

## **Twos or Threes in the Bible**

### **Two or three gathered into the Lord's name**

Matthew 18:20 - For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

Footnote 20<sup>2</sup> The meetings of the believers are initiated by the Lord, who calls the believers out of all persons, matters, and things that occupy them and gathers them together into His name to enjoy the riches of His presence.

Such a gathering of a few people, of two or three, implies one of the ways for the church to meet locally. Such meetings of a few people must have been held in the believers' homes, as mentioned in Acts 2:46 and 5:42, for the purpose of prayer (v. 19; Acts 12:5, 12), fellowship, the breaking of bread, teaching, or the preaching of the gospel (Acts 2:42; 5:42). Many such meetings may be held separately in the same locality, yet they are still the unique church in that locality (v. 17). Otherwise, they are not separate meetings but divisions, and they become sects (Gal. 5:20).

### **Being built up together to be a priesthood, a priestly body**

“Romans 15:16 tells us that the New Testament believers are the New Testament priests and that we, the New Testament priests, are priests of the gospel. Then 1 Peter 2:5, 9 says that we as priests should be built up together to be a priesthood, that is, a priestly body. Thus, if we are going to convert sinners into members of Christ, we must do it in a corporate way. Two or three priests must be built up together as a priesthood. As used in the Bible, the word priesthood bears two denotations. First, it denotes the priestly service, and second, it refers to the priestly body, a group of priests built together to become a priesthood. Merely to go out to preach the gospel by yourself is not adequate. You must be built together with others. However, it would not be effective to call together the entire congregation in your locality to promote the priesthood of the gospel. You should simply contact two or three of the saints and be built together with them as a priestly body.”  
(*The Practice of the Church Life According to the God-ordained Way*, p. 151)

### **The council held among the three of the Godhead regarding the creation of man**

Genesis 1:26 - And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

### **God creating two: male and female**

Genesis 1:27 - And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

### **The Lord with the two angels as three men visiting Abraham**

Genesis 18:1-2

Genesis 18:1 - And Jehovah appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

Genesis 18:2 - And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and there were three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them. And he bowed down to the earth.

### **Moses and Aaron**

Exodus 4:14-16

Exodus 4:14 - And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Moses, and He said, Is there not Aaron your brother the Levite? I know that he can certainly speak. And even now he is coming out to meet you; and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

Exodus 4:15 - And you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do.

Exodus 4:16 - And he shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be as God to him.

### **Two or three witnesses being related to testimony**

Deuteronomy 19:15 - One witness only shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin which he has committed; at the word of two witnesses or at the word of three witnesses shall a matter be established.

Matthew 18:16 - But if he does not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

2 Corinthians 13:1 - This third time I am coming to you; at the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

1 Timothy 5:19 - Against an elder do not receive an accusation, except based upon two or three witnesses.

### **One chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight**

Deut. 32:30 - How shall one chase a thousand, / And two put ten thousand to flight, / Were it not that their Rock sold them, / Jehovah delivered them up?

### **Joshua and Caleb**

Numbers 14:6-7

Numbers 14:6 - And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.

Numbers 14:7 - And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we have passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

### **Three mighty men in coordination quenching David's thirst**

2 Samuel 23:15-16

23:15 - And David said longingly, If only someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!

23:16 - And the three mighty men burst through the camp of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate. And they carried it and brought it to David, but he would not drink it; rather he poured it out to Jehovah.

Psalms 110:3 - Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration. / Your young men will be to You / Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

### **Two or three being better than one**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

4:9 - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor;

4:10 - For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up!

4:11 - Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, But how can one be warm alone?

4:12 - And while a man may prevail against the one, the two will withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### **Daniel and his companions**

Daniel 2:17-18

Daniel 2:17 - Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

Daniel 2:18 - That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

### **The two sons of oil**

Zechariah 4:14 - And he said, These are the two sons of oil, who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

### **Three seeing the vision of the transfigured Christ**

Matthew 17:1-2

17:1 - And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain privately.

17:2 - And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

### **Two or three to reprove and gain a sinning brother**

Matthew 18:15-17

18:15 - Moreover if your brother sins against you, go, reprove him between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

18:16 - But if he does not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

18:17 - And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector.

Luke 15:4-7

15:4 - Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

15:5 - And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

15:6 - And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.

15:7 - I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one a sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.

### **Two or three having authority to bind and loose**

Matthew 18:18 - Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

### **Two or three being in harmony to accomplish God's purpose and intention**

Matthew 18:19 - Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

### **Two or three being gathered into His name to form a "midst" for the Lord's rich presence**

Matthew 18:20 - For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

### **Three watching with the Lord for the accomplishment of God's will**

Matthew 26:36-38

26:36 - Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to the disciples, Sit here while I go over there and pray.

26:37 - And taking Peter and the two sons of Zebedee aside, He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

26:38 - Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with Me.

### **Three joining the Lord to overcome the oppression of sin and to give life to the dead**

Mark 5:37, 41- 42

5:37 - And He did not allow anyone to accompany Him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

5:41 - And He took hold of the child's hand and said to her, Talitha koum! which being interpreted is, Little girl, to you I say, Arise!

5:42 - And immediately the little girl rose up and walked about, for she was twelve years old. And immediately, they were amazed with great amazement.

### **Preaching the gospel and spreading His ministry two by two**

Luke 10:1 - Now after these things, the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to come.

### **The Son, the Father, with the Spirit**

John 15:10-11; Matthew 28:19

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and *that* your joy may be made full.

Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

### **Paul and Barnabas**

Acts 13:2-3

Acts 13:2 - And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

Acts 13:3 - Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on *them*, they sent them away.

### **Silas and Timothy**

Acts 17:14; 18:5

Acts 17:14 - And immediately the brothers then sent Paul off, to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there.

Acts 18:5 - And when both Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was constrained by the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

### **Paul and Prisca and Aquila**

Acts 18:2, 18

Acts 18:2 - And having found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy, and Priscilla his wife (because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome), he went to them.

Acts 18:18 - And Paul, having remained *there* yet a considerable number of days, took leave of the brothers and sailed away to Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila, having shorn his head in Cenchrea, for he had a vow.

### **Prisca and Aquila**

Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19

Acts 18:26 - And this man began to speak boldly in the synagogue. And when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him to *themselves* and expounded the way of God to him more accurately.

Romans 16:3 - Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

1 Corinthians 16:19 - The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you much in the Lord, with the church, which is in their house.

2 Timothy 4:19 - Greet Prisca and Aquila and the house of Onesiphorus.

### **Euodias and Syntyche**

Philippians 4:2-3

Philippians 4:2 - I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

Philippians 4:3 - Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

### **The two witnesses—two olive trees and two lampstands**

Revelation 11:3-4

Revelation 11:3 - And I will cause My two witnesses to prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.

Revelation 11:4 - These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth.