



INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS {winter 2003}

United We Stand

□□□□ I am asking each of you to read Joel 2:7-13 in the Amplified Bible. These verses are written to the Army of God, not to the world. They tell us how to walk and live in the days we are in. When we walk in God's ways we are protected from the enemy and no deadly thing will harm us. Verse 8 tells us to walk in our own designated path (a path given by God), in other words do not break rank. Verse 12 is the verse that is particularly on my heart for the Body of Christ.

□□ God is telling us to cleanse our hearts. He is telling us not to worry about our looks, or what people think but rather question how our hearts are. How are we towards a brother or a sister in the Lord? We may disagree with them. They may have hurt us. Someone may have told you something about another person and you took it at face value, judging them rather than walking in love. Did you break fellowship with them? Is there a broken link in the chain because of it? Is there an opening in the hedge of protection or does your love walk include them no matter what? The enemy loves it when the Body of Christ turns on itself and become like cannibals, biting and devouring one another. These verses go on to say, pray until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored.

□□□□ I grew up in a denominational church. This church believes in salvation, but not the full gospel. I cannot afford to be offended by this. I love them and I walk in the place of

kinship with them. I thank God for them. If there is anything I can do for any of them, I will. Does this mean that they agree with me or embrace me and the call of God on my life? NO! It does mean though, that I have cleansed my heart and have no broken fellowship in me. In other words, we have to stay available to the Lord for anything and anyone. We are not to take issue with their issues, so we will

not get offended. When someone is harsh, or disagreeable, we must not allow the enemy to get both of us. When we operate in God's love we are able to put our prayer of faith over them and bless them.

I believe that this is the day and hour; the day of restoration! This is a mandate from God. Our love walk must come to

the place where we are standing shoulder to shoulder with each other, and not breaking rank. It is so easy to get offended and walk away. However, we must get past the flesh and stay in forgiveness so as not to carry the offense. This is the day and hour for everyone to be in place, to be joined where God wants us to. We must not live in fear, hate or unforgiveness but rather in love and obedience to the Lord. Let's get our own selves clean and whole in Him who loves us so much. Really, too much!

Close ranks Army of God and take your places.

Rev. Barbara Thorne

