

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
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For The Week of 01.04.10

"THE POWER OF UNITY"

Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psa. 133:2 *It is* like the precious oil upon the head,  
Running down on the beard,  
The beard of Aaron,  
Running down on the edge of his garments.

Psa. 133:3 *It is* like the dew of Hermon,  
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the LORD commanded the blessing—  
Life forevermore.

One of the things that the devil fights the hardest is unity because there is such great power when people in the body of Christ become unified. When you can get a church body to walk in unity great things happen. As we see in the above scriptures it is a good and pleasant thing for brethren to dwell together in unity. This means that they are daily choosing to stay unified. The psalmist then begins to give us some examples of the results of walking in unity.

The first thing we see from these verses that is a result of unity is the precious oil running down upon the head of Aaron, then onto his beard, then on down to his entire garment. The oil represents the anointing of God, His presence flowing down over the body. This begins from the head, which the reference to Aaron would be represented by the pastor of the church today. The beard would be that which is directly under the pastor and this would be the leadership of the church that he has established. Then the rest of the garment would be represented by the body of the church. Unity brings within a church body more of the anointing of God, His presence, to bring deliverance and freedom to His church. God's anointing removes burdens off of the people, and destroys the yokes of bondage that have held them bound.

The next thing that the psalmist refers to that results from unity is the very dew that descends upon the mountains of Zion, which this also is the church in the New Testament. This dew is representative of the blessings of the Lord that He commanded. God's define favor will increase upon a church body that is in unity. This is all a result of a church family that makes the decision to get unified based on what scripture teaches us. The more unified, the more of God's anointing we see manifested in our church, and the more blessing we see which is true

life at it's best. So how do we get this unity? It begins with a powerful statement that Jesus made of Himself.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for (instead of) many. AMP

There are two major truths that are needed to walk in unity as a church body. The first is found in this statement that Jesus made of Himself. He did not come to be served, to have service rendered to Him; Jesus came to serve and to give His life as a ransom. This has become a problem in the body of Christ. People come to church to get what they want. This includes but is certainly not limited to the following: the praise and worship wasn't long enough, the praise and worship was too long, the preaching wasn't long enough, the preaching was too long, it was too cold, it was too hot, I didn't like the song selection, we should have had more ministry time, we should have had less ministry time, my kids didn't get to do what they wanted in kids church, I wasn't allowed to sit where I wanted because the seats were reserved, on and on we could go.

When you come to church with a focus of being served you are going to find things you don't like about that service. There are some in the body who think that they could pastor the church better than the pastor and they try to correct him when they think he is wrong. There are those who think they would be a better praise and worship leader, or head deacon, etc., and there are people who get upset at the littlest of things that they don't like and therefore I am going to leave the church and go elsewhere. All these things come about as a result of not coming to be a blessing and just serve, but to desire to be served.

No matter what church you go to you can always find something that you don't agree on if you are simply looking to have everything your way. Doing so is going to hinder God's ability to bring a greater anointing on your life through that body, and greater blessing of the life that God desires for you. To get in unity you must first find a pastor whom God has called you to, knowing that they are truly called by God, and that they are staying submitted to leadership over their life. Not leaders in their church, but godly leadership of the five-fold ministry above their life. This very truth can be found throughout the Bible. Realize that if the focus is on what you think should or should not be done and you are not simply coming to be a blessing and allow God to bless you, then you will never be able to be unified with any church. You can see this in the lives of people who never do seem to get connected to a pastor and then flourish and grow.

Acts 15:36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and* see how they are doing."

Acts 15:37 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.

Acts 15:38 But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

Acts 15:40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

Here we have an example of disunity between Paul and Barnabas. When you study the book of Acts and Paul's ministry it is clear to see that as Paul and Barnabas traveled together it was Paul who was recognized by the initial disciples as the leader between the two. Everything works from the head down. Paul tells Barnabas that they were going to go back through the cities where they had preached and established churches to check on them. Barnabas' relative John Mark had gone with them originally but in the midst of their travels he left them and went back home. Barnabas wants to take John with them again but Paul insisted that they should not. Without going into great detail here the reason had to be that Paul knew he was not ready to do so.

Barnabas persists that they are to take this relative of his with them. The contention got so bad that Barnabas, who was called by God to be with Paul, leaves Paul takes John with him and goes out on his own. Paul then chooses Silas to go with him, and notice what it says in verse 40 above. Paul was commended by the brethren to the grace of God. In other words Paul had the endorsement of the leadership that he was submitted to that he was doing the right thing.

If a pastor is submitted to godly leadership over him, then the church body needs understand that if that pastor is in getting out of line with God in what he is doing God will bring correction through the leadership over his life. This is how God set up the local church body to function. Any pastor who loves God and is studying the Word of God and in prayer is doing everything He knows God is telling Him to do. Others may disagree like Barnabas, but it is Barnabas who missed out on the anointing and blessing God has for him because he got out of unity with the leadership God had called him to. You don't hear of Barnabas again in the book of Acts, but you hear a lot about Paul.

Heb. 13:17 Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [continually recognizing their authority over you], for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls *and* guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing *and* groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either].

Here is a second powerful truth about unity. God through Jesus gave us spiritual leaders to do all they can to help us walk with God, and walk in all God has provided for us. A godly leader who is submitted to godly leadership not only loves God, but they love their church. They will do everything they can to help them walk in the abundant life Jesus has for them. Realize that God gifted them to do what they do and the body of Christ needs to trust in God's ability that He has placed in that leader. That does not mean they will do everything you want them to do. If you have never been a pastor you don't see everything a pastor sees, the same as a husband cannot tell his wife he knows what it is like to have a baby. He will never know what it's like. The body of Christ needs to find out who they are called to, and then to walk in unity realize God put them there for a reason. Come to be a servant in God's house and enjoy all that is there for you.

The more unified the church becomes the more we will see God doing great things in our midst and through us as well. There are more keys to unity but if the church could master these two we will be well on our way to walking unified as one. We won't always agree with everything but as a great man of God once said, "We can agree to disagree". As long as God's leaders stay submitted to godly leadership, come and enjoy all God has for you in the house of God.