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A Word From Your Pastor

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore."
Psalm 133:1-3 NIV

This summer we are working through the Psalms of Ascents during our Sunday morning worship services. These 15 psalms are found in chapters 120 through 134. These were sung by the people of Israel as they journeyed to Jerusalem, to worship at the Temple of the Lord! They were on a pilgrimage – a journey to a sacred place. Psalm 84:5 says, ***"Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage."*** Today, God is calling His children upward, nearer to Him, and growing stronger in faith!

Throughout Scripture, we see the importance of God's people and His Church being found in one accord. Look again at Psalm 133:1 – ***"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"*** What a descriptive picture is given in the following verses! ***"For THERE the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore."*** Mount Hermon is the majestic mountain on the northern boundary of Israel, and it was known for its heavy dewfall. God's unity is likened to dew that refreshes and delights. In both images, the anointing oil and the dew are so abundant that they flow downward, indicating rich blessings. God gives the blessing of unity through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As I stated on a recent Sunday morning message, "Where there is unity from within the church, there will be gatherings from without!" We can find at least seven occasions in the book of Acts where the writer tells us that the early Christians were in one accord and the Holy Spirit moved in amazing ways!

They were in one accord in the Upper Room as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in an attitude of prayer and expectancy. Acts 1:14 – ***"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the***
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mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." Look at what we find in Acts 2:1 – ***"When the day of Pentecost came, they were together in one place."***

They were in one accord after the events of the Day of Pentecost when 3,000 new believers were added to the numbers. Acts 2:41,46 – ***"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day." Vs. 46 – "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."***

They were in one accord during times of persecution. Acts 4:24 – ***"When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. . ."*** They were in one accord during times of great miracles and praise! Acts 5:12 – ***"The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade."***

They were in one accord while listening to the preaching of the Gospel. Acts 8:6 – ***"When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said."*** We also see their unity as they were sending missionaries. Acts 16:25,26 – ***"So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friend Barnabas and Paul – men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

Our Heavenly Father has much for His Church to accomplish in this day and age! Our Heavenly Father has great plans for His Body of Believers here at Salem Reformed Church and we must be diligent in working for our Lord! There is much to be done throughout our region and far beyond. As we work and work together in unity, living in the Fear of the Lord, God will do amazing things for His Glory! Acts 9:31 says, ***"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."*** Let us be FAITHFUL in attending worship services, Sunday School, Bible Studies. Let us all be willing servants and get involved in the many opportunities to serve the Lord through our local church!

In Christ Alone, Pastor Mike