

Text: John 17: 20-24

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Bible Study topic: “Kingdom Life Manifestation in Unity.”

Introduction

Christian life begins with our personal encounters with God when we get saved and empowered by the Holy Spirit. However, the Kingdom life can only be manifested in a way that affects those around us by working in unity with other believers in the Church. Thus, we will discuss and learn how we can be established and experience the power of God through corporate worship and prayer, so that we may live victorious lives as members in the body of Christ.

One may ask that if I am a child of God and filled with the Holy Spirit then why not just mind my own business as a Christian and continue to pray alone? Just as we have seen above in Jesus’ prayer, the kingdom life divine intent focuses on the body of believers as the chief end, therefore, our individual faith is the starting point. It is important that the army of Lord in his kingdom remains strong and united in order for great exploits to be attained! The Lord Jesus Christ himself illustrated on the importance of the unity of the Kingdom life in **Matthew 12:25-30**. Throughout scripture we see the significance and power of corporate prayer and worship. Furthermore, this also shows us that being in fellowship and unity as believers it is the sign of the Lord’s presence and true worship because we cannot say we love the Lord we have never seen yet hate our brothers and sisters. **(1 John 4: 20 -21)**.

Do we also wonder as to why the apostle Paul likens the Church to the metaphor of marriage? It is because a stable marriage symbolizes the strong bond of oneness of man and woman just as Christ and the Church is bonded together in love. Therefore, let us look at some of the benefits being united in fellowship together:

1. **The Unity of the believers pleases the Lord and commands/attracts his blessings.**

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord commands or bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1- 3, TNIV).**

2. Being unity authenticates our faith in Christ and the Gospel to the world **(John 17:20-24)**
3. **Unstoppable power is exhibited and manifested when believers are in unity.**
 - The preacher Solomon gives us practical examples of the importance of others saying, “Two are better than one, because they have a good return (reward) for their labor. If they fall down, they can help each other up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up! Also if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” **(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).**
 - Luke tells us that the believers “prayed the place where they were meeting was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” **(Acts 4:31).** This means that we all need each other’s prayer and support.
 - “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us” **(1 John 5:14)**

Conclusion

Therefore, as the apostle Paul encourages us, let us “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” **(Ephesians 4:3).**