

WITH ONE ACCORD

Today I'd like to go through some of the material Kerry Gubb covered at this year's Refresher Course in Waikanae. We'll look at the meaning of the Greek word "*homothumadon*."

This might sound like the name of a terrifying species of dinosaur (like Brontosauradon), but in fact it is a word used 12 times in the New Testament.

It is untranslatable into English, but contains a wealth of practical meaning. Probably the best attempt at translating it would be "**With one accord**."

Let's have a look at how it is used in the Scriptures.

Acts 1:14 (NKJV) "These all continued **with one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

The 120 disciples were in the upper room after Christ's ascension, and they were '**with one accord**'. This is the Greek word *homothumadon*, which is a compound of two words:

"*homo*" = "one and the same, unison." (Used in words like homogenous – of the same kind; homosexuality – same sex attraction; homogenised milk – fat molecules broken down so all the same.)

"*thumas*" = "emotion, spiritedness, passion, a strong emotion of anger."

Eugene Peterson says: "*Thumas*" is a fiery word, surging with energy – flying off the handle; losing your temper; lashing out."

That's the hard part to translate into English. We don't really have a word for "togetherness" that contains all that zeal and emotion. So "with one accord" isn't really an adequate translation, but it's about the best we can do.

Homothumadon has fire in it. There was something burning in those followers of Jesus Christ, drawing them together in the same mind and Spirit, something akin to the energy of anger, but without anger.

One way perhaps of putting it is that they were **fiercely together**.

Homothumadon can also occur when people don't have the Holy Spirit. It can be a positive or a negative thing.

When people rioted in the Ukraine against their old government, and all with one voice, as one person all wanting to get rid of the government, that was *homothumadon*. It happens at football matches. Overexcitement can occur when a team wins or loses, and that can lead to rioting, especially with the infamous "English football fans".

Here are a couple of examples in the book of Acts, of the negative aspect of *homothumadon*.

Acts 18:12 (KJV) “And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection **with one accord** against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat”

Acts 19:29 (KJV) “And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed **with one accord** into the theatre.”

On the other hand, when a baby is born, everyone in the room experiences *homothumadon*. A long-awaited family reunion can be another occasion for this.

During the America's Cup races last year there was a time when almost the whole nation of N.Z. went through *homothumadon* together.

So there is no virtue in *homothumadon* of itself. But when it comes about under the influence of the Holy Spirit, it is a powerful force, and that is the way God wants His people to be.

Acts 2:1, 46 (NKJV) ¹“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all **with one accord** in one place.” ⁴⁶ “So continuing daily **with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart”

Acts 4:24 “So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God **with one accord** and said: “Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them”

The Greek word here for “voice” is singular. They didn't lift up their voices, but their voice – as if they were all one.

When someone is really in need of help and a group gets together to pray about it, that can be a time of profound *homothumadon*.

Verse 32 says they were all one in heart and mind. This is the type of unity God wants in His Church.

Unity is pretty important to God. It is the one main thing Jesus prayed for us when He prayed for His Church in John 17:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

That doesn't mean we all have to believe exactly the same thing! There is such a thing as unity in diversity. We are all different, so in fact it is impossible for us all to believe the same on everything. There will be differences of opinion on many subjects, but the important thing is that we have unity in our attitude, in our love for one another.

A difference of opinion with your husband or wife, or brother or sister, doesn't mean you are no longer a member of your physical family. Surely that applies to a spiritual family too.

Eph. 4:13 (NIV) “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Unity is something we work towards, and we won't have it fully until the resurrection. But it is something important for us to be working on now.

Verses 2 and 3 show us how to work on it. ²“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

It goes hand in hand with humility, gentleness, patience and peace.

Another description of this unity is 1 Peter 3:8 (NIV) “Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

(KJV) “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be compassionate and humble.”

Being of one mind doesn't mean believing exactly the same on every doctrine, but it has to do with love and compassion – having the Holy Spirit.

One commentator wrote this about *homothumadon*: “Homothumadon is a compound of two words, one meaning to “rush along” and the other meaning “in unison”. The image is almost musical. A number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonise in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great orchestra under the director of a conductor, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of the Body of Christ.”

So we are all like different instruments. Each expresses its own individuality. We are not all one instrument saying exactly the same thing in the same way. We are all different, and when all the different sounds are blended, they make a beautiful harmony much better than any one of the sounds on its own.

Unity in diversity. Or, as 1 Corinthians 12 puts it, we are all different parts of the Body, all with different gifts and functions, but all working together in unity. Hopefully we can celebrate and enjoy the differences between us – we are all individuals.

One time *homothumadon* is more likely to be attained is when we all suffer a trial, or are facing an enemy.

As an example of this, there is a story that just before the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Lord Nelson, the British naval hero, learned that an admiral and a captain in his fleet were not on good terms. He sent for the 2 men, and placed their hands together. Then he looked them both in the face and said – “Look, over there is the enemy!”

Hopefully we can have unity at times when we aren't facing an enemy in a major war. Of course we are always facing an enemy together – Satan is always there, and if we are united we are much stronger against him.

There are a couple more mentions of *homothumadon* in Acts we didn't catch before.

Acts 5:12 (NKJV) “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all **with one accord** in Solomon's Porch.”

The word “**all**” makes the unity even more emphatic.

Acts 15:25 (NKJV) “it seemed good to us, being assembled **with one accord**, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,”

The word “**accord**” comes from “Ad” = “to” and “Cor” = “heart”.

Romans 15:5-7 (NKJV) ⁵ “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

“With one mind” = *homothumadon*

What mind is it? Verse 5 – “the mind of Jesus Christ”

What is the mind of Jesus Christ?

Philippians 2:5-7 (KJV) ⁵ “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant,”

It's talking about an attitude – of humility. That's why it says in Romans 15:7 “Accept one another.”

1 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV) “Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”

One of the greatest times of all when we experience real *homothumadon* is at the Lord's Supper when we all take Jesus Christ's body together because we are all members one of another!

So this is a really important quality for us to work on together, because this is the sign identifying the Church: “By this shall all men know you are My disciples, that you love one another.”

If we are truly led by God's Holy Spirit, we will love one another with a passion, with the strong fiery emotion of *homothumadon*.

WE WILL TRULY ALL BE WITH ONE ACCORD.