on that very first Pentecost day after His resurrection.

You might ask then, when will that be? Are you chomping at the bit? Do you want to know the place and the time *right now*? Let's see what Christ said to the disciples when they asked. Let's take another quick look at Acts 1:3 where Luke is speaking of Christ:

Acts 1:3 To whom also He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

So, Jesus had showed Himself alive after His crucifixion and resurrection by many infallible proofs for 40 days after His Passion, (and spoke to His apostles – Whom

He had chosen, vs 2), of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. They were all witness to Him being alive. They saw Him, they spoke with Him, and they touched Him. Go to verse 6.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

They wanted to know the same thing *we* want to know. Is it time yet? Is it now?

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

He's saying have faith! Know that God is in control. It's all in God's power. He will tell you what, when, and where. He will tell you, but only *when it's time for you to know*.

The word "seasons" in Acts 1:7 above is translated from the Greek word *kairos* (see Strong's #G2540). It means "a set time" or "the proper time." It's referring to Psalm 102:13 where prophetically the Psalmist is speaking of the "set time" of Christ's Second Advent, when we will have been delivered up before the antichrist and our Lord and Savior will return to this earth with His great army of righteous angels to set things right again. We don't know the "set time" but God does. It will be the proper time. And He is preparing us for it, even now, *if* we continue with Him in discipline in that many-membered Body of Christ, our "Jerusalem."

Continuing in our review of Acts:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We've already read of the power the disciples received in Acts 2: 2-4 on Pentecost Day. When Almighty God entered that room as a mighty rushing wind, He filled His disciples with His Holy Spirit and they taught the Word of God. And all the people there understood it in their own language!

Well, it's going to happen *again*, at Christ's Second Advent, when His faithful servants are delivered up before the antichrist and the Holy Spirit speaks through them. As it's written in Luke 21:12-15:

“But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.”

The lesson here is that the things that happened to the disciples were meant specifically for our examples, including receiving this type of power from the Holy Spirit, at a specific place, and a specific time that, for us, has yet to come to pass and has yet to be revealed. We don't yet know when. But we do know *where* we're supposed to be in order for the Holy Spirit to “baptize” us with that same power of understanding. We're supposed to be in the true Body of Christ.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

The 40th day, spoken of in verse 3, is the same day here that Jesus was taken up in that great cloud of witnesses that came and received Him out of His apostle's sight.

The Apostles were told not to depart Jerusalem, but to wait there for the Holy Spirit. They were not told when that would be. Jesus never said, “Ok, in ten more days from now, in the temple, in Jerusalem, at 9 o'clock in the morning, this is what's going to happen.” They had previously been given the promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14:18 and then simply told to stay in Jerusalem and to wait for It. This, just as we're told to stay in our “habitation of peace” – the body of Christ – and wait for our marching orders while we study the Word with discipline and set the right example for others.

Even after they asked Jesus if this was the time He was going to restore the kingdom, all Jesus told them was it wasn't for them to know the set time, only our Father knows that. We don't know the set time either. But when it's time, He'll tell us. As we've seen, *He'll reveal His secret unto His servants the prophets* (Amos 3:7).

In the meantime, our heavenly Father does allow those of us in the true Body of Christ to be given the information which *is essential for combat effectiveness*. Here are just a few of the things we do know even now, from study:

- We know from Jeremiah 24:2 and Luke 21:29-33 that the naughty figs were re-planted in that Middle East land of Israel in 1948.
- We know that this generation will not pass until all the things from Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 comes to pass.
- If you've studied very long with Shepherds Chapel you know we're in the 5th trump and getting ready to move into the 6th trump. And you know who arrives during that 6th trump.
- We know there is a locust season that lasts five months (Rev 9:5).
- And we know we'll have tribulation for ten days (Rev 2:10).
- We know the two witnesses will be killed by Satan and leave their bodies for three and a half days in the streets of Jerusalem (Rev 11).
- And we know that Christ returns at that point.

When you look at the sequence of events above you should see the broad-brush strokes getting smaller and filling in more and more detail as we grow closer to the end.

For example, in the 1800's nobody knew May 15, 1948 would be a bench mark for us. Christians of that time wouldn't have been able to relate it to the parable of the fig tree because Father hadn't brought it to pass yet. Once He brought it to pass, that piece of the puzzle clicked into place and the body of Christ got a little wiser.

The Body of Christ is the place in which you will receive your marching orders, to know the *place* He wants you to be at and the *time* He wants you to be there. No marching orders will be given to those operating outside of the body of Christ, which is to say, not walking together with Him, single-mindedly united in agreement.

The disciples waited in Jerusalem, as they were instructed to do, and then 10 days later God sent the Holy Spirit to speak through them. And as the Holy Spirit began to teach through them, crowds of people gathered around them (Acts 2:6). The Scripture tells us these were "devout men, out of every nation under heaven." In other words, the Gospel went out to people who would then carry it back to their

part of the world. And Christianity was essentially born on that precious day, and began to spread to the world at large.

But the point is, it's all the notice they received: Stay here and wait for the Holy Spirit to come to you. And the Holy Spirit did indeed come, on that very first Pentecost Day. Likewise, we're now told to stay within the body of Christ and wait for Him to give us our specific marching orders.

Interestingly, we're also told of a 10 day period in Revelation 2:10, where it's written, "*Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*"

That's leading up to the trials of Mark 13:9-11, during which time Father sends His Holy Spirit to speak through His servants. Folks, that's not the time to be undisciplined. That's the time to have your discipline so fully developed that nothing can shake you – nothing can pull you out of the Body of Christ.

Who Are His Servants, the Prophets?

Now let's talk about those servants and prophets we read about in Amos 3:7 -- the one's our heavenly Father reveals His secrets to. How does He do that? I'm sure you already know the answer to that. It's the same way He did with His disciples at Pentecost. He pours His Spirit upon them.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Our heavenly Father will pour out His Spirit of truth on us, and fill in all of the grey areas with clarity.

That time frame of "those days" is the time of Jacobs's troubles, meaning the tribulation of the antichrist. It covers the sequence of events I listed above. It spans from the planting of the naughty figs and goes right up to Christ's return. It includes this period of time we're in *right now*, where Father is already utilizing

some of His elect to reveal through current events the way the prophecies of God are coming to pass and aligning with the Holy Scriptures.

The sons and daughters, the old men, and young men, those servants and handmaids of Joel chapter 2 *are His elect in this end generation*. In other words, it's *you*.

Yes, God starts utilizing some of His elect even now, to help bring forth His Word as current events unfold. So it's important to understand that part of our marching orders today involves praying for those who serve the Body of Christ. As St. Paul stated in Ephesians 6:18, "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...*" Do you do that? You should, because He's bringing His servants forth and utilizing them to help keep *you* on the right path and in the right camp until He personally calls *you* forth and gives you *your* marching orders. And that time is soon upon us.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4: 11-12, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

We're supposed to edify, to teach, to make the body of Christ better in all aspects. We all make up the body and we should all be contributing to it and supporting it. We should be praying for, and even thanking those God is utilizing for our benefit.

Paul wasn't blinded on the road to Damascus for *his* benefit. Peter didn't reject Christ three times for *his* benefit. These things were done for *our* benefit. Is there someone you know teaching you something for your benefit? Then thank them. And thank God for them. And pray for them.

Some may believe that once you're in the body of Christ, having faith and knowing certain truths you can't wander outside of it. "Once saved, always saved" they claim. But I would advise you to read Psalm 77 in its entirety. It tells you what can happen if you're not careful to maintain discipline in your good ole daily flesh life, and as a result you fail to stay in that "peaceful habitation" known as the body of Christ.

It tells of man outside the sanctuary, (i.e. the Body of Christ). God basically tells us in this Psalm that if you want to stay outside the sanctuary, go ahead, keep

fooling yourself. But it is so much better for you to come back inside. If something is pulling you out – some fleshly weakness or doubt, or some unnecessary entanglement with the world that’s led to Father’s chastisement -- do away with it and come back in under God’s protection. It’s there. All you have to do is say, “Father I want to come home” and like the prodigal son, on repentance, He’ll meet you. He’ll leave the rest and go out to meet you. And that’s because He loves you.

But if you fail to come back into the body because the lusts of the flesh or lack of spiritual discipline are keeping you out, then as we read in Amos chapter three, ***“You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”*** He chastises those who are closest to Him. He expects *more* out of us, because we’ve been given *more* from Him in terms of wisdom and understanding from His Word.

In closing let’s do a quick review of some of the things Christ taught in Luke 21: 34-37. Christ had just finished teaching His disciples what would befall us in the end days. In those verses...

- He tells us that Jerusalem will be smashed to sand at His Second Advent (Luke 21:6).
- He tells us to beware of false christs coming in His name (Luke 21:8).
- He tells us there will be wars and rumors of wars, as well as, great earthquakes, famines, pestilences and great signs from heaven (Luke 21:9-11).
- He tells how members of our own family will turn us over to those trials, and how God utilizes that for some of us to give our testimony, which is to say, our witness on His behalf, with the Holy Spirit doing the speaking through us, just as He spoke through Christ’s disciples on that first Pentecost day some 2,000 years ago (Luke 21:12-19).
- He tells us about Jerusalem being compassed with armies just before the arrival of the desolator, and of the days of vengeance and the times of the Gentiles that follow, and how they constitute the final prophecies being fulfilled (Luke 21:20-24).

- He tells us of the fearful signs to watch for, so we'll know that the end is being played out as even the powers of heaven are being shaken; and he tells us what to do when we see these fearful signs taking place (Luke 21:25-28)
- He tells us specifically how to know when the time of the final generation is at hand, and that this generation shall not pass away until every one of these events come to pass (Luke 21:29-32).
- He tells us that this present earth and heaven age will indeed pass away as all of the events He spoke of draw to a close, but that His words shall not pass away. You can count on His Word *eternally*.
- He also gave us promises to claim and current events to watch for so we can check off the events as they transpire.

At the time, Christ spoke this He did so with some pretty large brush strokes. But today, much of this has come to pass, and we have the details of historical events and types to help fill in the grey areas. And as more of these events come to pass, we'll be able to fill in more and more of the grey areas.

Then, after all of the detail, Christ gives us some specific *personal instructions* to help get us through all this. He knew we'd need it. He said:

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

There's that military-like discipline again. Never forget the only reason we're living in this final generation is because this is exactly where God wants us to be. He knew this final generation would be overwhelming. When He said, "***take heed to yourselves***", He meant for us to be cautious and to pay careful and disciplined attention to ourselves, i.e., to our physical health and to our spiritual well-being.

He knew we'd be dealing with the four hidden dynasties and all the bad stuff that comes about with, from and through them. He knew there would be technology that has us multitasking ourselves to death. He knew there would be mesmerizing television shows that keeps our minds captured on something other than His Word and our duties therein, robbing us of our discipline in His Word, if we allow it.

He also knew there would be mind-numbing substances that keep us estranged from Him, dependent on the substances for comfort rather than on His Word. He knew there would be “fast foods,” genetically-modified foods, chemical-laden foods and more that would work to destroy our bodies and cripple our health from the cellular level, making us weak and leading to lack of discipline.

And He’s simply saying, *you’re responsible* for having the discipline to take proper care of yourself and not let these worldly things disrupt your service to Him as the end unfolds.

When He says, “***lest at any time your hearts be overcharged***” (i.e., burdened), He means for us to take some time for ourselves and to just breathe a little, lest our own minds and thoughts become overwhelmed and weighted down from the onslaught of a battle He may not even want us in at the time.

Don’t allow the world to suck you into its orbit, for that means it’s sucking you *out* of His orbit. And as we’ve already learned in this study, *two cannot walk together except they be agreed*.

He is saying He doesn’t want us so overcharged with the cares of this world to the point we lose sight of our own health, peace of mind, and especially our place in His plan. He loves us enough to take the earthly things away from us, if that’s what it takes for Him to get us refocused on Him and His Word.

Christ is warning us that getting weighted down by the cares of this life, (and might I add this very *temporary* life), will lead us to ***surfeiting and drunkenness***. Let’s look at those two words.

Surfeiting is a medical word used for the nausea after drunkenness. But He’s not talking about something physical here. Remember everyone around us is ***drunk on the wine of her fornication*** (Rev 14:8, Rev 17:2, and Rev 18:3). And it’s only going to get worse when Satan and his fallen angels arrive. So He’s saying, in essence, “I’m allowing the world to be drunk on the wine of her fornication, and I don’t want you participating in it, or getting yourself sick over it. I’ve told you in advance what to expect. So exercise some discipline as you see this stuff unfold.”

Drunkenness means an intoxicant. He’s telling us He not only doesn’t want us to get sick over worry, He doesn’t want us numbing ourselves to what’s going on either. We’re to pay attention, stay alert, study, and Watch!

As it's written in Matthew 24:48-51, "*But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

What if we can't let go of the cares of this life? ***Then at it states in Luke 21:34, that day will come upon us unawares.*** It is the same basic terminology we see in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-7, where we're told of what happens to the spiritually dead at Christ's return. It's why earlier I suggested reading Psalm 77 in its entirety, to learn what happens when we step outside the sanctuary -- which is to say, our habitation of peace, the true body of Christ -- and get caught up in the world.

Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

We all dwell on the face of the earth. But, where is our dwelling place while we are here. What keeps us from falling into this promised snare? Our dwelling place is written of in Psalm 91:1. It is the "secret place of the Most High." It's the true body of Christ. It's our habitation of peace; our "Jerusalem."

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Stay on the watch. And pray always. All of this stuff is going to come to pass. How we conduct ourselves, as His elect, determines whether we're going to stand before Him in humble adoration at His return, or be left standing outside the wedding door with the idiots who had been singing *We are the World* with Satan and his fallen angels.

Christ's Last 6 Days in the Flesh

Let's take a quick look at the final two verses of Luke 21. Christ is no longer speaking at this point. Luke gives us his thoughts on the matter. He's going to tell us what Christ was doing His last six days in the flesh (see Bullinger sidenote on verse 37) before the crucifixion.

It's interesting because if one day to the Lord is as a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8) then what Christ did during His last six days on this earth can be representative of what *we* are supposed to be doing at the end of this six thousandth dispensational year. It's the time right before the seven thousandth year, which is to say, right before the Lord's Second Advent and the start of the millennium teaching period.

This special message, in my opinion, was put here for those of us Christ just spoke to in Luke 21:8-36. Luke doesn't want us to get overwhelmed by the things transpiring in this end generation. He's telling us what Christ Himself did to keep from getting overwhelmed. Let's read it from that perspective.

Luke 21:37 And in the day time He was teaching in the temple; and at night He went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

We are the children of light, the children of the day (I Thessalonians 5:5). Just as Christ taught us, we teach and edify those in the temple too. Naturally, the temple in this verse is representative of the body of Christ. We help build up and strengthen that body in truth, just as He did. We're able to stay grounded there, doing our work for the Lord.

But the above verse continues, ***“and at night he went out and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives”***.

That's our “night.” In other words, symbolically speaking, that's representative of the time of Jacob's troubles when the forces of darkness are on this earth pulling off their great deception. Where do we make our abode for protection in that darkness of night? Let's dig a little deeper into this verse and see:

The word “abode,” as used here, means “to pass the night (in the open air).” Taking it back to the prime, it means in “a yard, as open to the wind” (see Strong's G-835 and G-833). It means to breathe fresh air. We can compare it to the Old Testament word for breath, *Ruwach*, which is the Holy Spirit, the breath of life! Symbolically speaking, this is where Christ stayed, and this is where He wants us to stay, too, i.e., in the “fresh air” of the Holy Spirit and not the stale and deceptive air of the spirit of iniquity that pervades the world today.

And where was this abode located? It was located ***“in the mount that is called the mount of Olives,”*** which is where the olive trees grew at that time in great abundance on the slopes.

Think about it: You are those “trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord” (Isaiah 61:3), are you not? And it is through that faithful many-membered body of Christ that the truth is brought forth to the rest of the world. The olives on those olive trees are put for the oil of pure, unvarnished truth that we’re supposed to have our lamps filled with. Symbolically speaking, that truth, symbolized by the oil of the olives, gives us what is *essential for combat effectiveness*. As it is written in the great book of Zechariah:

Zec 4:11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

You know from previous studies that the candlestick is the body of Christ (Revelation 2:5; Revelation 11:4), which is representative of the two faithful churches who stand against Satan and his fallen angels when they arrive. The angel talking to Zechariah the prophet is about to tell us who the two olive trees are, whose golden oil fuels the candlestick with pure truth during that time of Jacob’s trouble:

Zec 4:12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

Zec 4:13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

Zec 4:14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

Yes, they’re the two witnesses of Revelation chapter 11, to whom God gives power to prophesy (teach) during the time of Jacob’s trouble, when the antichrist and his fallen ones are ruling over the earth, pretending to be Christ and his angels.

You see, you can only get the truth from *within* the true body of Christ, not outside the body of Christ. The very word “Christ” being *Christos* in the Greek, meaning “the Anointed One.” And it’s only by abiding within that anointed body, patiently, that we’ll receive the marching orders we’ve all been waiting for.

If you think about it, this tells you *when* at least some of your final marching orders from the Lord will come. And this tells you *how* your heavenly Father will deliver those marching orders to His faithful body of believers. It will be through the

teachings of the two witnesses, as well as through the power of the Holy Spirit of understanding He pours out upon us at that time – the latter day rain of truth.

Feeling a little low on oil? Then straighten out any crooked places in your life, and get back inside that faithful body – that holy temple of Christ – and make your abode there. And fill yourself up with the oil (i.e., truth) it provides, and not the worries and cares of this world.

38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.

For us this is yet future. It's *our* morning, i.e., symbolic of Christ's return and the start of the millennium teaching period. It's that time that every knee shall bow to Him, and every wayward soul will finally listen to Him.

It's that time when He will arrive to speak to all of His children in the outer court of the temple, during the millennium teaching period. But for those of you destined to be with Him in the inner court, He will speak to *you* first. He will give you His plan. He will tell you *where* He wants you to stand, *when* He wants you to stand there, *how* He expects you to get there (Amos 3:3), and *what* He expects you to do and say (Luke 21:13-15; Mark 13:9-11).

He will not make a move until He reveals His plan to His servants the prophets, (Amos 3:7), and that's us, (Joel 2:28-29). When you're a disciplined working part of His body, no matter what angle you look at it from, He's got you covered.

So clean up your act if you need to. Focus on His Word, daily. Stay firmly in the Body of Christ – it's your sanctuary. Finally, don't forget to let Father you know love Him. He *always* looks forward to hearing from you!

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