



We Are
ALICE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Collective Discerners

Acts 15:1-29

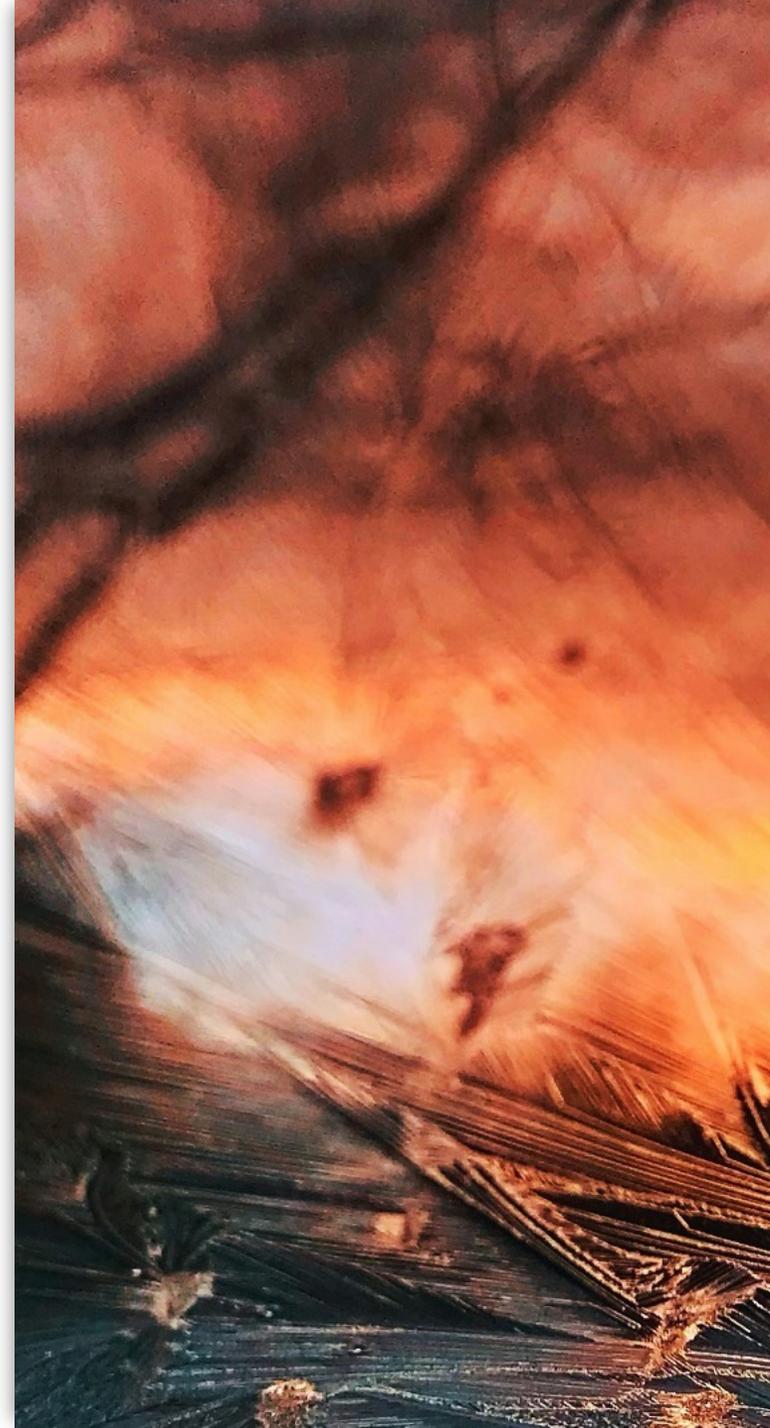
WE ARE

1. a royal priesthood
2. on mission everyday
3. collective discerners

SERIES SO FAR

ACTS 15:1-2

¹ Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. **So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.**



COLLECTIVE DISCERNERS

**We discern in community, not
by command.**

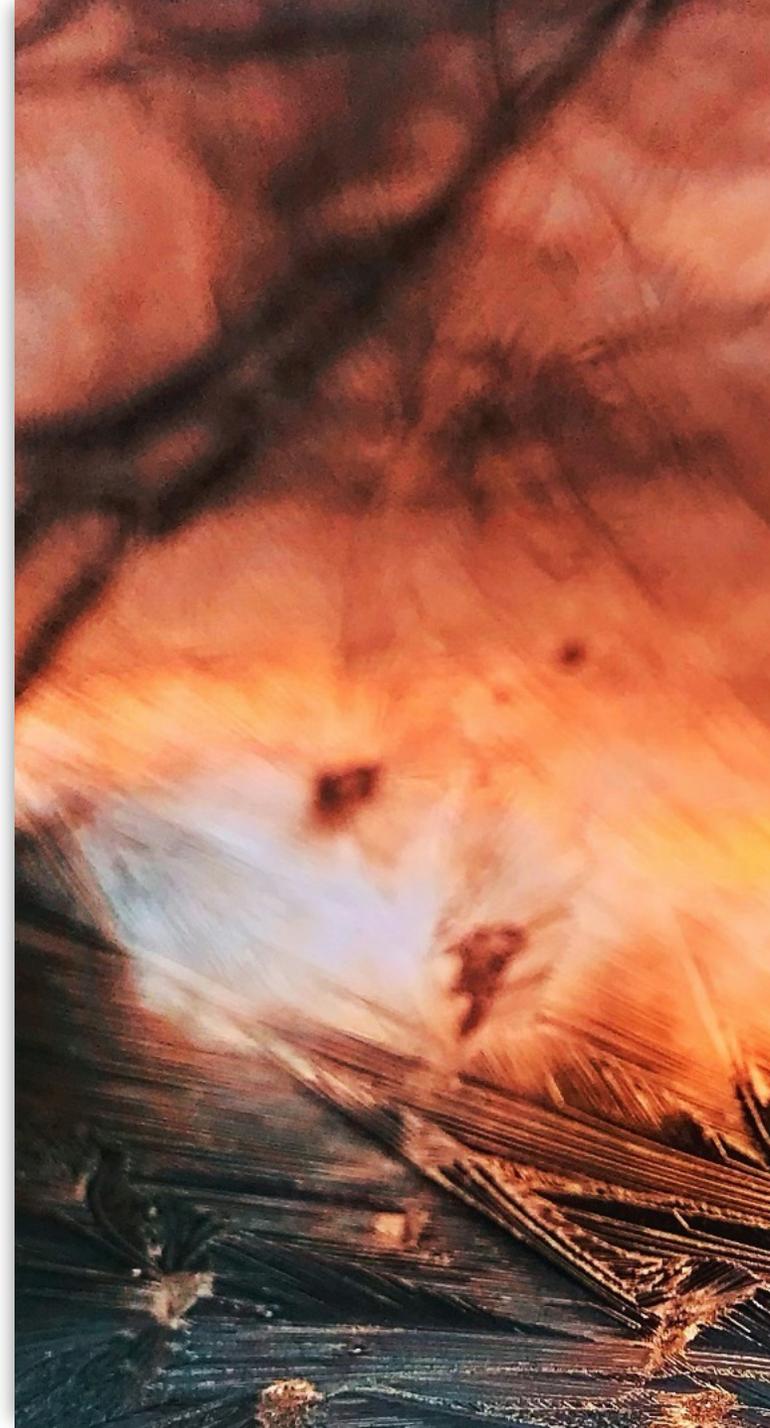
*So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.
(Acts 15:2)*

ACTS 15:4-6

⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ **The apostles and elders met to consider this question.**





Matthew 16:15-19

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; **whatever you bind** on earth will be bound in heaven, and **whatever you loose** on earth will be loosed in heaven.”



Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along... ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

COLLECTIVE DISCERNERS

**We discern with
heaven's authority.**

*Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
(Matthew 18:18)*

ACTS 15:7-8

⁷ After much discussion, **Peter** got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us...

ACTS 15:12

¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to **Barnabas and Paul** telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

ACTS 15:13-15

¹³ When they finished, **James** spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. ¹⁴ Peter has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ...



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COLLECTIVE DISCERNERS

**We discern as one body
with many parts.**

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)



1 Corinthians 12:12-13

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.



1 Corinthians 12:15-17

¹⁵ If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ **If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?**

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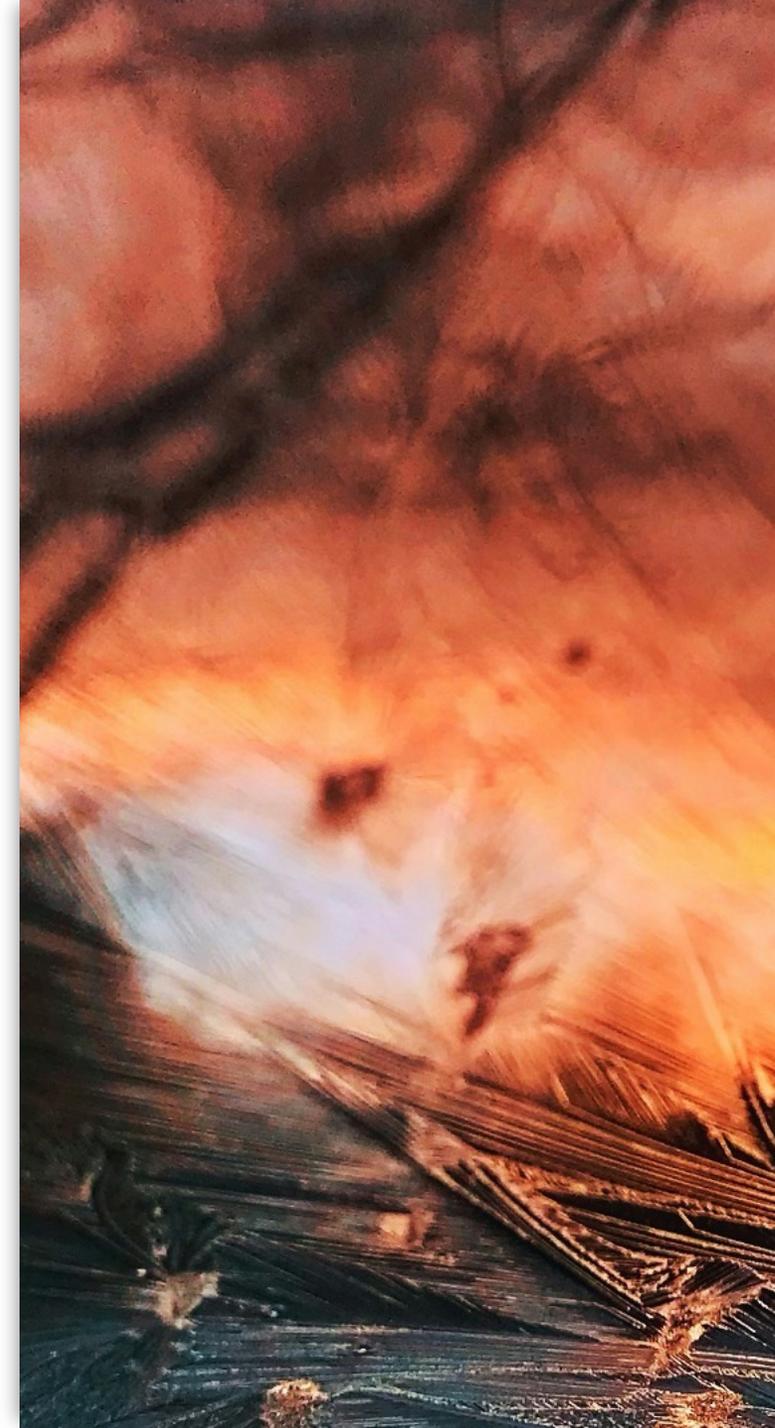
The Letter (Acts 15:23-29)

The apostles and elders, your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:

Greetings.

²⁴ We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. ²⁵ So **we all agreed** to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul— ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. ²⁸ **It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us** not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹ You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.



COLLECTIVE DISCERNMENT

**We discern with
conviction and humility.**

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us... (Acts 15:28)



We discern:

- **in community**, not by command.
- **with heaven's authority**.
- **as one body with many parts**.
- **with conviction and humility**.



*“It seemed good to the Holy
Spirit and to us...”*