

Let both  
grow together  
until the Harvest

Matthew 13:30



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry October 2021 Vol. 17 Issue 10

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*Only God*

"Call unto me, and I will answer you and show you  
great and mighty things which you know not.  
Jeremiah 33:3

Recently, I've been reflecting on the ways that we have seen  
God work that could have only been accomplished by His hand.  
It is even more appropriate since we are celebrating our  
fifteenth year of ministry.

These are some that came to mind:

- As we were searching for our first office God led us to a building downtown close to the jail. We had no funds, but God sent a Christian businessman who generously provided our office equipment and gave us the ability to pay our first month's rent.
- After seven years, the building sold. This forced us to search for new property. After weeks of searching without results, God took me to Joshua 3:5 "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." I said Lord, I'm ready to see great and mighty things. He brought us to our current space that day.
- We began to pray for a van, so we could travel as a group to more places and have space for supplies to take to different events. After our need was known, I received a call that someone wanted to donate us a van! God led me to Psalm 118:23-24, "This is the Lord, and it is His doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the **day** which the Lord has brought about; we will rejoice and be glad in it!" Oh yes, we are still rejoicing!!!
- At my church we had a couple visiting from Alabama. As the prayer requests were read, I discovered she was asking for prayers for her prodigal son. After class we shared and then met for lunch. Eventually Pat Julian stepped in to fill the role of Family Care Coordinator. She has done a marvelous job. She has reached out to so many of our families with love and prayers because she understands the journey. Sadly, she will be moving back to Alabama this month. She will be missed greatly. I could go on and on about ways we have seen God work and provide for every need. He has always been faithful, and it has been marvelous in our sight!

### *Prayer Support Groups*

No Prayer Support  
this month

Please join us for our  
15 year Anniversary  
Saturday October 9th  
6:30 pm

Calvary West

River Oaks Church  
Clemmons, NC  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays  
at 6:30 pm  
Room #4

Led by Jeff & Sherye Hall

### *Ladies Bible Study*

Each Tuesday  
at On Wings Office  
from 12:30 - 2:00

We are studying  
Elijah

By Priscilla Shirer  
Come join us for  
fellowship and learning

~ Sandra



# Prayer Thoughts

## HE HEARS US

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.*

*Jeremiah 29:12*

Do you ever wonder if your friends or family are really listening? Or worse, do you fear that God isn't listening? We can tell if people are listening based on their responses or eye contact. But how do we know if God is listening? Should we rely on feelings? Or see if God answers our prayers?

After seventy years of exile in Babylon, God promised to bring His people back to Jerusalem and secure their future (Jeremiah 29:10-11). When they called upon Him, He heard them (v. 12). They knew that God heard their prayers because He promised to listen. And the same is true for us.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

*John 5:14*

We don't need to rely on feelings or wait for a sign to know that God listens to us. He's promised to listen, and He always keeps His promises.

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

*Corinthians 1:20*

*Let both grow together until the harvest.*

At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

*Matthew 13:31*

Consider the weeds that grow up in the wheat field. They are an annual grass that looks very much like wheat. Distinguishing one from another in the early stages of growth is nearly impossible. As the plants mature, the roots of weeds and wheat intertwine and become almost inseparable. Yet separating them is necessary. Unless the weeds are removed, then flour made from the wheat will be ruined by the weeds, which are both bitter and mildly toxic. The usual solution is to harvest the plants, spread them on a flat surface, and then remove the weeds, which by this stage are a different color than the wheat.

So the weeds can be separated from the wheat only at the proper time, following the harvest. This brings us to something the landowner says. "Let both of them grow together until the harvest." This may make sense to us in the context of growing wheat in a field where there are weeds. Where it dismays us is elsewhere in the world, where we want to clean house, or at least expect God to do so.

From our perspective, who are the weeds growing like crazy in the wheat field of the world? These are the plants we want to yank out by the roots.

These are the people we want to lock up  
and then throw away the key.

There are times when many of us, at least momentarily, see this as the obvious solution. We want the wheat field of the world to flourish with wheat, and not to be scarred by weeds.

Or we may sublimate our despair into a question about God. Why doesn't God do something about those people (whoever they are)? Where is God when they commit their horrible crimes?

The parable does not deny that there are weeds in the wheat. It does not suggest for a moment that the world is free from evil. Instead, the weeds are all too visible. The landowner knows what's happened — "An enemy has done this!" (v. 28). Yes, the world is a terribly broken place. What is meant to be a wheat field is hosting countless weeds

And so we hear from the landowner, "Let both grow together until the harvest." This may perplex us. This may baffle us. It sounds as if the landowner is resigned to letting his fertile field become little more than a weed patch.

As we have looked carefully at the weeds, so we must now look carefully at a word "let" as in "Let both grow together until the harvest." The original Greek word here is one with a wide range of meanings. One major meaning appears in our translation: "let," in the sense of allow or permit. Another major meaning is pardon or "forgive." It is with this meaning that the word appears in the Lord's Prayer in that line where we say, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

"Let both grow together until the harvest" carries in the original language a sense of forgiveness toward the malicious enemy. If so, then this parable invites us to costly discipleship. The very real evil that others do is not to be answered by pulling out the weeds, by attacking and destroying the people responsible. Doing so only adds to the harm.

Instead, our response is to be forgiveness, and a willingness to trust in the purposes of God.

The field is the world, and the good seed represents the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are collected and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

~ Matthew 13:39-40

## AN EVENING WITH HUNTLEY BROWN



JOIN US FOR OUR  
**15<sup>TH</sup>** ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th AT 6:30 PM  
CALVARY WEST CAMPUS  
136 Medical Drive, Advance, NC 27006

