

A top-down view of a diverse group of people sitting in a circle, holding their hands together in a gesture of unity and support. The hands are of various skin tones and are interlocked in the center. The people are wearing casual to semi-formal clothing, including button-down shirts, a denim jacket, and patterned blouses. The background is a neutral, light-colored floor.

SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP & CATALYTIC COMMUNITY

Companions & Co-Laborers



Exodus 17, Mark 2, & Acts 18

Mark 3:13-15 (ESV)

13 And Jesus went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons.

We are a family that loves Jesus,
loves one another, and loves to
labor together, playing our part in
our shared mission.



What sort of work does this spiritual
family engage in?

What broader mission orders and
informs our life together?

1. There is a
battle that
must be
fought.



Exodus 17:8-10 (ESV)

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

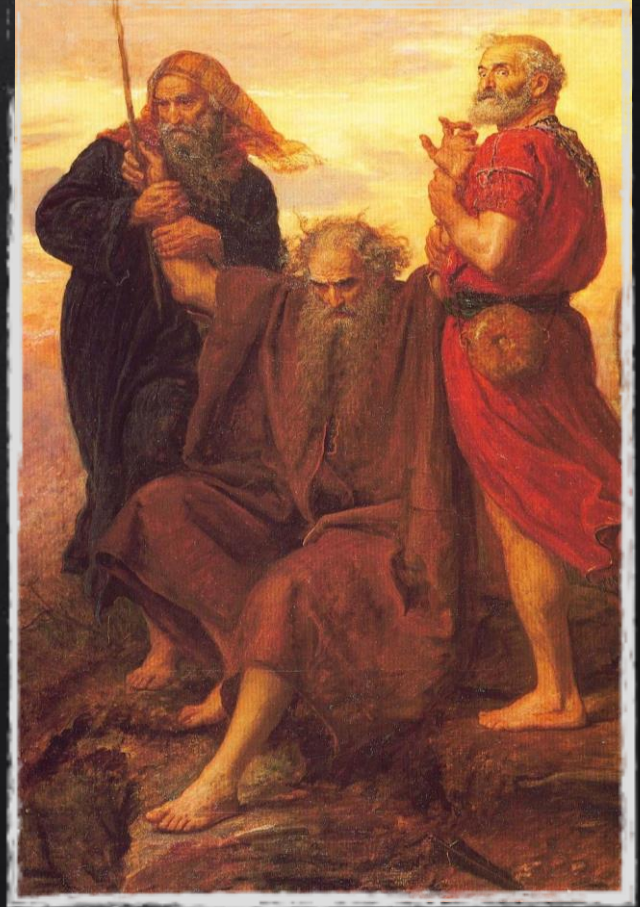
Exodus 17:11-13 (ESV)

11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

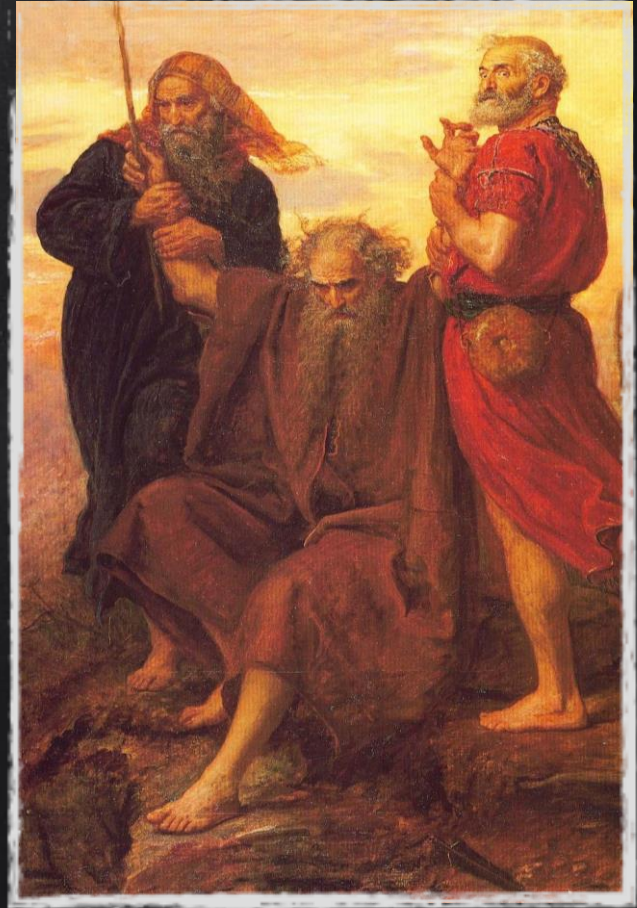
Exodus 17:14-16 (ESV)

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” 15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner, 16 saying, “A hand upon the throne of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

Moses, Joshua, Aaron, & Hur



- The battle must be fought.
- We war not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil at work in our world.
- The Lord is our banner, but God chooses to mobilize his power through a community of individuals, playing their own unique roles.



2. There are people who need to get to Jesus for healing, but there are obstacles in the way.



Mark 2:1-4 (ESV)

1 And when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

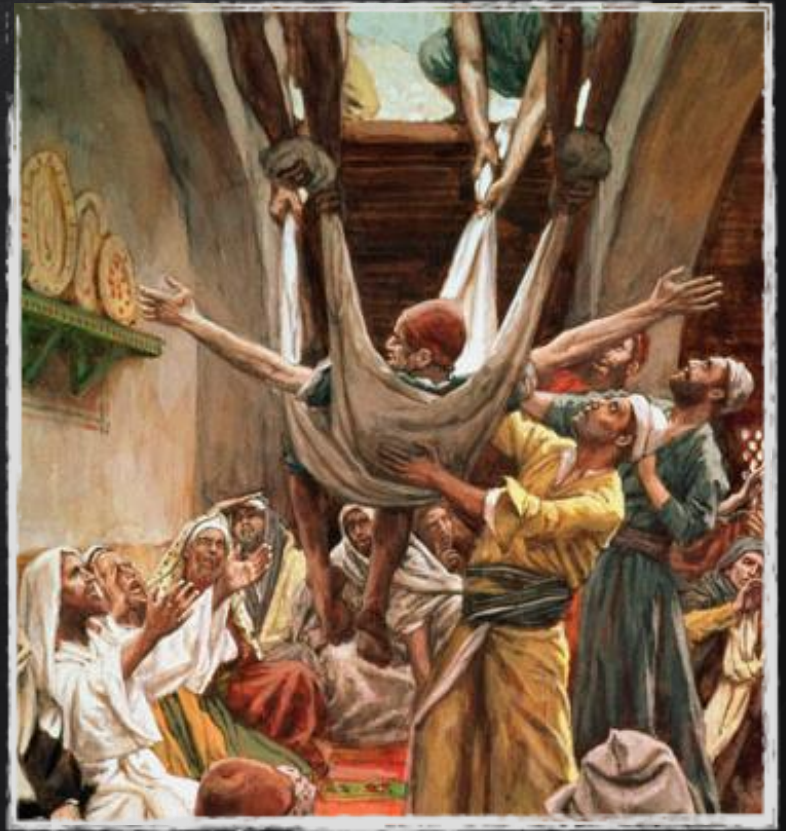
Mark 2:5-8 (ESV)

5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts?"

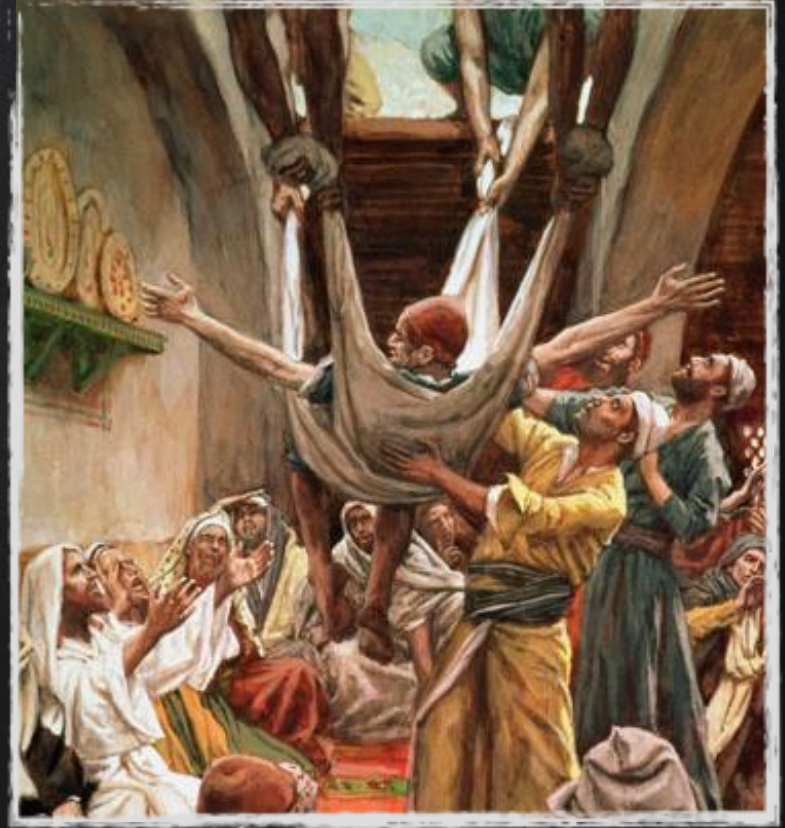
Mark 2:9-12 (ESV)

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?
10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the paralytic— 11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

The Four
Friends & The
Paralyzed Man



- There are those who have no strength or ability to improve their circumstances.
- What they need most is God's forgiveness and healing, but there are obstacles in the way.
- While Jesus himself deals with their sin, we are charged to bear them to the feet of the Great Physician.



3. There is a
gospel that
needs to be
proclaimed.



Acts 18:1-4 (ESV)

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks...

Acts 18:18–19 (ESV)

18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila... 19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews...

Acts 18:24–26 (ESV)

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:27–28 (ESV)

27 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Paul, Priscilla,
Aquila, &
Apollos



- We do not merely exist. Our lives together are ordered and informed by our mission.
- Whatever our occupations, personalities, or talents, we are heralds of life-altering news.
- Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through his own death and resurrection, and is making all things new, even us—if we will receive him!

