

An Extraordinary God... Does Extraordinary Work

The Ordinary Church

Through Ordinary People, Doing Ordinary Things,



Acts 2

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Acts 2

42 They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 A sense of **awe came over everyone**, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs.

44 All the believers **were together** and **had everything in common**.

45 **Selling their possessions** and goods, they **shared** with anyone who was in need.

Acts 2

46 With one accord they **continued to meet daily** in the temple courts and to **break bread** from house to house, **sharing their meals** with gladness and sincerity of heart,

47 **praising God** and **enjoying the favor** of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4

32 The multitude of believers **was one in heart and soul.**

No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned.

33 With great power, **the apostles continued to give their testimony** about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

And abundant grace was upon them all.

Acts 4

34 There **were no needy ones** among them, because those who owned lands or houses **would sell their property,** **bring the proceeds** from the sales, 35 and lay them at the **apostles' feet for distribution** to anyone as he had need.

The Fellowship

Devotion to “The Fellowship” meant...

Devotion to a SUPERNATURAL fellowship

Devotion to GATHERING



Hebrews 3

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked heart of unbelief that turns away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the assurance we had at first.

The Fellowship

Devotion to “The Fellowship” meant...

Devotion to a SUPERNATURAL fellowship

Devotion to GATHERING

Devotion to being in ONE ACCORD



Acts 2

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Homothymadon



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thumos

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Acts 2

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Homou

together, same

thumos

wrath, anger, passion,
outburst, fierceness, rage

Acts 2

46 With **one accord** ...

Homothymadon

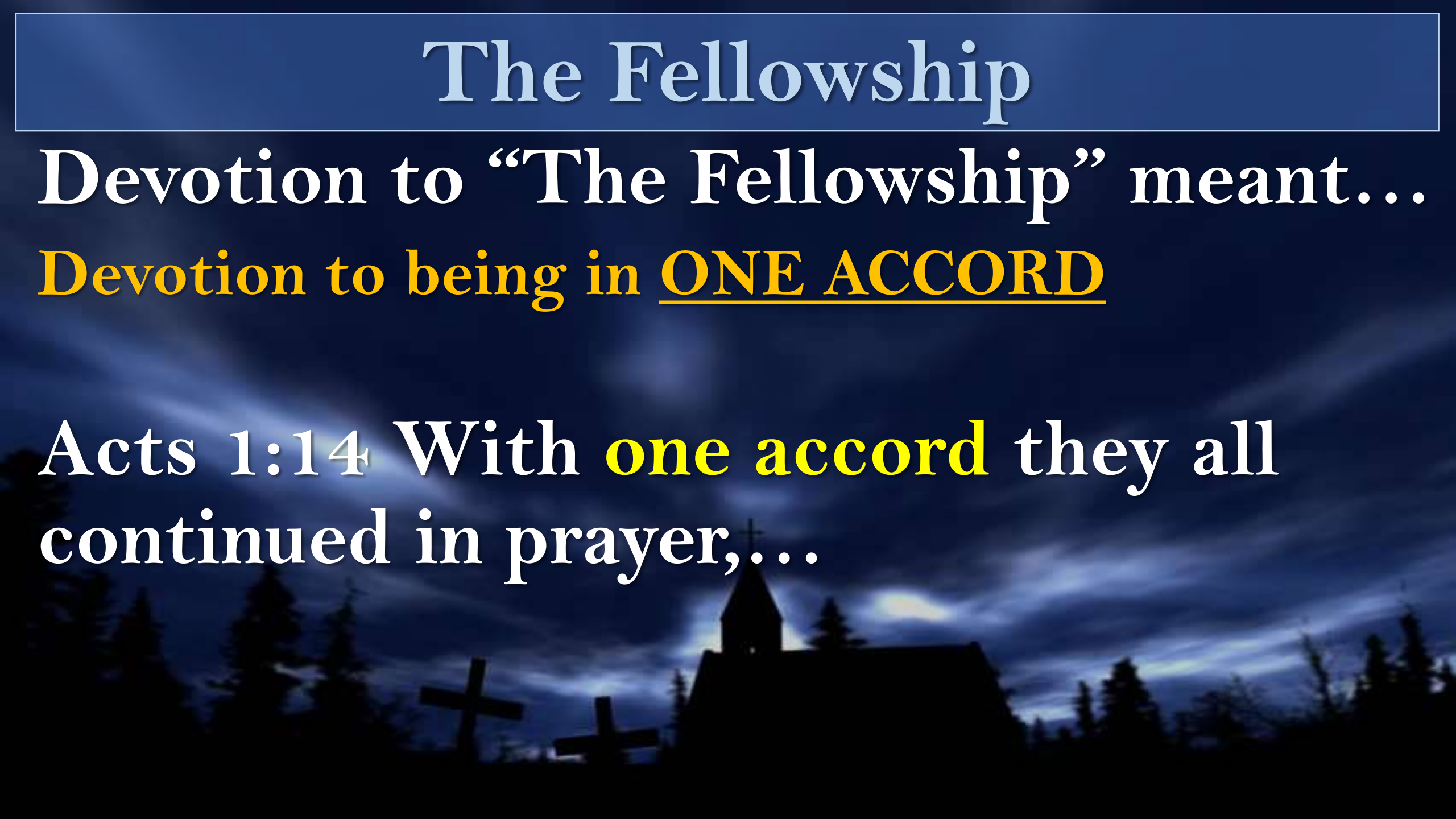
one mind, one purpose, one passion, one impulse,
one persuasion, one emotion, one desire,
unanimously, simultaneous as one, perfect harmony,
no schisms, no divisions, no divided interests,
many acting as a single unit

The Fellowship

Devotion to “The Fellowship” meant...

Devotion to being in ONE ACCORD

Acts 1:14 With **one accord** they all continued in prayer,...



Acts 4

23 On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with **one accord**.

“Sovereign Lord,” they said,

“You made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

Acts 4

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One.'

Acts 4

27 In fact, this is the very city where Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed.

28 They carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen.

Acts 4

29 And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness, 30 as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

31 After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

32 The multitude of believers was **one in heart and soul**

Acts 5

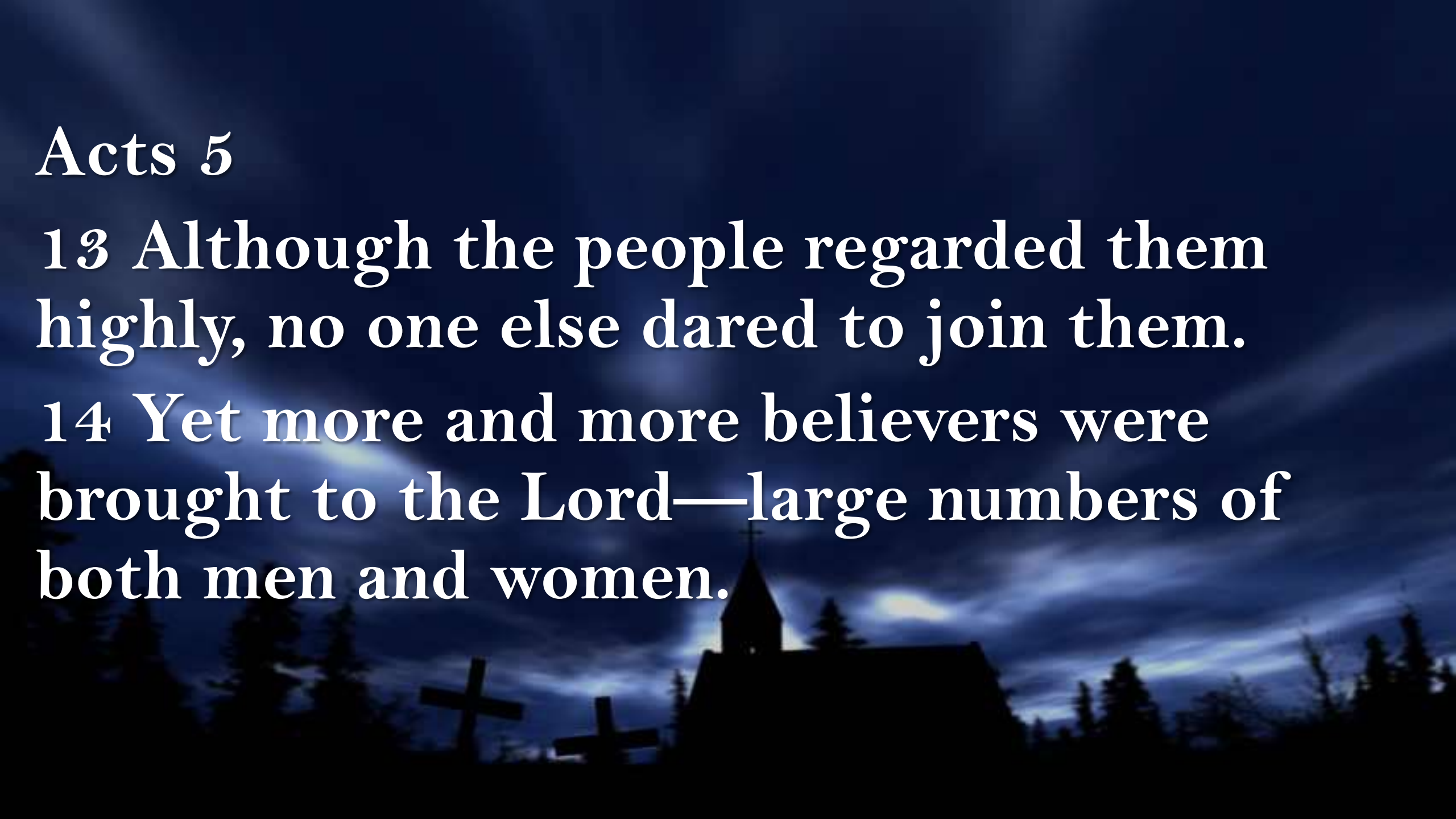
11 And great fear came over the whole church and all who heard about these events.

12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people, and with **one accord** the believers gathered together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 5

13 Although the people regarded them highly, no one else dared to join them.

14 Yet more and more believers were brought to the Lord—large numbers of both men and women.



Acts 7

57 At this they covered their ears, cried out in a loud voice, and rushed with **one impulse** at him.

58 They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.



Acts 19

28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with **one accord** into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

Sin – personal sinfulness

Flesh – desires of the flesh

Pride – we are about us

Personality – we see things very differently

Fears – when fear trumps faith, we divide

Guilt – guilt causes us to find fault

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

The Bible can be difficult to interpret.

- So it is easy to misinterpret scripture.
- Or to think that correct interpretation is not possible.
- Or decide that everyone’s interpretation is “God speaking to me”.
- Or we emphasize one part over another.

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

There is a buffet of Bible teachers today.

There is a church “on every corner”.

It is easier to find a new church than wrestle through relational or doctrinal issues.

People have different, and many times wrong expectations of what the church really is.

We disagree about what we should focus on.

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

Culture affects us – post-modern culture, where there is no objective, absolute truth.

We live in a very individualistic culture today.

We live in a culture where everyone’s opinion is considered equally valid.

We have access to so much information today that it is difficult to know what is true.

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

We don't know which doctrines are essential and which are not.

We easily confuse personal preference with essential doctrine.

We hate conflict, so resolving issues is difficult.

We come together with biases and traditions that separate us and blind us.

The Fellowship

Barriers to “One accord-ness” today

We are busy with our own lives.

We are under lots of pressure elsewhere and can't care deeply about other's needs.

We are willing to work hard on most other things but think church “should just be easy”.

We don't really believe that “It is more blessed to give than receive”.

Philippians 2

1 Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

2 then make my joy complete by being

like-minded,

having the **same love,**

being united in spirit and purpose.

Philippians 2

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:

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