

REVIVAL ESSENTIAL KEY ONE: UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Unity of passion, of place, of community

Unity of passion -- Acts 1:14—“These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer...”

- with one mind --Greek word—*homothumadon* – from *homos* – the same, and *thumos* – strong passion, want, or desire.
 - the word does not denote casualness but **serious intensity**, a condition of being stirred up, focused, particularly emotionally
 - does not indicate thinking exactly alike, holding identical doctrines, but being united in heart desire toward a common goal

Their “one mind” focus: prayer

- --the focus of their “one mind” – their single passion – was upon prayer, in obedience to Jesus’ command to “stay” and “wait” in Jerusalem for “the promise of my Father” in Luke 24, and “being baptized in/with/by the Spirit” in Acts 1
- Their sustained unity would only be by and in the Holy Spirit; therefore, they needed to be immersed in Him—Christ in us is Christ through us—by His Spirit
- **“Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord”**
Zechariah 4:6

Unity: in one place – Acts 2:1 – “And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together *in one place*.”

- The power of physical proximity – God manifests himself in specific times and places – “hot spots” of god’s manifest presence, concentrations of his presence-
- Can be very localized – Toronto Airport Vineyard in 1994
 - Can be in several nearby places at the same time – Azusa St. And Wales at turn of the century
- Revival power can be transferrable from place to place by human or material “carriers,” then God’s Presence remains in those places

- **Unity: of “community” actions** – Acts 2: 41-47 – the new Messiah’s unity in community! This *kenosis* unity of his church is what Jesus prayed for and prophesied --John 17:23—”may they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you (Father) sent me and that You love them as much as You love me.”

Where is this Kingdom unity found?

Answer: in the living presence of Christ, specifically of/in/by His Spirit manifested

- **Eph. 4:3**—"being diligent to *preserve* (the unity of the Spirit) in the bond of peace" – unity (*henoteta* ("exactly the same") *tou* (of) *pneumatos* (the spirit)

“***henosis***” (unity/oneness) is the Greek word for mystical union, total oneness and agreement in the “mystical” (spiritual) dimension. ***Henosis*** is of the Spirit (belongs to Him)!

Related scriptures: the Spirit manifested *is a different dimension!*

- A new dimension of life and unity: Paul calls it “a new creation” (2 co. 5:17);
- also calls it in Phil. 2:1 – **fellowship of the Spirit** – *koinonia tou pneumatos* (“*if there is any fellowship of the Spirit*”)

What is “the fellowship of the Spirit?” We are called to “preserve”?

- **Phil. 2:2**—“having the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in heart, intent on one purpose” -- context – what are we to be united in, what is that “one purpose”? –
- **Phil. 2:3-5** – our unity is in being like Jesus, in humility not advancing our own self-interest, but looking out for the interests of others – in not looking to love self but to always look to love others—to advance their interests and not your own – Paul here is describing the nature of **the “new family,” the “new community,” “the new Israel”** – key: **of the Spirit**

Critically important: the Kingdom is in/of/by the Holy Spirit—not attainable by the natural man (1 co. 2:14) –fleshly means not effective Romans 14:17—“for the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness and peace and joy **in the Holy Spirit.”**

How to attain “kenosis” in the Spirit, how to maintain living in that divine unity

- **“Fix our eyes on Jesus”** (in His Spirit) – Heb. 12:2 plunges us into the dimension of the Spirit-- meditation/contemplation/adoration/soaking
- Be immersed (baptized/saturated) in the Spirit “now the Lord is **the Spirit**” 2 Co. 3:17-18 –**“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Spirit.”**

How to stay saturated – through worship, living in loving community (fellowship with each other in the Spirit), absorbing His

Word, soaking in His Spirit, doing ministry together, giving of our lives (time, talent, treasure) through sacrificial service to others—telling others about Jesus/showing others the new reality of His Kingdom in healing, deliverance, kindness, non-retaliation: in short, radiating Jesus always to all people!

As we are “***in*** the Spirit,” we experience oneness (unity) in Christ with all other genuine Jesus followers who also exist ***in*** the Spirit.

- ***Gal. 3:27-28—“for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek (gentile), there is neither slave nor free person, there is neither male nor female; for you are one (“heis”—the same, agreement, one person) in Christ Jesus.”***

“The unity that Christ prayed for is

- NOT an organizational unity (where we do everything the same way)
- NOT a denominational unity (where we believe everything the same way)
- IT IS a spiritual (of the Spirit) unity based on faith in Christ and the glory of God (by his Spirit) within us (and through us).”