

but notice here also that the chief priests and Pharisees in their unbelief did at least consider the resurrection of Jesus on the third day as a possibility. Let's read again LUKE 18:31-34, and see why Jesus disciples didn't consider the resurrection of Jesus on the third day as a possibility. LUKE 18:31 *Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. 34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.* Again notice that verse 34 reveals three things: 1) the eyes of their understanding was not yet enlightened, nor could they yet fully comprehend these things, because the Holy Ghost was not yet given; 2) this saying was hid from them, or in other words this saying was a puzzle unto them; and 3) they could not even begin to grasp what He meant. This is part of why the Apostle John also wrote in JOHN 20:9 after Jesus resurrection: *For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.* We mention all of this again concerning Jesus disciples and His closest followers to better appreciate their feelings, their emotions, and their thinking during the three days before Jesus resurrection. The darkness that occurred those last three hours of Christ's crucifixion followed them emotionally during these next three days as they grieved His death. The only thing the gospel records record of what took place during these three days is what we read above in MATTHEW 27:62-66 concerning the chief priests and Pharisees, who had a watch set over His sepulchre.

### **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

As we begin to examine the events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ concentrating primarily on what Luke wrote, we must also complete this remarkable story by continuing to examine what the other gospel writers also recorded. The gospel of MATTHEW finishes the story about the soldiers the chief priests and Pharisees had requested of Pilate to watch over the sepulchre of Jesus. MATTHEW 28:1 *In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.* This is remarkable statement to be made of Roman soldiers, men of courage, perhaps themselves being fearless of danger, and perhaps veterans used to witnessing horrible sights of battle. It is noted here that they shook, turned pale as dead men at the sight of the angel of the Lord who rolled the stone away. Obviously they weren't sleeping to witness such a sight.

Several times in this study we have quoted from an article in the April 2012 Grace and Glory magazine about Pilate's letter to Tiberius Caesar copied from an original scroll in Greek from the Vatican Library at Rome in 1893. The events covered in Pilate's letter concern the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the governor's perspective as he defends his actions surrounding his own treatment of Jesus Christ while he was governor during this time. Concerning the resurrection of Jesus, what Pontius Pilate wrote to Caesar explains in great detail from his perspective as a Roman Governor what happened next. Pontius Pilate continued in his writing to Caesar saying: "A few days afterward the sepulcher was found empty. His disciples published all over the country that Jesus had risen from the dead, as he had foretold. This last report created more excitement than the first. As to its truth I cannot say for certain, but I have made some investigation in the matter, so you can examine for yourself and see if I am in fault, as Herod represents me. Joseph" (of Arimathea) "buried Jesus in his own tomb; whether he contemplated His resurrection, or calculated to cut him another, I cannot tell. The next day after He was buried, one of the priests came to the Pretorium saying they were apprehensive that his disciples intended to steal the body of Jesus and hide it and then make it appear that He had risen from the dead, as he had foretold, and of which

they were perfectly convinced. I sent him to the captain of the Royal Guard, Malcus, to tell him to take the Jewish soldiers and place as many around the sepulcher as were needed. Then if anything should happen they could blame themselves and not the Romans. When the great excitement arose about the sepulcher being found empty, I felt a deeper solicitude than ever. I sent for Malcus, who told me he had set his lieutenant, Ben Isham, with 100 soldiers around the sepulcher. He told me that Isham and the soldiers were very much alarmed at what occurred there that morning. I sent for this man Isham, who related to me as near as I can remember the following circumstance: He said that at the beginning of the fourth watch they saw a soft and beautiful light over the sepulcher. He at first thought that the women had come to embalm the body of Jesus, as was their custom; but he could not see how they could have gotten thru the guards."

"While these reflections were passing through his mind, behold the whole place was lighted up, and there seemed to be crowds of the dead in their grave clothes. All seemed to be shouting and filled with ecstasy, while all around and about was the most beautiful music he had ever heard, and the place seemed to be full of voices praising God." (Before continuing with Pontius Pilate's account, recall what is written in MATTHEW 27:52 & 53 -- *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*) Pilate continues: "At this time there seemed to be a reeling and swinging of the earth, so that he turned so sick and faint that he could not, stand on his feet. He said the earth seemed to swing from under him and his senses left him so that he knew not what did occur. I asked him what position he was in when he came to himself. He said he was lying on the ground with his face down. I asked if he could not have been mistaken as to the light. Was it not the day that was coming from the East? He said at first he thought of that, but at a stone's cast it was exceeding dark and then he remembered that it was too early for day. I asked him if his dizziness might not have come from being awakened and sitting up suddenly, as it sometimes has that effect. He said he was not and had not been asleep all night, as the penalty was death for him to sleep on duty. I asked him how long the scene lasted; he did not know, but thought nearly one hour. Then I asked him if he went to the sepulcher after he came to himself? He said no, because he was afraid; that just as soon as relief came they all went to their quarters. I asked him if he had been interrogated by the priests. He said he had. They wanted him to say it was an earthquake, and to say they were all asleep, and offered him money to tell that the disciples came and stole Him. But he saw no disciples. He did not know that the body was gone until he was told so."

Before continuing on with Pontius Pilate's letter to Caesar, recall here what is recorded in MATTHEW 28. MATTHEW 28:11 *Now when they (the women) were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.* Some of the Roman soldier watch came and told the chief priests the true account of what had happened. Note that they didn't tell Pilate. If a Roman soldier was caught asleep while on guard, his punishment would have been death. Again it is obvious that they weren't sleeping to witness what they saw that early Sunday morning. ...12 *And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. 14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. 15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

So we see that Pontius Pilate's letter to Caesar verifies the facts of scripture. Pilate continues in his letter writing: "I asked the private opinion of the priests he had conversed with. He said some of them thought Jesus was no man; that He was not a human being; that he was not the son of Mary; that he was not the same that was said to have been born of the Virgin in Bethlehem; that the same Person had been on earth before with Abraham and Lot, and at many other times and places."

"It seems to me if the Jewish theory be true, these conclusions would be correct; for it would be in accord with this man's life, as I know of and as testified by friends and foes, for the elements were no more in his hands than the clay in the hands of the potter. He could convert water into wine.

He could change death into life, disease into health; He could calm the seas, still the storms, call up a fish with a piece of silver coin in its mouth.”

“And now I say if He could do all these things, which He did, and many more, as the Jews all testify, and it was doing these things that created their enmity and offence, nor was he charged with violating any law, nor of wronging any individual in person – I am almost ready to say as did Manulas at the cross, “Truly this was the Son of God.” {End of quoting Pontius Pilate.} We read in MARK 15:39 *And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.* Apparently according to what Pilate wrote, this centurion’s name was Manulas. MATTHEW 27:54 records the same thing, stating: *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

Only the heart examiner, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, knows if this Roman governor Pontius Pilate, ever believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. ROMANS 10:9 & 10 says: *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Certainly Pontius Pilate was given every opportunity to receive Jesus as his Saviour.

Having discussed the fate of the Roman soldiers that were sent to guard the sepulchre of Jesus, let’s continue examining Jesus’ resurrection returning to MATTHEW 28 as are starting point to this true Biblical account. MATTHEW 28:1 *In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*

Recall that in this study we are mainly focused upon what our brother in the Lord, Luke wrote. And recall also that Luke himself was a follower of the Apostle Paul, who also followed Christ. Luke by this point in time in his life when he writes The Gospel According to LUKE was well schooled in the doctrines, and principles of Christ that the Apostle Paul taught. One of the fundamental doctrines of Paul is recorded in the first few verse of 1 CORINTHIANS 15. 1 CORINTHIANS 15 is known as the resurrection chapter of the Bible, and it begins: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.* We will stop reading there for now because this brings us to LUKE 24 where much enlightenment is given concerning Christ Jesus rising again from the dead. Recall that our brother in the Lord, Luke wrote a considerable amount of unique facts in scripture that we would otherwise know nothing about. The Apostle Paul’s teaching that *...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...* begins the journey into the depths of Paul’s gospel message. Believing that Jesus rose from the dead the third day according to the scriptures is a fundamental point of our salvation, and a fact that Paul often repeated. Luke recorded in ACTS 17:2 & 3 Paul’s manner of teaching as he proceeded on his missionary journeys. ACTS 17:2 *And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.* We have emphasized in

this study a point the Apostle Paul made in ROMANS 10:9 & 10 -- *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* In the previous pages of this study we have spent probably way to much time discussing the events concerning the crucifixion, and death of Christ Jesus. But the best part of this story is that Jesus Christ rose again the third day according to the scriptures, so let's read about his starting where we last left off reading of what Luke wrote in LUKE 23:55.

LUKE 23:55 *And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. 56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.* Note here that they beheld where Jesus was buried, and how His body was laid in the sepulchre, and that they returned to their homes to prepare spices, and ointments for the purpose of embalming the body of Jesus. But the Sabbath day came when according to the law they couldn't do any work, so they couldn't return until such time as when the Sabbath day was over. MARK 16:1-4 clarifies this by stating: *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.* Before we read further, note that these women expected to anoint the body of Jesus in the sepulchre after He was in the grave these three days. They were not looking for Jesus to rise again from the dead on the third day as He had taught. Nor do we read in scripture of any of Jesus disciples looking for Him to rise from the dead. Review the previous pages of these notes, and see how we have covered this point already several times before in this study. MARK 16:2 *And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.* Now back to LUKE 24:1 *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

Let's stop here for a moment, and consider some thoughts presented in these verses. Recall that we earlier stated that these women who were last at the cross, and last seen "sitting over against the sepulchre" at Jesus burial will be the first to witness the empty tomb where Christ was buried three days later. They came to anoint the body of Jesus having run out of time to do so before sunset on the day He was buried. But as we noted earlier in MARK 14 and JOHN 12 that Mary of Bethany aforetime had already anointed Jesus against the day of His burial. Here in LUKE 24:1-3 we find these same women, who were last at the sepulchre when Jesus was buried, are now at the empty tomb of Jesus, and LUKE 24:4 reveals that *...they were much perplexed thereabout.* We know what they didn't yet know, which is that Jesus work of redemption is now complete as ROMANS 4:25 explains. In ROMANS 4:25 the Apostle Paul is talking about Jesus, and he writes: *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.* Let's read on in LUKE 24, for this is where these women first learn that Jesus indeed was raised again from the dead!

LUKE 24:4 *And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words, 9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Jesus was now risen from the dead yet even though Jesus had told them several times during His three plus years of public ministry that He would be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and that He indeed would rise again the third day, His disciples still didn't believe after they were once again told these very same things by the*

women returning from the empty tomb. Again LUKE 24:11 records: *And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.*

All of the four gospel's record accounts of Jesus resurrection. Let's finish reading what John Mark wrote as it is similar to what Luke recorded. We will start reading again in MARK 16:1 *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. 9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.*

We find emphasized in these two accounts of MARK and LUKE that the Apostles of Jesus at the first did not believe that the sepulchre was empty, and that it was Mary Magdalene who Jesus first appeared unto. The Apostle John in JOHN 20:9 even told on himself, writing why they didn't believe: *For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.*

In the four gospel records we find several clues as to why Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome were at first perplexed, then later were afraid, and trembled, and were also amazed. Certainly if we would have been there, we too would have experienced these very same emotions. They were at the first perplexed by the empty tomb not aware, or realizing that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were affrighted by the angel of the Lord that MATTHEW 28:3 records: *His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow.* MARK 16:5 records this angel of the Lord as being *...a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment.* LUKE 24:4 records that there were *...two men stood by them in shining garments.* JOHN 20:12 also tells us that Mary Magdalene here *...seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.*

We rarely spend time in discussing angels, however we here give some thoughts concerning angels, and their God given importance to us. In HEBREWS 1:14 our Apostle writes that the angels God sends our way are *...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.* Rarely do we see these angels, but they are ever with us as PSALMS 91:11 explains: *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.* We know from our earlier studies in LUKE that the angel Gabriel, who appeared unto Daniel, also appeared unto Zacharias, who was a priest, and announced that he and Elisabeth would become the parents of John the Baptist. This same angel Gabriel, a messenger sent from God, also appeared unto Mary the mother of Jesus, and explained unto her how she would become the mother of Jesus. After Jesus was tempted of the devil in the wilderness, MARK 4:11 records *...behold, angels came and ministered unto him.* It would be a lengthy study to discuss angels, but may our focus remains upon Christ Jesus the Son of God, who is better than the angels as we are told in HEBREWS 1:4. Again our Apostle Paul wrote us in HEBREWS 13:2 *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* The word "entertain" here speaks to hospitality. Thus we should note that there are angels, who are ministering spirits that are around us 24/7, sent from God to keep us in all our ways. We probably wouldn't recognize them as angels unless the Lord revealed them to us.

When my dad was ten years old he was riding his bike down a hill, probably as fast as he could go, when a car pulled out in front of him. A serious accident was imminent, and my dad did fall off his bicycle and break his leg at this time. He may have been more seriously injured had it not

been for his guardian angel. While the witnesses who came to help were attending him to, he asked: "where is the man that pushed me out of the way of the car?" No one saw any man push him out of the way, however my dad knew someone had pushed him preventing him from further harm. The only explanation for this that my dad could come up with was that an angel had pushed him out of the way. God here gave an angel charge over my dad to protect him in this time of need.

A few years ago when Brother Smith was still the editor of the Grace and Glory magazine, one of the Saints we knew at that time wrote a testimony Brother Smith published of what had happened to her in New Mexico in the middle of a dark and cold winter's night. She was traveling alone with her little dog out in the middle of nowhere when she pulled off the road to let her little dog out for a break. She had stopped on top of a hill this windy night, and when she got her dog out of the car, the wind blew her door shut with her keys inside, and the doors locked. She couldn't get back into her car, and the temperature was well below freezing. From her vantage point she could see for miles, and there were no cars on the road. She immediately prayed asking the Lord to send help before she, and her dog were left frozen by the road. About that same time some headlights appeared in the distance coming her way, and the car stopped, and two people got out to help her. Within a couple of minutes they had opened her car door. She thanked them, and they got back in their car, and departed. As she thanked the Lord, she looked where the other car had gone. She could see for miles in all directions, and there was no sign of this car to be found. She then realized that some angels from the Lord had helped her along her way.

Another time a few years ago when my mom was still working, it was after dark when she left work around 8:00 or 9:00 pm. Her car wouldn't start, and she couldn't get a hold of any of us for help. She asked the Lord for help. Her car was parked at a Safeway shopping center, and an older man just happened to be sitting outside Safeway reading the morning Newspaper. Mom thought this was kind of odd, sitting outside of Safeway reading the morning newspaper, but when her car wouldn't start, this man then proceeded over to help her. Within in a minute or so he was able to get her car started. Mom thanked him for his help, and when she turned to see where he was before she drove off, he was gone, and had just disappeared. She then realized that the Lord had sent one of His angels to help her during this time of need.

One more angel testimony before returning to the resurrection story. Recently Sue and I were at the dentist's office, and one of the Christian clerks asked how I was doing after my recent surgery. I told her that the Lord had given me a peace about it, and she wanted to tell me her testimony. She related that last November she had covid pneumonia, and she ended up in the emergency room with very low oxygen levels. The emergency room doctor insisted that she immediately go on a ventilator. She told me she was not vaccinated, wasn't going to get vaccinated, and wasn't about to go on a ventilator either. She told the doctor: "My God is greater than your ventilator, and I am not going to be put on the ventilator no matter what you say. My God will take care of me." She said the doctor was furious as he stormed out of the emergency room, and never again returned. She indeed was trusting the Lord for her care, and she was very sick. Wondering what would happen next while praying for help, she then looked at the foot of her bed and saw an angel sitting there. She told me she had no idea that his wings were that big, and that his wings filled up the whole room. She knew that God had sent this angel to protect her in her time of deep need, and she thanked the Lord, and went comfortably to sleep. When she woke up her oxygen levels were greatly improved, and she went on to recover from her illnesses giving full credit to Lord who healeth all our diseases according to PSALMS 103:3.

I made mention of these different accounts about angels for us to realize that what we are told in PSALMS 91:11 is indeed true: *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.* And another thing we should notice in these testimonies is that it is not always apparent at first that the angels looking out for us are indeed angels! Sometime they look like ordinary men. In JOSHUA 5:13 Joshua saw a "man over against him with his sword drawn." This man was "captain of the host of the Lord," who in reality was pre-incarnate Christ Jesus Himself. Often times in Old Testament scripture the angel of the Lord was Jesus Christ Himself making appearances unto various



men and women in the form of a man. Each of these appearances occurred at a Biblical highlighted turning point in the lives of those to whom our Lord appeared unto. We will see this again in a little while when our resurrected Lord and Saviour appeared unto the Emmaus disciples in LUKE 24.

One last thought concerning angels. The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary the mother of Jesus to announce the conception of Christ Jesus. The angel of the Lord announced to the lowly shepherds near Bethlehem the birth of the Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. At the same time a multitude of these heavenly angels appeared "praising God, and saying Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, and good will toward men." (LUKE 2:13 & 14.) I imagine all of these heavenly angels took a moment to view baby Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem for they hadn't seen Him for nine months. After Christ was tempted of the Devil we read in MATTHEW 4:11 and MARK 1:13 that the angels came and ministered unto Him, for after all the angels are indeed ministering spirits according to HEBREWS 1:4. So it should be no surprise to us that it was an angel at the empty tomb of Jesus who announced to the women that came to the sepulchre early on that first day of the week saying: "...*He is not here: for he is risen as he said...*" ...MATTHEW 28:6. And forty days later as Jesus ascended up into heaven we read in ACTS 1:10 and 11 that two angels said: "...*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*" We know here that Jesus ascended up into heaven as ...a cloud received him out of their sight... ...ACTS 1:9. This is a cloud of Saints, not a fleecy weather cloud that we see nearly every day, nor was it a cloud of angels. We see this same cloud of overcomers again in REVELATION 10:1 *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire.* This mighty angel is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This "cloud" again is a cloud of Saints, and a much larger crowd of overcoming Saints compose this cloud than did the cloud of ACTS 1:9, for it includes the New Testament overcomers. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14 describes this cloud of Saints with Jesus like this: *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* The manner in which Jesus was taken up into heaven was in a cloud of Saints. The manner in which He will return is with a cloud of Saints! We read this also in 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* Notice we that are alive and remain are caught up together with them whom Jesus Christ brings with Him, among whom are the "...so great a cloud of witness..." of HEBREWS 12:1. We are looking to meet the Lord in the air, and with Him will be "...so great a cloud of witness..." some of whom we will know! May it be today!!!

In respect of what we are studying concerning the resurrection of Christ Jesus let's concentrate our thoughts for a few moments on what Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome witnessed about these angels at the empty tomb of Jesus. As we noted earlier they were at the first perplexed by the empty tomb not aware, or realizing that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were affrighted by the angel of the Lord that MATTHEW 28:3 records: *His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow.* MARK 16:5 records this angel of the Lord as being *...a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment.* LUKE 24:4 noted that there were *...two men stood by them in shining garments.* A man named Cleopas also mentioned this in LUKE 24:22 & 23 -- *Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.* JOHN 20:12 also tells us that Mary Magdalene here *...seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.* We note that all for gospel writers gave similar, yet differing accounts of what the Holy Ghost inspired them to write about these angels. Yet the message the angels told these women was the same: *...Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him...* ...MARK 16:6. MATTHEW 28:6 and LUKE 24:6, which we also looked at earlier in this study, record similar

statements. We will read what the Apostle John wrote shortly, because it was after seeing these angels that Jesus Himself began His many appearances after His resurrection.

As we begin to discuss the many thoughts concerning Jesus resurrection, and the order of His five appearances on the day of His resurrection, let's recall something we learned previously in our meaning of the Bible numbers study. There are two numbers associated with RESURRECTION; the number 3 because Jesus arose from the dead on the third day, and the number 8 because Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the week, which is also the eighth day. Two is the number of SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY, or SUFFICIENT WITNESS, and the number that also points to JESUS, the second person of the trinity. Recall also that each Hebrew word from Old Testament scripture, and each Greek word from New Testament scripture, numerically adds up to something, for the Hebrews and Greeks assigned numeric values to their letters in a similar fashion as we know our Roman numerals. The Greek word we use for Jesus (number 2424 in the Strong's Concordance) adds up to 888. 888 is the RESURRECTION number in triplicate! Also 2 times 2 times 2 equals 8, and this all points to the fact that Christ Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, according to the scriptures!

The Scofield reference Bible has footnotes in MATTHEW 28 giving an order of the appearances by Jesus after His resurrection. This includes the following: on the day of His resurrection Jesus first appears to Mary Magdalene as we read in MARK 16:9 earlier. Recall this also, as it is very important as to what we will read shortly in JOHN 20. The angel had told Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of Jams and Salome in MARK 16:6 *...Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.* Note that they were specifically told that Jesus was not there, and that He had risen from the dead! They didn't say His dead body was moved to another place, because He had risen from the dead. MATTHEW 28:6 records the same thing, saying: *He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.* We find that JOHN 20 adds more to this account. JOHN 20:1 *The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. 9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. 11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.* Putting together what we have now read in MATTHEW 28, MARK 16, and JOHN 20 it seems that Mary Magdalene had already been told by an angel that Jesus was not in the sepulchre for He is risen as he said. And when she returned to the sepulchre with Peter and John two angels ask her *...Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.* She still didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead, and wished to know where they had now laid Him. Now let's read on in JOHN 20:14 *And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend*



unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Second, Jesus appears on the day of His resurrection unto the women returning from visiting the empty tomb. MATTHEW 28:6 *He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.* 7 *And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.* 8 *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.* 9 *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.* 10 *Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*

Did Jesus disciples, or any of the other brethren mentioned here go immediately into Galilee? Lord willing we will discuss this a little later in this study, but the short answer is no, Jesus disciples, and the rest of the brethren referenced here did not immediately go into Galilee, but they did in the next forty days, and there they did see resurrected Jesus. We will get to this Galilee appearance of resurrected Jesus in sequence.

Third on the day of Jesus resurrection Jesus appears unto Peter, also known as Simon and Cephas, and this was probably after allowing Peter to ponder for a couple of hours ...*in himself at that which was come to pass...* as is noted in LUKE 24:12. Only Luke and Paul tell this story. Paul writes in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;* 4 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:* 5 *And that he was seen of Cephas,...* . Recall that Paul in GALATIANS 1:18 writes of staying with Peter two weeks upon Paul's first visit back to Jerusalem after getting saved, so no doubt during this time is when Peter conveyed this information to Paul about Jesus appearing unto him on the day of His resurrection. Luke also makes mention of this in LUKE 24:34, after writing about the two the Emmaus disciples, whom we will discuss in detail shortly. Here is what LUKE 24:34 records: ...*The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

Luke is the gospel writer that writes the most about the two the Emmaus disciples, who were the fourth to see Jesus alive on the day of His resurrection. John Mark makes a brief mention of them in MARK 16:12 *After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.* 13 *And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.*

After we read the account in LUKE 24 of the two the Emmaus disciples telling the disciples that they had seen Jesus, we will come to the fifth appearance of Christ Jesus on the day of His resurrection, which was to the disciples that evening of the first day of the week, which we will also cover a little later in this study Lord willing. On your own you can track the rest of Jesus appearances that Scofield put in his notes of MATTHEW 28, however his sequence at the end where he mentions Paul, and then Stephen is backwards. Luke makes further mention in ACTS 1:3 of Jesus being seen by believers for forty days after His resurrection, and all of these appearances are obviously not recorded in scripture. 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 let's get back to whom Jesus appeared unto on the day of His resurrection following what Luke recorded.

The story of the two the Emmaus disciples begins in LUKE 24:13. Before we begin reading this unique account with rich lessons for our learning, let's note the following as background information. The village called Emmaus is only mentioned one time in scripture, and that is by Luke, thus another unique statement of Luke. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, Emmaus means: warm baths. The actual location of the village of Emmaus remains to be identified; however Luke tells us it was about threescore furlongs from Jerusalem or a little more than seven miles. Jackson's Dictionary of Proper Names has Emmaus meaning: "in earnest longing," probably because of what the Emmaus disciples said to each other in LUKE 24:28 ...*Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* To me this shows an "earnest longing" to hear more of The Word of God, who is Jesus Christ Himself according to REVELATION

19:13. This too would agree with Smith's definition, for the burning in their receptive hearts would be similar to a "warm bath." No doubt Luke got his eyewitness information concerning the two Emmaus disciples from Cleopas, who is identified in LUKE 24:18 as being one of the two Emmaus disciples. Cleopas name means: "renowned father," or of "a renowned father," or "famed of all," who by the time Luke got to interview him he was "famed of all," famous for being an Emmaus disciple; famed for being one to whom Jesus personally appeared unto on the day of His resurrection. By the time Luke got to interview this "famed of all" eyewitness Cleopas it would have been twenty-five to thirty years after Jesus resurrection, yet to Cleopas the events of the afternoon of Jesus resurrection would have been as fresh in his mind as if they had just happened yesterday. We must realize that when Jesus appeared unto the two Emmaus disciples, Cleopas being one of them, this event was a turning point in their lives. Obviously Cleopas continued walking with the Lord, and was more than willing to share his testimony with our brother Luke all these years later. Cleopas name is only found named this one time in scripture, which we can add to the different unique things only Luke mentions. It is quite possible, and to my way of thinking, probable, that these two Emmaus disciples were among the one hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost some fifty days later. As we all should know by now one of the functions of the Holy Ghost is to further open unto us the scripture as He guides us into all truth much the same as Jesus opened up the scriptures to these two Emmaus disciples. {Study again JOHN 16:12-15.} Let's read this account before making further commentary.

LUKE 24:13 *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden (meaning they did not know who He was) that they should not know him. 17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. 22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. 25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. 30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? 33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. 35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.*

Luke's story of the two Emmaus is ripe with many sermons, so as you study this story on your own time, let the Holy Ghost reveal these deep thoughts to you own heart.

Over forty percent of the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of LUKE revolves around this beautiful story of the two Emmaus disciples! Two again is the number of SUFFICIENT WITNESS, or SUFFICIENT

TESTIMONY. Jesus had told His disciples in MATTHEW 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* Jesus was speaking in MATTHEW 18:20 to the simplest form of a local church, however there are no limitations made here as to location, and as this story unfolds we find a walking assembly of two in deep fellowship about Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and the events that just happened in Jerusalem the preceding week, which we know as the Passion Week. The two Emmaus disciples were among those who earlier in the day were told by the women returning from the sepulchre that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. These two Emmaus disciples after being told this *...went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And... they communed together and reasoned...* LUKE 24:13-15, thus again a walking church service if you will. No doubt these two disciples lived at Emmaus, and had gone to Jerusalem to attend the festivities of the Jewish Passover, as did most Jews in that day. While they went on their way talking together, fellowshiping (in earnest longing) of all these things which had just happened, we note that their topic of conversation was current events concerning what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth. We see in verse 15 that *...they communed together and reasoned...* meaning that they were absorbed in their serious debate as they were in this serious discussion. Picture in your mind two animated Jews gesturing one to the other in a serious conversation. The context of our story here in LUKE 24 reveals that they obviously didn't know real well their scriptures concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The risen Saviour, unbeknownst to them, joined them on their journey. MARK 16:12 here states: *...he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.* LUKE 24:15 *... Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.*

Think about this for a moment. As we walk with the Lord He draws near to us. Enoch walked with God, and talked with God to the point that one day God just took him up to heaven to continue this eternal conversation. JAMES 4:8 tells us: *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.* PSALMS 73:28 instructs: *But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.*

Our risen Saviour Jesus Christ drew near, and overtook the two Emmaus disciples in the form of a man, a stranger to them at this point in time, and joined them on their journey. Christ literally was in the midst of them, this traveling church service if you will, as they continued their journey. Jesus, being the heart examiner, knew their hearts earnest longing was to take a warm bath in cleansing word of God. Jesus Himself being The Word of God would oblige them on their journey, but first He asked them some attention getting questions. LUKE 24:17 *And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?* You can just picture these two Jewish Emmaus disciples gesturing with their hands, shaking their heads as they talked with one another, and their actions spoke louder than words that they were of a heavy countenance, who outwardly displayed a sorrowful heart, and their steps were do doubt sluggish totally lacking any spring in their walk. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ truly knows our deepest sorrow, feels our pain, and wants us to know He is our help and shield as PSALMS 33:20 tells us. PSALMS 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* And HEBREWS 4:16 is one of our go-to scriptures: *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Back in LUKE 24 Cleopas gives a long answer as to why their demeanor was sad. LUKE 24:18 *...Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And he said unto them, What things?* When Jesus here says "What things," He was really getting them to verbalize their thoughts, and concerns, however He also already knew their thoughts afar. PSALMS 139:2 *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.* LUKE 24:19 *...And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and*

*beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.* Take note here that they knew Jesus of Nazareth as a Prophet *...in deed and word before God and all the people...* and had in their hearts hoped *...that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel.* Their thinking was we hoped, and expected that Jesus was the Messiah, the King who would have delivered the nation Israel from the Romans, and their hopes were now dashed because *...to day is the third day since these things were done;... three days since Jesus was crucified, and died right before their eyes.* They seem to have given up all for lost, and had come to the conclusion in their own thinking that Jesus was not the Messiah as they had hoped, and as they discussed this with each other they found many things concerning recent events that they could not reason, or explain. Additionally they were now perplexed and astonished at what the women at the sepulchre had just told them, for like the Apostle's John writes about in JOHN 20:9 *For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.* Here is what Cleopas goes on to say in LUKE 24:22 *Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.* Brother Hawkins in his LUKE study book noted: *"...they should have been elated that He, who was dead, is risen again. It is this truth of which they, as well as we, must be fully convinced."* {End of quoting Brother Hawkins.}

Earlier we read in MARK 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.* Now here in LUKE 24 we see that these two Emmaus disciples were among the disciples who believed not. This is exactly why Jesus had appeared unto the two Emmaus disciples in the first place, to open their eyes as to who He was. He would reveal Himself to them through the scriptures. And He also reveals Himself to us through the scriptures!

Jesus says unto them in LUKE 24:25 *...O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.* To us this may seem as a truly incorrect, and improper way to address these two Emmaus disciples, yet we must also realize that these words came from our loving Saviour, who only had their best in mind. The word "fools" used here originally does not imply as much negativity as the word "fools" does among us. The Greek word used here for "fools" is *anoetos* {an-o'-ay-tos}, number 453 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and as used here it simply means they were not understanding what the Prophets of old wrote in the scriptures. The eyes of their understanding certainly needed enlightened. Secondly here note that they were *"...slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."* What does it mean to be "slow of heart to believe?" This too is a unique term in scripture that Luke writes. According to Vine's Dictionary "slow of heart" speaks metaphorically of the understanding. By the time this day was through, these two "slow of heart to believe" Emmaus disciples had the eyes of their understanding opened by Jesus to see what the Old Testament scriptures revealed concerning Christ, and by the end of the day they emphatically believed in their heart, and confessed with their mouth that God had raised Christ Jesus from the dead! They were eyewitnesses to this fact, but at the time of our present reading here in LUKE 24:25 they were still ignorant of who it was that was talking with them.

In the previous verses Cleopas had already expressed that *...Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people...* and now the two Emmaus disciples were about to hear again what the Prophets themselves had to say about Jesus. The Word of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, was about to give them a one-on-one expounding of what the Old Testament Prophets wrote. LUKE 24:25 *Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.* Wow!!! What a learning experience. What we must understand here is that Jesus opened their eyes of understanding the scriptures for the Holy Spirit was

not yet sent to open their eyes of understanding. Brother Hawkins here writes: “All these things had been previously written of Him, so it should serve as no mystery that they were brought to pass. These verses confirm again that the Old Testament is not a book of dry history of the Jew, nor is it a series of ritualistic examples to imitate, but rather a deep, refreshing well, filled with inexhaustible lessons of Christ and His redemption. When seen under the lens of Holy Ghost revelation, it becomes alive with insights into the Man and what He came to earth to accomplish, both in the plan of redemption and in our own personal lives. It is The Christ who is to be found on every page.” {End of Brother Hawkins quote.}

Continuing with what our Brother Luke wrote in LUKE 24:28 *And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.* We find here that the journey of that resurrection day of the two Emmaus disciples, who had began for them with such a sad outlook, that after hearing the Word of God expounded unto them by The Word of God Himself had changed their whole demeanor, and they couldn't wait for more fellowship, still not knowing the stranger traveling with them that day was our resurrected Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. The Emmaus disciples strongly entreated Him to continue the rest of the day abiding with them. LUKE 24:29 *...And he went in to tarry with them.* The word “tarry” here means to abide. They had spent the afternoon feasting upon The Word of God, and wished for this wonderful satisfying fellowship to continue over a meal. LUKE 24:30 *And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.* Brother Hawkins here wrote: “He is invited as a guest, but quickly becomes the host as “...He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed it, and broke, and gave to them.” Likewise, He becomes the distributor to us of “spiritual meat” when we open to Him the doors of our hearts and give Him the opportunity. Such fellowship and enjoyment of the blessing received at His hand always lead to a greater revelation of the Man, Christ Jesus.” {End of quoting Brother Hawkins.}

The bread of life, (study JOHN 6:35 and 48), who is Christ Jesus, revealed Himself to the Emmaus disciples next in LUKE 24:31 *And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.* The more time we spend feasting in The Word of God, the more our eyes are opened to Him, and who He is to us, and His mighty provision in our own lives! The Apostle John late in his life wrote in 1 JOHN 5:20 *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.* Our Apostle Paul, unto whom our Lord and Saviour first appeared unto on the road to Damascus, and later further revealed Himself to Paul in Arabia (GALATIANS 1:17) where He gave Paul the revelation of the gospel message Paul was to preach, wrote in PHILIPPIANS 3:10 -- *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.* As we read and study The Word of God under the guiding light of the Holy Ghost we too can experience a deeper revelation than what the Emmaus disciples did. Their eyes were opened, and they knew Him, but the Apostle Paul wrote of how we too can know Him, and know Him in the deepest sense as a husband with a wife. May Paul's words of PHILIPPIANS 3:10 also be a prayer from our own heart as we run our race seeking God's ultimate best of ruling and reigning with Christ as His Bride.

Note in LUKE 24:26 that Jesus told the Emmaus disciples: *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?* The reference to Christ's **sufferings** here were now “past tense.” The **sufferings** Paul speaks of in PHILIPPIANS 3:10 above address present tense **sufferings** that offers us the unique opportunity to be glorified together with Him. This thought of Paul's is what he expressed in his earlier epistle to the ROMANS. ROMANS 8:17 *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*<sup>18</sup> *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Once the Emmaus disciples' eyes were opened, and they knew it was our risen Saviour Jesus Christ, who had walked with them, and opened unto them the scriptures that afternoon of His

resurrection, Jesus then vanished out of their sight! LUKE 24:32 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* What a powerful verse! Have you too felt such excitement when the scriptures were opened up unto you? I hope we all have had these moments of spiritual adrenaline when the scriptures were opened to us by the unction of the Holy Ghost, whether it be by the preaching we just heard, or by our studying the word of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is no way that these two Emmaus disciples, who had just walked seven plus miles, were going to get any rest after this exciting afternoon, so we then find their evening hours recorded in the next verses. LUKE 24:33 *And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,* 34 *Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.* 35 *And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.* They must have now had a spring in their step as they returned the seven plus miles back to Jerusalem. No longer were they sad as has been the case in verse 17. They couldn't wait to get back to Jerusalem and tell the eleven disciples, and them that were with them, their testimony that was fresh, and still burning in their heart.

There is a lot of information conveyed in LUKE 24:33-35, which we will now look further into. The place where the remaining eleven Apostles were gathered was a familiar place to these two Emmaus disciples. And note that there were other disciples that were also with them; how many we are not told. Obviously the events of this day of Jesus resurrection had caused quite an assembly the evening of this first day of the week. The two Emmaus disciples announced in LUKE 24:34 *...The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.* Again only Luke and Paul make mention of the fact that on the day of His resurrection Jesus appeared unto Simon Peter, (Cephas) third in His order of appearances. And Peter was among the eleven gathered together in this room. It is hard to imagine that these two Emmaus disciples barged into this assembly and blurted out *...The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon...* without first listening unto the conversations already in progress in this room. The Emmaus disciples here in verse 34 made two statements that got everyone's attention. The first being *...The Lord is risen indeed.* The word "indeed" here means: this is a true fact, a reality! They were saying "Yes the Lord is truly risen, we have spent the better part of this afternoon with Him!!!" Verse 35 reveals that they further explained themselves, and their knowledge of the Lord being risen indeed by telling *...what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.* Obviously the prominent point of discussion among the disciples, and those that were in attendance with them was Jesus resurrection, but the majority in this room were still full of doubt, and unbelief even though there were those among them who testified that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ had in fact risen from the dead, and had also appeared unto them this first day of the week! Secondly in verse 34 the two Emmaus disciples reveal another tidbit that they had learned this most important day of Jesus resurrection, and that being that the Lord *...hath appeared to Simon.* This fact was something our risen Saviour Jesus Christ had made known unto the two Emmaus disciples! Had Peter kept this information to himself, and not mentioned this to his fellow Kingdom Apostles? It is certainly hard to imagine that loud boisterous Peter would keep silence about the Lord being risen indeed, and having made a personal appearance unto Peter. However in the preceding 96 hours, Peter had emphatically denied that he even knew Christ Jesus, so those in attendance that first evening of the week were now very skeptical as to what Peter had to say. It seems that the two Emmaus disciples were sent as SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY, and SUFFICIENT WITNESS to tell the disciples, yes *...The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.* Yet the majority in this room were still slow to believe this report.

Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ appearing unto Peter third in the order of His appearance that first day of the week, wouldn't we wish to know what words were said between our loving Saviour and Peter? The scripture doesn't tell us this information. We must note that Peter was singled out by Jesus to be the first among the Kingdom Apostles to make a personal appearance unto. What words were spoken were only for Peter's ears to hear. It was a very fragile time for Peter, and our loving Saviour, who is full of compassion for those who are "out of the way" (HEBREWS 5:2),



out of sorts, appeared unto Peter to express the most precious and uplifting words of tender warm-hearted love and comfort, and forgiveness, which only our gracious Saviour Christ Jesus could impart. Whatever words were spoken left Peter nearly speechless, and as JOHN 21 reveals, it would take a few more appearances by our risen Saviour unto Peter before Peter would fully embrace Jesus encouragements to fully "Follow Me," and to "Feed My sheep." It was fifty days later on the day of Pentecost, after Peter was filled, and full of the Holy Ghost that Peter was fully equipped to step into that place that was foreordained for him to fill.

Back to LUKE 24:35 where the two Emmaus disciples *...told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.* The account in MARK of this time helps open our eyes to better understand the atmosphere in this room on the night of Jesus resurrection. MARK 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.* So we find that the majority in this room didn't believe the testimony of the two Emmaus disciples. However we must also note that the two Emmaus disciples were not among the doubters, and neither was Peter. MARK 16:14 adds this statement: *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.* So we see that they were troubled, and had unbelieving thoughts in their hearts because they believed not that Jesus had risen from the dead like He said He would on at least three separate occasions while He taught them during His earthly ministry!

It is interesting here to also note that there are nineteen scriptures that use the phrase "believed not." Nineteen is the number associated with FAITH, however the phrase "believed not" is exactly the opposite of FAITH. In HEBREWS 11:6 we read that without faith it is impossible to please God, and the exact words from the King James version reads: *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* The phrase found here in HEBREWS 11:6 "without faith" equates to "believed not," and emphasizes the importance of having FAITH in God. "Without faith" how can we become a full overcomer? We just read that it is impossible to please God "without faith," and certainly the full overcomers will please God. ROMANS 1:17, GALATIANS 3:11, and HEBREWS 10:38 state the very same thing as Paul quotes from a thought found in HABAKKUK 2:4, which is *"...the just shall live by faith."* Paul is not talking about having faith in the doctors, or in anyone other person, place or thing other than God. Jesus Himself said in MARK 11:22 *...Have faith in God.* When our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ gave Himself for us on the cross of Calvary, and gave himself up to death, did He Himself not have faith in God that God was raise Him from the dead three days later? Paul again wrote in 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.* Stated another way, faith is not sight. Study real good HEBREWS 11 and take away from this chapter that faith is our foundation; that faith is no respecter of persons; that *...without faith it is impossible to please... God; and that ...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...* HEBREWS 11:1. Faith is being not dismayed. As we recently learned in Scott's class, faith is the absolute assurance of things hoped for, the proof of the reality of things we cannot see with the natural eye, which is a literal interpretation of HEBREWS 11:3!

Let's now tie these thoughts together with the events we are currently studying about in LUKE 24. We have come to the fifth appearance of our risen Saviour Jesus Christ on the day of His resurrection. He already has made an appearance to Mary Magdalene as is noted in JOHN 20:14-18, and to the women returning from the tomb as is told in MATTHEW 28:8-10, and third, He has also appeared unto Peter as is recorded here in LUKE 24:34, and 1 CORINTHIANS 15:5, and fourth, He spent the afternoon with the two Emmaus disciples that we read about in LUKE 24:13-31. Now we find here in LUKE 24:36-43, MARK 16:14, and in JOHN 20:19-24 that Jesus has made a fifth appearance that first day of the week, the day of His resurrection. We saw in LUKE 24:33 the eleven

disciples gathered along with some others with them. Peter was there, and so were the two Emmaus disciples. The atmosphere in that room was one of fear, unbelief, and hardness of heart. MARK 16:14 again records this stating: *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.* For three plus years these disciples were the closest followers of Jesus, and He had taught them much, and invested most of His time, and energy being with them, and teaching them. But right at this moment it appears that they hadn't really learned very much, or should we say believed as much as they should, so Jesus ...*upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.* We should also realize here that the death and burial of Jesus Christ was no doubt the low point of these disciples' lives in their walk with the Lord. And we must also note that our tender loving Saviour is full of compassion for them who are out of the way as was the case with His disciples that evening. Jesus hadn't wasted His time and energy on His disciples, and loved them divinely, yet they needed His help, and His further instruction to help them on their way.

Our brother in the Lord, Luke, amplifies upon the events the rest of this evening. LUKE 24:36 *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.* At this His fifth appearance on the day of His resurrection, Jesus instantly becomes the center of attention to this room full of startled doubters. They were not looking for His appearing were they? In fact just the opposite, they were doubting, and unbelieving the testimonies they had just heard of the Emmaus disciples ...*how he was known of them in breaking of bread...* ...LUKE 24:35. Why were the eleven, and those that were with them gathered together in the first place? Were they having a church service? Yes indeed they were, though not in a formal manner, yet their topic of discussion was Christ. So we must note that Jesus was the center of their attention even before He made this grand appearance in the midst of them, and afterward He certainly was the center of their attention! Jesus didn't instantly appear in the midst of this assembly to scare the living daylights out of them, in fact His appearing unto them was for their comfort, and to dispel their unbelief, and doubts that He would indeed rise again from the dead the third day as He had previously told them in MATTHEW 20:19; MARK 8:31 and 10:34, and LUKE 18:33. Five nights previous at the Last Supper Jesus had told His disciples: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid...* ...JOHN 14:27. Yet now these five nights later, their hearts were troubled, and they were afraid ...*for fear of the Jews...* JOHN 20:19 tells us. Jesus salutation here also reveals His purpose for this His fifth gracious appearance on this day of His resurrection: ...*Peace be unto you.*

It is interesting to note that there are exactly eight "*Peace be unto*" statements in scripture, and again one of the meanings of the number eight is RESURRECTION. It truly is a marvel how the Holy Spirit inspired scripture! The greeting "*Peace be unto you*" was much more than just the common salutation among the Hebrews. Spurgeon notes: when Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" it was a mandate from the giver of peace. When Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" it was a benediction, a divine blessing: He wished them peace. When Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" it was also a declaration that they were at peace with God. When Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" it was an ecclesiastical liberation that He had blotted out all offenses that might have spoiled their peace. {End of Spurgeon's thoughts.} When Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" it certainly got their undivided attention. When Jesus said "*Peace be unto you*" the next words we read are: LUKE 24:37 *But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.* We too would have reacted the same way.

Let's read verses 38-48 as the Master Teacher begins to open their understanding as to what had just witnessed in the preceding days, and gives them instruction concerning their future walk with Him. LUKE 24:38 *And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye*

here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them. 44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

There are a lot of thoughts found in these verses to examine. As we begin to discuss the detail found in these verses note some interesting comparisons in the following thoughts concerning witnesses, who were among the first to see Jesus. On the night our dear Saviour Christ Jesus the Lord was born, there were shepherds nearby keeping watch over their flock by night when the angel of the Lord came upon them, and announced where they could view Him, who would become the Chief Shepherd of the sheep. He was the center of attention that night, the night of His birth, and these very same shepherds were among the first to see Him! Afterwards these same shepherds made known abroad the saying concerning this child, which was Christ Jesus the Saviour is born, and we have seen Him; we are His witnesses. Even though they made it broadly known that the Saviour Christ the Lord is born, it is apparent that not many believed them. Moving forward thirty-three years we find that on the first day of the week angels once again made an announcement on the morning Jesus was raised from the dead, saying "He is not here, but is risen..." ...LUKE 24:6. On that same the night when Jesus Christ our Lord was raised from the dead, He being the Chief Shepherd of the sheep, appeared unto those who would later feed His flock, and announced ...*that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have...* ...LUKE 24:39. They indeed viewed our risen Lord and Saviour that first night of the week, the first night of His resurrection, and once again He was the center of attention that night too!!! Afterwards when these same individuals were filled with the Holy Ghost some fifty days later, these same witnesses spread abroad the fact ...*it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things...* ...LUKE 24:46-48. Peter, who was one of these witnesses unto whom Jesus had now appeared unto twice on the day of His resurrection, late in his life wrote the following. 1 PETER 2:21 *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:* 22 *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:* 23 *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:* 24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* 25 *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.* Then in 1 PETER 5 the Apostle Peter again makes reference to the Chief Shepherd, and the flock of God. 1 PETER 5:1 *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:* 2 *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;* 3 *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.* 4 *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

Another point of importance that our brother in the Lord Luke brings out in LUKE 24 revolves around the word "**opened**," which is found three times in this chapter. LUKE 24:31 *And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.* LUKE 24:32 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* LUKE 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.* The Greek word translated "**opened**" in these three scriptures is *dianoigo* {dee-an-oy'-go}, number 1272 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and is only used eight times in New Testament scripture, once again pointing to RESURRECTION. *Dianoigo* {dee-an-oy'-go}

means: to open up completely; to open up a channel to cause the understanding of a thing. It is used of the eyes and ears being **opened**, and also the mind of one being **opened** as to the proper understanding of a thing. This first day of His resurrection that all of LUKE 24 up to this point has discussed occurred before the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven. Again one of the main functions of the Holy Ghost is to **open** our understanding that we too might understand the scriptures. And again the scriptures are The Word of God, who is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to REVELATION 19:13. So stated another way, the Holy Ghost reveals unto us, **opens** unto us our spiritual learning so that we too can understand the scriptures. Without the leading, and guidance of the Holy Ghost a believer can not be made ready to be the Bride of Christ! Without the leading and guidance of Eliezer, Isaac never would have had Rebekah for a wife! May our own spiritual eyes be **opened** to this fact!

The big picture view of the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of LUKE is to further **open** our understanding of the scriptures concerning Jesus Christ, and His resurrection. We have pointed out how He made five appearances on the day of His resurrection proving He had indeed risen from the dead. One of the prominent themes of LUKE 24 is how Jesus dispelled their unbelief by these appearances, and left each of them with a greater understanding and appreciation of who He was, and is to their lives. Who He was, and is can really be summed up in these words from JOHN 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Yes Jesus **opened** up their understanding in LUKE 24 that He is indeed ...*the way, the truth, and the life*,... and that all that is written of Him in scripture is indeed the truth. Furthermore LUKE 24 **opens** our eyes to a greater revelation of our risen Saviour, and even though our natural eyes haven't seen Him yet like those in LUKE 24 did, we to glimpse Him with our enlightened eyes of understanding being **opened** by the Holy Spirit, and we see Him by faith as He is. Jesus showed those in LUKE 24 that He was alive, and that He was their life. Our risen Saviour is our life too, and without Him we have no life. May our understanding be also **opened** to see these truths of scripture. Our Apostle Paul was given to us to fill up the word of God, {study COLOSSIANS 1:25}, and COLOSSIANS 3:4 tells us: *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.* Christ is our life, and we look for His soon appearing once again.

Let's go back here in LUKE 24 and see how Jesus **opened** their understanding here on the first night of His resurrection. Our risen Saviour, and Master Teacher begins **opening** their understanding by first asking a couple of attention getting questions in LUKE 24:38 *And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* These questions will **open** our understanding also as we will now explain.

Let's stop here for a moment, and realize the fact that our Apostle Paul encouraged us with in his last letter, which was his second epistle written unto Timothy. Paul writes Timothy, and specifically notes in 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 & 17 -- *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* These questions Jesus asked His audience on the night of His resurrection in LUKE 24:38 are a part of the "all scripture" that is given by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, which we have to read and study. Timothy didn't have this scripture from LUKE 24:38 in his inventory of study material, but we do. So when Jesus asked His closest followers in LUKE 24:38 ...*Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?*... these questions were asked for our learning, to be for us ...*profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* Stated another way, every word Jesus spoke was The Word of God, and spoken also for our learning and instruction in righteousness, that we may be perfect, and complete in our walk with the Lord, and ...*thoroughly furnished unto all good works*... for the purpose that we can have God's best. We are further told by the Apostle Paul in 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 that these scriptures ...*are written for our admonition*,... which simply means that they were written for our instruction; to get our attention. To that end then we must all face, and answer these kind of questions Jesus asked here in LUKE 24:38 ...*Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* The sermons

that are in these two questions are endless. Jesus asked these two questions to His closest followers, and His future Kingdom Apostles, whom He personally chose. He wanted them to have the best He had offered them, but first they had to answer for themselves: ...*Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* You see there was really no reason for them to be troubled, for Jesus was right there in the midst of them. In the very last verse of MATTHEW, which is MATTHEW 28:20, Jesus makes this parting statement: ...*lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* There are exactly seventeen “I am with” statements in scripture. Seventeen is the number that points to VICTORY IN CHRIST JESUS! When Jesus stated ...*I am with you alway*,... how long was that for? Of course the answer is always! Thus when we read in LUKE 24:38 ...*Why are ye troubled?*... also remember Jesus words: ...*I am with you alway*... ...MATTHEW 28:20. The Greek word translated “troubled” in LUKE 24:38 is tarasso {tar-as'-so} number 5015 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and is also found exactly seventeen times in New Testament scripture. Tarasso {tar-as'-so} means: to agitate, to trouble, to cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind, to disquiet, make restless, to stir up, to strike one's spirit with fear and dread, to render anxious or distressed, and to perplex the mind of one by suggesting scruples or doubts. Have you ever been there in this troubled state of mind? Often times when we are so troubled we seem to forget that our loving Saviour is also with us, always! We seem to forget that we already have VICTORY IN CHRIST JESUS! Only He can solve our trouble, quench our fears, and give us His peace. Recall Jesus opening statement on this His fifth appearance on the day of His resurrection as He ...*himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you*... ...LUKE 24:36. Our risen Saviour wanted them to have His peace, and He wants the very same thing for us! Think about this for a moment, do you think the Bride of Christ will have His peace? Of course she will.

LUKE 24:38 ...*Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* What kind of thoughts did they have in their hearts that cause them to be so troubled? We have mentioned many times before that there is no way we could know what is going on in someone's heart without them first revealing it unto us, however our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the heart examiner according to JEREMIAH 17:10; ROMANS 8:27; and REVELATION 2:23. When Jesus appeared unto them in that room that night, He already knew their troubling thoughts. What kinds of troubling thoughts arise in your own heart? Truly the Lord knows, yet He certainly also wants us to have VICTORY IN CHRIST JESUS! These are Jesus own words we are about to read in JOHN 14. JOHN 14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* JOHN 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* Let us also always remember what our Apostle Paul wrote unto us in HEBREWS 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* Certainly our time in need is when we are troubled by circumstance, fear, anxiousness, and perplexity of mind. The Holy Ghost also inspired our Apostle Paul to write the following two portions of scripture to encourage us when our hearts are troubled, and when we too have fearful thoughts arise in our own heart. PHILIPPIANS 4:6 *Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* 7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* COLOSSIANS 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.* Since these are the only two portions scripture that have the phrase the peace of God in them, note always their connecting link, which is be ye thankful. Our hearts being thankful unto God the Father is what unlocks for us the door of the peace of God. The Bride of Christ will have a thankful heart!

We read earlier in LUKE 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,* and we had a discussion on the word “opened.” We also noted that our risen Saviour, and Master Teacher begins **opening** their understanding by first asking a couple of attention getting questions in LUKE 24:38 *And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* I believe by now that we could all answer these two questions Jesus asked His disciples that night of His resurrection, and we could do so with one word: unbelief. Jesus

knew that in their minds they were troubled, anxious, perplexed, disturbed, alarmed, and upset by the thoughts that were within their hearts. Some of their thoughts were revealed by our brother Luke in the previous verses of LUKE 24 with words like: “they believed them not” in verse 11; they were “sad” in verse 17; they were “astonished” in verse 22; and they were “slow of heart to believe” in verse 25. Let’s also read again MARK 16:9-14 concerning the events of that first day of the week when Jesus arose from the dead. MARK 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.* When Jesus made His appearance unto them in LUKE 24:36 His opening statement was “*Peace be unto you.*” LUKE 24:37 informs us that these disciples, and those that were with them *...were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.* Then Jesus asked in LUKE 24:38 *...Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?* When Jesus asked these two questions, He was really getting each of them to stop for a moment, and take a deep look into their own questioning thoughts as to why they didn’t believe the reports that Jesus was indeed risen from the dead! His presence should have answered these questions, and no doubt it did, but Jesus then gave them further proof that it was indeed Him they were seeing alive.

The Master Teacher proves to them that He was alive, and had risen from the dead in LUKE 24:39 & 40. LUKE 24:39 *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.* These are very important words that Luke records here; words that help dispel unbelief, and enhance our understanding. In the red-letter editions of our King James Version of the Bible, Jesus spoke the word “behold” seventy five times. The word “behold” means to see something, to perceive with the eyes, and “behold” further means to know something, and to call ones attention to what may be seen or heard or mentally apprehended in any way. Thus we find that our Lord and Saviour wants us to know beyond a shadow of a doubt, and understand the very same thing He was trying to get those in attendance that first night of the week, which was that yes indeed it is I Christ Jesus, who am risen from the dead! *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself... !*

What was different about our risen Saviors’ hands and feet that was worthy of beholding, and that would distinguish Him as Christ Jesus? All in the room that first night of the week could answer this question for most had witnessed Him being crucified four days prior. We too know the answer to this question, so let find the answer in scripture. Recently we spent much time discussing the crucifixion of Jesus, so exactly where is the scripture of how they attached Jesus unto the cross? Did they use ropes, or cords, or something else? PSALMS 22 is about the Good Shepherd giving His life for the sheep, and in verse 16 we read: *For dogs have compassed me: A company of evil-doers have inclosed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.* They didn’t pierce His hands, and feet with ropes or cords did they? In REVELATION 1:7 we again read about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and REVELATION 1:7 reads: *Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they that pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him. Even so, Amen.* Again we find that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was pierced, and our Apostle Paul further explains this in COLOSSIANS 2. COLOSSIANS 2:13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.* So we find that Jesus hands and feet were pierced with nails, and it was Christ Jesus that explained this further unto the Apostle Thomas in JOHN 20. JOHN 20:24 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into*



*his side, I will not believe.* (I believe this is the only verse in the Bible where the Apostle Thomas teaches us a lesson, and the lesson he teaches us is that Jesus was indeed nailed to the cross.) 26 *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.* 27 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.* 28 *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.* 29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* The nail prints in Jesus hands and feet convinced Thomas that Christ Jesus was indeed raised from the dead. Now back to LUKE 24 where Jesus says in LUKE 24:39 *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself...* we now know it was His nail scarred hands and feet that distinguished Him as being the risen Saviour. One of the songs we sing is “He was nailed to the Cross for Me,” thus we too behold His hands, and His feet acknowledging that He was raised again from the dead for our justification as our Apostle Paul told us in ROMANS 4:25.

LUKE 24:39 *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.* 40 *And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.* We have just noted that it was Jesus nailed scarred hands and feet that unquestionably distinguished Him as being the risen Saviour. Jesus then further gives them instruction that dispels their earlier thought that he was a spirit. We read in LUKE 24:36 & 37 -- *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.* 37 *But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.* Now here in verse 39 Jesus explains the difference to them between Himself, and a spirit. Make sure we also know this lesson Jesus taught in LUKE 24:39 *...a spirit hath not flesh and bones.* Jesus during His earthly ministry taught in JOHN 4 the following facts concerning God the Father. JOHN 4:23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.* 24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* So we should see that God is a Spirit, and that *...a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.* Let’s let Brother Hawkins commentary from LUKE 24 further explain this.

Brother Hawkins writes: “God, who is Spirit, is purported by some writers to have the same features as our human bodies. Our text would contradict that. ...Jesus, though God, is no longer only Spirit. He became a Man and will forever be in a human body. His body is now glorified, a spiritual body, but a body, nonetheless. He proves it by showing them His hands and feet, the same hands and feet which have been pierced by the cruel nails that held Him to the Cross. John is more emphatic, as he describes the scene with Thomas. “*Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing*” ...JOHN 20:27.”

“Notice also that Jesus said that His new body has flesh and bones, not flesh and “blood.” Scripture is very emphatic in declaring that “*...flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God...*” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:50.) God declared long ago that the life of all flesh is in the blood, and it was that life which Jesus poured out at Calvary, because it became corrupted with our sin. It represented the life blood of all mankind, from Adam until the end of time. Thus, His body of glory is one of flesh and bones, but neither His blood, nor ours, will ever enter heaven.” {End of quoting Brother Hawkins.}

Have you ever heard the saying “it seems too good to be true?” This is the meaning of what we read next in LUKE 24:41 *And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered...* . An expounded translation of this portion of LUKE 24:41 reads: They were still disbelieving for sheer joy, and were still wondering about it... . “They were still unconvinced” one translation reads. We could say they could scarce believe what their eyes were seeing, and the joy they were experiencing at the appearing of our Lord and risen Saviour Jesus Christ. In other words they were bewildered at the sudden appearance of Jesus. It would take a few minutes for this to properly register in their minds. Jesus was doing His best to dispel their panic stricken unsettled emotions, and reassure them that it was Him indeed who was now appearing unto them in flesh and bones. Yet when He said

“Peace be unto you” their reaction wasn’t that of peace. So in the midst of their wonderment, Jesus, who Himself is the living bread of life (JOHN 6:51) ...*said unto them, Have ye here any meat?* ...LUKE 24:41. MARK 16:14 *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat,*... so we see that they were assembled for the purpose of having a meal.

There are several lessons to be learned from LUKE 24:41 *And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?* Let’s spend a few moments considering this question Jesus the Master Teacher asked: *Have ye here any meat?* Was our risen Saviour hungry, or was He showing them that He was more than a spirit? The answer is He was proving to them that yes indeed He was alive, and had risen from the dead in a true and real body, which was capable of eating and drinking. He was further showing them He desired their further fellowship, which they had so often had before with Him over a meal. Furthermore He here was getting their attention so He could teach them some more lessons about Himself, which before this time they hadn’t yet properly learned. But now He had their undivided attention.

Go back to LUKE 12 and let’s review something Jesus had already instructed His disciples. LUKE 12:22 *And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. 23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.* “**The life**” is the subject matter here, and “**the life**” is really a reference to Christ’s life. The Apostle Paul said in ACTS 17:28 *For in him we live, and move, and have our being...* . The phrase “**the life**” is found in forty-two verses of scripture, and forty-two is the number that is associated with HEAVENLY APPEARANCE. Isn’t that exactly what we are studying about here in LUKE 24, several HEAVENLY APPEARANCES of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on the day of His resurrection? Let’s look at some scriptures that help point out the fact that “**the life**” is really a reference to “**the life**” of Christ, who is living in the heart of all believers, by whom ...*we live, and move, and have our being...* . JOHN 1:4 speaks of Jesus Christ, and says: *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* Next these are Jesus words in JOHN 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.* JOHN 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Jesus is **the life**! So we see that the Apostle John emphasized the fact that Jesus Christ is indeed “**the life**.” In these next verses we will see that our Apostle Paul also emphasized this very same fact, that Jesus Christ is indeed “**the life**.” 2 CORINTHIANS 4:10 *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.* GALATIANS 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* As believers we should all know that **the life** of Christ liveth in me, and as COLOSSIANS 3:4 tells us: *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

So in our text of LUKE 24:41 when our risen Saviour asked ...*Have ye here any meat?* He was about to reinforce some eternal life lessons He had previously introduced to them. And even before He asked, Jesus knew that they had some broiled fish, and a honeycomb for Him, which we find mentioned in LUKE 24:42 *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.*

As we continue examining some of the deeper thoughts found in these two verses, let’s first look at this question our risen Saviour, and Master Teacher asked in LUKE 24:41 ...*Have ye here any meat?* Note that He didn’t ask, “have you any meat?” rather He asked ...*Have ye here any meat?* There is always a spiritual aspect to everything Jesus says, even though in this case Jesus was asking for some food for the express purpose of teaching them several additional lessons when He finally had their undivided attention. This question ...*Have ye here any meat?* would be an excellent question to ask a Pastor before attending his assembly. ...*Have ye here any meat?* in this case would mean; have you here in this meeting any spiritual food, which would feed my soul, and be of eternal benefit to me? It is sad to note that in most instances the answer to this question in the majority of assemblies would be no we have nothing here to feed your hungry soul. Jesus wasn’t asking for

much when He asked ...*Have ye here any meat?* We already know that He is the life sustainer, so His point in asking ...*Have ye here any meat?* was to get their attention, calm their emotions, and get them to focus on what He was about to say. He was going to feed them some spiritual meat; meat that would feed their hungry soul, and set their feet, and their focus upon higher ground. Remember they here that night were really at a low point in their lives, but Jesus was lifting them up from their doldrums, and in a few minutes He would open their understanding that they might understand the scriptures.

Note in LUKE 24:42 *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.* So they did have there in their assembly that first night of the week some interesting food, ...*a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.* LUKE 24:43 *And he took it, and did eat before them.* His resurrected glorified body had no need of food, but His purpose here was to have some fellowship with them as He continued to teach them His purpose for coming to earth in the first place, and their roll in carrying His message forward beyond the cross. Again this was a very fragile time in their life, and their walk with the Lord. In one aspect, they were still mourning His death, and here they were still trying to reconcile in their own mind that Christ Jesus was indeed raised from the dead, as they had been told, and now they were trying to realize the reality that He now was alive and in their midst! So they marveled as He took of the broiled fish, and of the honeycomb, and did eat before them. Everytime Jesus had a meal with His disciples it was memorable to them. Peter later at the house of Cornelius recalled this particular meal in his sermon of ACTS 10. ACTS 10:39 *And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.* In JOHN 21 we find another time when our resurrected Saviour had a meal with His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, which is also called in scripture the Sea of Tiberias. So the Apostle Peter gave testimony to the fact that he himself was a ...*witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.*

Let's read again LUKE 24:41 ...*Have ye here any meat?* 42 *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.* 43 *And he took it, and did eat before them.* We must here realize that our resurrected Saviour had their undivided attention at this time, perhaps like never before. Furthermore we must also note that Jesus had eaten many such meals with His disciples during His three plus years with them during His earthly ministry. Certainly each of these meals was also wonderful time of fellowship, and we also know that the Master Teacher taught His disciples many a lesson during these meal times when He had their undivided attention. Two such occasions where fish were involved are highlighted in the gospel records, which we will now review to glean some additional thoughts.

LUKE 9:10 *And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. 11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. 12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. 13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. 14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company. 15 And they did so, and made them all sit down. 16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. 17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.*

This same story is also told in MATTHEW 14:13-21; MARK 6:30-44; AND JOHN 6:1-14. How many lessons are there in this story of the five thousand being fed by five loaves and two fish? There is no way we could answer this question. If you take the time to study these scriptures you will

notice that there were really five thousand men there, plus women and children, who had followed Jesus out to a desert place where there was no food! Perhaps upwards of 30,000 people were following Him, and the gospel records here tell of Jesus being moved with compassion on this multitude, and He healed their sick, and taught them many things. By the end of the day this was a hungry multitude, but Jesus proved to them that He was more than sufficient to meet their immediate need. The five loaves emphasize that Jesus Christ is indeed the bread of life, and the fact that there were five loaves here just points once again to the fact that He is full of GRACE. Paul learned, and wrote in 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 how that the GRACE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is sufficient to meet our every need. There was no lack found in the feeding of this multitude, and they all left full, their hunger being satisfied. The two fishes, were really small fishes according to the story in JOHN. We know that the number two points to SUFFICIENT WITNESS, or SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY. The two small fishes here are SUFFICIENT WITNESS, and SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY to the fact that His life had to be given in order that Jesus Christ could give life unto the world. Brother Hawkins notes here that “the fish, having come out of the waters, tell of Christ being raised out of the waters of death and judgment, to become a feast of resurrection life.” The twelve baskets full of the fragments are figurative of the fact that after this church age when all of the hungry have been fed, there will still be plenty for the twelve tribes of Israel, and for the rest of the world during the Millennium.

As we noted above there is a second record where fish again were involved in the feeding of another multitude. We read this story both in MATTHEW 15:32-39, and in MARK 8:1-9. We will read the account found in MATTHEW 15. MATTHEW 15:32 *Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. 33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? 34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. 35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.*

In this second story in the feeding of another multitude we once again have SUFFICIENT WITNESS, and SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY of what is said in PHILIPPIANS 4:19. PHILIPPIANS 4:19 is the one hundredth verse of PHILIPPIANS, and one hundred in the number of COMPLETION. PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* In the verses just prior to what we read in MATTHEW 15 we find once again that Jesus had healed all who were brought to Him for healing, and this had continued for three days. Further in our story it is noted that they had nothing to eat for three days, and Jesus wasn't willing to send them away hungry. What was their provision this time? In this story it was still God who would supply all their need by Christ Jesus, and in this story He had available seven loaves, and a few small fishes to feed four thousand men besides the women and children with them. The number seven speaks of SPIRITUAL PERFECTION, and SPIRITUAL COMPLETION. There were seven loaves before the feast, and seven baskets of fragments after the feast. The perfect Son of God had proved once again that He is the bread of life. He too was the “broken meat” that was sacrificed upon the cross of Calvary so that we can have abundant life. Once again the “the fish, having come out of the waters, tell of Christ being raised out of the waters of death and judgment, to become a feast of resurrection life.” Note also in MATTHEW 15:37 above that they all were one hundred percent completely filled.

Now back in our text of LUKE 24 let's read again this story of Jesus fifth appearance on the night of His resurrection. LUKE 24:41 *...Have ye here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.* Here I want to once again quote what Brother Hawkins wrote in his LUKE commentary. “Jesus had a glorified body and did not need to eat to build up the blood, or life, but He had the ability to do so. The significance is

symbolic, and is, once again, in keeping with the peace offering. Eating, in Scripture, expresses fellowship, and this glorified Christ is partaking of the fish, which is a testimony of Himself, coming out of the waters of judgment, into glorious resurrection. The honey testifies to the sweetness of God's Word. He has set the example before us, and we are to enter into that same fellowship." {End of quoting Brother Hawkins.}

Let's talk about "the sweetness of God's Word" for a minute. We are told in PSALMS 34:8 *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* Again we read in PSALMS 119:103 *How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!* This is the essence of the sweetness of His word. He wants us to feed upon His word, and to trust Him for our daily provision. Furthermore, and most important for us potential New Testament full overcomers to note, is the fact that feeding upon the word of God is where faith comes from. We have read ROMANS 10:17 before, and will look it again a little later in this study, but for now let's just note the fact stated in ROMANS 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* The full overcomers feast upon, and mediate upon the Word of God, and again we must remember what is stated in REVELATION 19:13 that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and our soon coming Bridegroom name is called The Word of God. So everything we read in scripture, which is The Word of God, highlights facts about our risen Saviour Jesus Christ, who is The Word of God. Truly PSALMS 34:8 once again emphasizes this point: *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* The Old Testament words that are equivalent to the New Testament word "faith" is "trust," "trusteth," or "believe." Thus PSALMS 34:8 can be read like this: "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that puts their faith in him." Truly *...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God...* ...ROMANS 10:17. Our Bible tells us this same thing a thousand different ways in the incredible stories we read in scripture.

We will continue our reading in LUKE 24 in a moment, and as we do please note here that our risen Saviour Jesus Christ didn't make His fifth appearance on the day of His resurrection just to scare the living daylights out of His closest followers. That was not His purpose here, nor was that His intention. From the beginning of His ministry Jesus had told His disciples, who would become His Kingdom Apostles: *...Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men...* ...MATTHEW 4:19. In LUKE 5:10 & 11 we read: *And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.* And up to this point in time Jesus disciples had followed Jesus, but at this particular moment they were not yet equipped to become the "fishers of men" Jesus promised. It would take the power of the Holy Ghost to fully equip them for this mission. On this first night of Jesus resurrection this calling that they were appointed to of being "fishers of men" was probably the last thing on their mind. In fact as we noted earlier, they were at this moment gathered to gather still mourning His death, and here they were still trying to reconcile in their own mind that Christ Jesus was indeed raised from the dead, as they had been told, and now they were trying to realize the reality that He now was alive and in their midst! And now having witnessed our lovely resurrected Saviour eating a meal in their presence, Jesus certainly had their undivided attention, perhaps as He never had before. So we know these red-letter words of Jesus that conclude LUKE 24 were heard, and received as never before. And the fact that our Brother Luke recorded these words of Jesus from eyewitness accounts more than twenty-five years after they were spoken is further proof, and evidence that these instructions were not received as the "idle tales" that Luke mentioned earlier in the day in LUKE 24:11. Stated another way, the words we are about to read in LUKE 24:44-49 were highlighted in the hearts of the hearers for the rest of their lives!

LUKE 24:44 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these*

*things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

Before we examine a little more of what was said in these verses, let's make note of the fact that it would be fifty days until the day of Pentecost, when Jesus was send the Holy Ghost, and endue them with His power from on high. It is our Brother Luke who records the details of this in his sequel letter to O Theophilus, which we know as THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. According to ACTS 1:3 our resurrected Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ would make several more appearances during the next forty days as He continued to emphasize the importance to them of receiving the Holy Ghost. The Apostle John in JOHN 20:22 noted something else Jesus did here on this night of His resurrection. JOHN 20:22 *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.* This too is most significant for us to note, that Jesus breathed on them. In breathing on them Jesus emphasized unto them, and to us, the importance of receiving the Holy Ghost, the agency of the trinity by whom we are endued with power from on high. The Greek word translated "breathed" or "breathed on" here in JOHN 20:22 is not found anywhere else in The New Testament. The Greek word used here is *emphusao* {em-foo-sah'-o}, number 1720 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, meaning; to blow or breathe upon. Back in GENESIS 2:7 we read: *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Now let's read 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45 *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.* The first man Adam was formed out of the dust of the ground as GENESIS 2:7 instructs. The last man Adam, who is the Lord from heaven, became a quickening spirit. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:47 explains this: *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.* The last man Adam, who is the Lord from heaven, on the night of His resurrection ...*breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.* The inference is that here again is the beginning of spiritual life from God incarnate, who is Jesus Christ. The last man Adam, who was made a quickening spirit breathes into others His divine life when we become believers! The power of His divine life is manifest to us when we too receive the Holy Ghost! Our Brother Luke will further explain this to us in ACTS 1, and show us countless examples in ACTS chapters 2-28. Jesus disciples could not become the "fishers of men" Jesus told them from the beginning that they would be until after they had received the Holy Ghost. That sound of a rushing mighty wind that we will later read about in the day of Pentecost in ACTS 2:2 was again Jesus breathing upon them as they in fact did receive the Holy Ghost.

Thus we note the importance of what our resurrected Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ emphasized to His disciples on the night of His resurrection with the words that are recorded in LUKE 24:44-49, which we must read again. LUKE 24:44 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

There are some key phrases, and key words found in this portion of scripture that provoke our thinking, and help our learning, and understanding. The first phrase to examine is what Jesus said in verse 44 *"These are the words which I spake unto you."* How important are the word Jesus spoke? In JOHN 6:63 we read these words of Jesus *...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* In JOHN 7:1 we find that the Jews sought to kill Jesus, and as we read further in this chapter it is noted that the time to kill Jesus was not yet fully come. Nevertheless the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Jesus, to arrest Him, but reading further we find that these officers were not able to take Jesus. When asked why they didn't bring Jesus to them we find the answer in JOHN 7:46 *The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.* Thus we should see



that the words which Jesus spake were words full of power, full of life, and truth, and were important enough that they should have been remembered, for ...*Never man spake like this man...* Jesus!

The second important phrase that we should take note of in Jesus words of LUKE 24:44-49 is the last part of verse 44, which reads: *...that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.* The all things written about Jesus in the law of Moses, and the Prophets, and the PSALMS was also the word of the Lord, which, as we pointed out earlier in REVELATION 19:13 is another name for Jesus; The Word of God! There are over two hundred and fifty references to the word of the Lord in scripture, and in studying “the word of the Lord” you will find that “the word of the Lord” also spake unto Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and all of the Prophets just to mention a few unto whom the Lord spoke. On the night of His resurrection Jesus appeared unto those gathered together in that room, and reminded them He was indeed the Lord, the very same Lord who spoke “the word of the Lord” unto them for three plus years. Jesus said in LUKE 24:44 *...These are the words which I... (The Word of the Lord) ...spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.* The two Emmaus disciples that were also in this room that night, they got a double portion, for earlier in the day Jesus had told them the following: LUKE 24:26 *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

(Some have asked me for a list of the scriptures Jesus made reference to here, which would be too many scriptures to insert in detail in this portion of our study. However Scofield in his notes on PSALMS 118:29 gives a list of some of the PSALMS called the Messianic Psalms that are a direct reference to Jesus. For those of you who read these notes I am including a partial list of the Old Testament scriptures that Jesus may have referenced on that first day of His resurrection. From the law: GENESIS 3:15, 14:18, 22:18, 49:10; LEVITICUS 16:2-19; NUMBERS 21:8, 35:25; DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19. From the Prophets: ISAIAH 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-10, 28:16, 40:1-11, 42:1-4, 49:1-8, 50:2-6; 52:13-15, 53:1-12, 61:1-3; JEREMIAH 23:5, 33:14; EZEKIEL 17:22, 34:23; DANIEL 2:44, 7:13, 9:24-27; HOSEA 1:7-11, 3:5; JOEL 2:28-32; AMOS 9:11; MICAH 5:1-4; HAGGAI 2:7-9; ZECHARIAH 6:12, 9:9, 11:8-13, 12:10, 13:7, 14:4; MALACHI 3:1-3, 4:2-6. From the PSALMS: PSALMS 2:1-12, 16:9-11, 22:1-31, 40:6-8, 69:1-36, 72:1-20, 88:1-18; 109:4-20, 110:1-7, 118:22.)

The third important phrase Jesus made unto those in the room that evening of His resurrection is what is said in LUKE 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.* The important words of verse 45 are “opened,” “understanding,” and “understand,” and these words are all connected. This is the third time in LUKE 24 where we find the word “opened” with verses 31 and 32 being the other two times where “opened” is found. We discussed this earlier how that the Greek word translated “opened” in these three scriptures is *dianoigo* {dee-an-oy'-go}, number 1272 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and is only used eight times in New Testament scripture, once again pointing to RESURRECTION. *Dianoigo* {dee-an-oy'-go} means: to open up completely; to open up a channel to cause the understanding of a thing. It is used of the eyes and ears being opened, and also the mind of one being opened as to the proper understanding of a thing.

The key thought presented here that also unlocks our learning revolves around the words “understand,” and “understanding.” Jesus here opened their eyes, and ears in order for them to have the proper “understanding” of what He was telling them. We learn from both LUKE 24:25, and LUKE 24:44 that their “understanding” here was restrained by their being “slow of heart to believe” the scriptures.

Let's cut to the chase, that is get to the point that we need to see here, especially as it concerns us the potential full overcomers of this Church Age. What kind of “understanding” do we need to have in order to be the Bride of Christ? The answer is, we need His “understanding” in order to perceive things as He does. Christ's Bride will be His equal in “understanding” is another way we

could express it. Obviously then the Bride of Christ will have the eyes of her “understanding” enlightened by the power of the Holy Ghost in order to see things like He does. And she too will have hearing ears of faith to become the New Testament full overcomer worthy of faith that achieves the honor of being the Bride of Christ! Years ago in this adult Sunday School class we did a series of lessons on the Hearing Hearts of Faith. The emphasis of that study was on hearing as is highlighted by the Apostle Paul in ROMANS 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* What a powerful verse of scripture that emphasizes the importance on hearing the word of God; hearing with receptive hearts of faith, and believing the precepts that we can only see with open eyes of faith! HEBREWS 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.* Have you ever seen the Red Sea parted? Have you ever seen the deluge that was the flood that destroyed all but eight souls in GENESIS 7? Have you ever seen anyone translated? Have you ever seen a giant slain by a youth with a slingshot? Have you seen afar the heavenly city, which hath foundations that Abraham saw? It takes eyes of faith to see such things. Our Apostle Paul prayed in EPHESIANS 1:18 that *...The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.* Again we repeat what we said above: the Bride of Christ will have the eyes of her “understanding” enlightened by the power of the Holy Ghost in order to see things like He does. The Greek word translated “understanding” in EPHESIANS 1:18 is *dianoia* {dee-an'-oy-ah}, number 1271 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, which in this instance means having our minds open to His way of thinking, understanding, and feeling! (We just looked at *dianoigo* {dee-an'-oy'-go} above, number 1272 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, which means: to open up completely; to open up a channel to cause the understanding of a thing. Thus in a way we are getting here in LUKE 24:45 a double portion of “understanding” presented to us.) So important is it that our eyes, and ears of faith be one hundred percent open, and in tune with The Word of God, who is in fact Jesus, the blessed and only Potentate, the Kind of kings, and Lord of lords, who wrote seven times in His seven letters to the seven churches in REVELATION 2 & 3 saying: *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches....* .

This kind of “understanding” we have been discussing was not the depth of “understanding” Jesus was trying to get His disciples to have that first night of His resurrection. Luke writes in LUKE 24:45 *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.* Jesus had to open their “understanding” here because at this point in time the Holy Ghost was not yet sent, nor were they yet endued with His power from on high to “understand” the scriptures in the depths they would later consistently enjoy after being filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. The word “understanding” used here in LUKE 24:45 is *nous* {nooce}, number 3563 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and it has to do mainly with the mind perceiving divine things in the capacity of receiving spiritual truth. Jesus opened their “understanding” here so that *...they might understand the scriptures...* in a depth that was before hidden unto them, specifically concerning His suffering upon the cross, and His rising from the dead on the third day! The Greek word translated “understand” here in LUKE 24:45 is *sunieimi* {soon-ee'-ay-mee}, number 4920 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and it is used metaphorically of perceiving, that is to put (as it were) the proper perception with the thing perceived, and in this particular case it was for the purpose of Christ revealing the scriptures concerning His death and resurrection that before this day were still (in a sense) hidden from them. Prior to this time they didn't have a proper “understanding” of the events that were now happening right before their eyes. We could say it this way; Jesus here dispelled their wonderment, and their unbelief!

LUKE 24:46 *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.*

So what was Jesus telling His disciples here on the night of His resurrection? Jesus was telling them what it was they were to preach and teach once they were equipped with the power of the Holy Ghost. The word “repentance” is found twenty-six times in scripture. Twenty-six is the number pointing to THE GOSPEL, or the GOOD NEWS of the gospel. The word “remission” is found in ten scriptures, and ten is the number of RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO ABILITY. It would be the “responsibility” of those whom Jesus chose as His disciples to be fishers of men to preach the GOOD NEWS GOSPEL message of “repentance and remission of sins” in Jesus name beginning at Jerusalem. Let’s talk about Peter for a moment. In his first sermon on the day of Pentecost in ACTS chapter 2:38 we read: *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* Years later at the house of Cornelius in ACT 10 Peter preached his one and only recorded sermon to the Gentiles, where he said unto them this concerning Christ Jesus: ACTS 10:43 *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.* As you study this sermon in ACTS 10 you will notice that these were Peter’s last words before the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word of God being preached in the house of Cornelius, and they spake in other tongues and magnified God much to the astonishment of Peter, and the other Jews that were with him! Late in his life Peter wrote in his second epistle these words concerning “repentance” in 2 PETER 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

LUKE 24:48 *And ye are witnesses of these things.* We will spend much time discussing this verse, and the thought of “witnesses,” a concept they didn’t yet fully understand. It would take the power of the Holy Ghost for Jesus yet fearful disciples to become the proper “witnesses” of these things concerning Jesus Christ, which they had witnessed for over three years now. This fifth appearance of Jesus on the first day of the week unto His disciples was made so He could further encourage them on how to become the fishers of men, who would go out and preach the GOOD NEWS GOSPEL message of “repentance and remission of sins” in Jesus name beginning at Jerusalem that we read about in the previous verse. Jesus disciples had followed Him for a little more than three years now, and in reality had acquired the equivalent of a college education from the Master Teacher. It was time for their finals. One of the purposes of having final exams is to reinforce what one has learned, and here on the first evening of His resurrection Jesus was further opening their understanding of the scriptures, and calling to their attention the importance of remembering what He had taught them these last three plus years. Never before, or since, has a college professor loved his students like Jesus loved His disciples. Jesus disciples weren’t even aware that they were to be His “witnesses” until five nights earlier on the night of the Last Supper where Jesus began to explain to them this fact. So we need to examine these thoughts about “witnesses” a little more, which we will now do.

It is interesting to note that the word “witnesses” is found in forty-five verses of the King James Version of the Bible. Forty-five is the number pointing to PRESERVATION. PRESERVATION is the act of preserving something, and what Jesus wanted His disciples to preserve was everything He had taught them, and instructed them for these last three plus years by passing on this information of the things they were “witnesses” of during their time with Jesus. And again it would take the power of the Holy Ghost to make Jesus disciples the proper “witnesses” that would help them become the fishers of men, who would go out and preach the GOOD NEWS GOSPEL message of “repentance and remission of sins” in Jesus name. The Greek word translated “witnesses” here in LUKE 24:48 is *martus* {mar'-toos}, number 3144 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance, which in this particular instance means a **witness** of Jesus Christ in a historical sense. *Martus* is the same word that also translates into English as martyr, which speaks of those who after His example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death. According to historical records many of Jesus disciples present this first night of His

resurrection in LUKE 24 also became martyr's, underscoring the fact that they indeed did become the "**witnesses**" Jesus informed them they would become.

We are going to spend a little time in the book of JOHN for a few minutes as we unfold from the beginning the story of Jesus disciples being "**witnesses**" of these things that Jesus told them about in LUKE 24:48 *And ye are witnesses of these things.* It would take the Apostle John about fifty plus years before he could put in writing some of the things he as a disciple of Jesus had **witnessed**. The truth of the matter is that John as one of Jesus closest disciples had **witnessed** so many things concerning Jesus that he concluded his gospel recorded with these words found in the last verse of JOHN 21. JOHN 21:25 *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.* Interesting, isn't it, that after pondering for fifty plus years what to write concerning the things John himself had **witnessed** about Christ Jesus, that his conclusion was there wasn't sufficient room in the world to publish enough books to tell all Jesus had done? What a profound thought! Could you write a proper book on what Jesus has done for you? Of course the answer to this question is no, because you could never put you pen down once you consider all of His benefits to you. David tried and wrote in PSALMS 103:1 *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.* We read in REVELATION 4:8 how it will be for the New Testament full overcomers, who *...rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* This is how we will properly express what Christ means to us.

We find in JOHN 1 that John the Baptist had disciples, that is followers, and that John the Baptists message to them was that he was come to bare **witness** of Jesus Christ, and that they should follow Christ. We will look at some highlight verses from JOHN 1 that help explain this. JOHN 1:6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ...15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. ...29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. 35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.* The two disciples mentioned here are the Apostle John, and Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. They were the first to follow the Lamb of God! The rest of JOHN 1 tells further of Jesus collecting His disciples, who on the first night of His resurrection were told in LUKE 24:48 *And ye are witnesses of these things.* Here in JOHN 1 is the record of when their journey with Jesus Christ began.

We mentioned earlier that Jesus disciples weren't even aware that they were to be His "**witnesses**" until five nights earlier on the night of the Last Supper where Jesus began to explain to them this fact. The Apostle John is the one **eyewitness** who records the most in scripture about the events of the Last Supper with Jesus disciples beginning in JOHN 13. JOHN 13:1 *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.* There are many sermons in each verse of the Bible if we will only let the Holy Ghost speak them unto our

open heart of faith. We see here in JOHN 13:1 how much Jesus loved His disciples, and that He loved them to the farthest extent. Jesus also loved Judas unto the end also, however Judas was never saved. The Apostle John clearly, and plainly, tells us who Judas Iscariot was in the following verses of JOHN 6. JOHN 6:64 *But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.* ...JOHN 6:70 *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.* Judas Iscariot was not a believer as JOHN 6:64 states, thus Judas Iscariot was never saved. Make sure you understand this point: Judas Iscariot was never saved. {Please review pages 193 & 194 of these notes for our scriptural discussing on why Judas was never saved.}

Now in JOHN 13:33-35 we read a new commandment that Jesus gave His disciples on the night of the last Supper, a commandment that is repeated thirteen times later in scripture. JOHN 13:33 *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* Notice here also in verse 33 that Jesus addresses His closest followers as “little children” because at this point in their following Jesus their spiritual understanding was like that of “little children.” The point in time that would change this fact would be when they received the power of the Holy Ghost, who would enable them to further learn, and be able to understand the scripture, thus grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. At this point in time the day of Pentecost was a little more than fifty days off, but these most faithful disciples would have a lot more to learn in the succeeding days.

In JOHN 14 Jesus begins to explain unto His disciples who the Holy Ghost is, and why it was important for them to receive Him. And we have read these scriptures many times before, but it is important to our own learning to review these truths from time to time. JOHN 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* ...26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* So here we learn that Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Ghost is also called the Comforter, and the Spirit of truth, whose function is to ...*teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* We have learned in our studies in LUKE that Jesus disciples had real good “forgetters,” not remembering so many things what Jesus had instructed them for three plus years. But here during the evening of the Last Supper we find Jesus telling them about the help He was sending their way some fifty plus days later on the day of Pentecost.

In the above passage from JOHN 14 we skipped an important verse, which we will now examine, for it further explains the reason why they needed another Comforter. This important verse is JOHN 14:18. In JOHN 14:18 Jesus tells His disciples at the Last Supper: *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.* Those of you with a Scofield Bible can see the footnote Scofield wrote concerning the word “comfortless” meaning orphans. Scofield, who was an excellent Bible student, looked up the Greek word for “comfortless,” which is orphans {or-fan-os’}, number 3737 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance, translated once as “comfortless,” and once as “fatherless” in JAMES 1:27. Strong’s notes that “comfortless” speaks of those bereft of a teacher, guide, guardian. The word bereft means: someone who is without something. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words further explains that orphans here is used of the Lord to explain that His relationship with His disciples has been that of a Guide, Teacher, and Protector. JOHN 14:16 also tells us that up to this point in time Jesus has also been a Comforter to His disciples, whom He also addressed at “little children” in JOHN 13:33. Here in JOHN 14:18 Jesus was telling them that He wasn’t going to leave them as orphans void of a Comforter. The Holy Ghost would be their Comforter, Guide, and Teacher.

Before proceeding further, have you ever wondered why Jesus up to this point in time at the end of His earthly ministry has spent little time informing His disciples the importance of receiving the Holy Ghost? The short answer was because Jesus was with them as their Comforter, Guide, Teacher, and Protector up to this point in time. Jesus told His disciples fourteen times at the evening of the Last Supper “I go,” meaning I am going to the Father now. JOHN 14:18 *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.* Remember the disciples mentioned here, before Jesus came upon the scene, were John the Baptist’s disciples, and all four gospel records note that John the Baptist taught them: *I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost...* MARK 1:8. {See also MATTHEW 3:11; LUKE 3:16; and JOHN 1:33.} But Jesus wouldn’t baptize them with the Holy Ghost until the day of Pentecost in ACTS 2. So John the Baptist had taught them about the Holy Ghost, and in JOHN 14, 15, and 16 Jesus, on the night of the Last Supper, explained to His disciples what would happen after He would send them the Holy Ghost. In JOHN 14, 15, and 16 Jesus explained to His disciples how the Holy Ghost would be their Comforter, Guide, and Teacher.

In JOHN 15 we find the story of the vine and the branches, after which Jesus reinforces some thoughts He presented to them earlier. JOHN 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.* 10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.* 11 *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.* 12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.* 13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* 14 *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.* 15 *Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.* 16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.* 17 *These things I command you, that ye love one another.* Then again in His concluding words of JOHN 15 Jesus once again emphasizes the importance of receiving the Holy Ghost. JOHN 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:* 27 *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* It light of what we are studying about in LUKE 24:48 where Jesus five nights later, after His resurrection, told them: *And ye are witnesses of these things...* JOHN 15:27 tells us why they were to be Jesus “witnesses” ...*because ye have been with me from the beginning...* meaning the beginning of Jesus public ministry.

One more thought from JOHN before we get back into LUKE 24, and this takes us to JOHN 16 where in His closing words on the night of the Last Supper Jesus says in JOHN 16:12 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.* Jesus had taught His disciples many things during the last three plus years, and yet He tells that that *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.* Why? And the answer we all know was that they needed the power of the Holy Ghost to help them receive the deeper truths he couldn’t get them to understand during His time with them these past three plus years. JOHN 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* 14 *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* 15 *All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* If Jesus closest followers here on earth needed to be filled with the power of the Holy Ghost in order to become the fishers of men that Jesus originally told them they would be, how much more must we too need the power of the Holy Ghost guiding us in our own lives to bring us to that highest place of ruling and reigning with Him as His Bride.

So again on the night of His resurrection Jesus appeared unto His disciples to reassure them, and open their understanding to that fact that they would be “witnesses” of these many things concerning their life as Jesus disciples. Jesus said unto them in LUKE 24:48 *And ye are witnesses of*



*these things.* Our Brother Luke wrote more about the Holy Ghost than any other anointed writer of scripture, and in so doing Luke also recorded how the Holy Ghost enabled Jesus disciples to be the proper “**witnesses**” of these many things. We may cover this again when we examine some more things that Luke wrote in the book of ACTS, but for now here are a few highlight portions concerning Jesus Disciples being “**witnesses**.” Jesus some forty days after this first appearance after His resurrection made one final statement to His disciples that is found in ACTS 1:8. 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.* For the next ten days Jesus disciples remained in Jerusalem, and chose Matthias to replace Judas. And it was Peter who led the discussion concerning the choice of Matthias to be numbered with the remaining eleven. Here is a part of what was said. ACTS 1:21 *Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.* We see here that there were more than just the twelve disciples who fellowshiped with Jesus during His time on earth, and were also “**witnesses**” of these many things Jesus did.

In ACTS 2 we find the record of what happened on the day of Pentecost, when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. And on this day under the power of the Holy Ghost for the first time in his life, Peter preached a powerful sermon where three thousand souls got saved! One of the things Peter said is what is recorded in ACTS 2:32 *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.* In ACTS 3 Peter preaches his second sermon, where about five thousand more were saved! In his second sermon Peter again referenced that the Apostles were all “**witnesses**” of the many things Jesus had done. Peter says in ACTS 3:14 & 15 -- *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.* In ACTS 4:33 we read this statement: *And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.* What Jesus said unto them in LUKE 24:48 had now come to pass: *And ye are witnesses of these things.* The Apostles later told the Sanhedrin in ACTS 5:32 *And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.* Years later in ACTS 10 at the house of Gentile Cornelius, Peter said the following in his brief sermon: ACTS 10:38 *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.* Then the Apostle Paul in his first sermon to those in Antioch in Pisidia made reference to Jesus disciples being “**witnesses**” of Jesus Christ, saying in ACTS 13:31 *And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.* So we find what Jesus told His disciples on the first night of His resurrection did indeed come to pass: LUKE 24:48 *And ye are witnesses of these things.*

### **The Days Between Jesus Resurrection and Pentecost**

All of what we have studied in LUKE 24 up through verse 48 happened on the first day of Jesus resurrection. LUKE 24:49-53 gives us an overview of what took place during the next seven weeks. Thus LUKE 24:49-53 highlights the period of time between Jesus resurrection, and the day of Pentecost. LUKE 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. 50 And he led them out as far as to*