

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul Acts 2:44

Amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit; 3000 saved... amazing demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit at the end of same chapter:

‘And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.’

Frank Bartleman (a close friend of William Seymour who helped birth the Azusa St Revival) said ‘The missions had fought each other almost to a standstill. Little love remained.’ **Revival continues as believers continue to be one as God is one.**

John 17:1-3 Jesus had ‘exousia’ power (delegated authority to give eternal life). He has given this same authority to us to proclaim that salvation is received through faith in Christ. (Romans 10:8-17)

In verse 3 Christ defined eternal life as ‘that they may know You and Christ whom you sent’ and at the end of the chapter that all would His love.

Jesus went on to pray for the disciples – they had accepted, received and obey Jesus’ words. They were already operating in the oneness Jesus was praying about and thus His prayer in verse 11 that Father keep them that they **continue to be one; continually be as one as God is one.** (Deuteronomy 6:4 The Lord our God, the Lord is one – not numerical but ‘a united one’)

To be one as God is one is to enter into total agreement in love and spirit and purpose.

As individuals: we began our own personal union with God through faith in Christ. 1 Cor 6:17 ‘he who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit** with Him’ (same love, same attitude, same desires, same priorities, same compassion, same will – a united one). Individually and corporately as we grow in Him (accept, receive and obey His Word) we will **know** His faithfulness and stayed entered into His purposes.

Jesus was sent/given to bring eternal life. John 3:16 may well be understood as ‘For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but **know you** (have eternal life)’ He never strayed from His call and purpose.

So He went on to pray for all those who would believe through the disciples word or message; (the gospel must be preached). He prayed that ‘they all’ too would be one – why? **That the world may believe;** that they all be brought to perfect unity – why? **To let the world know that**

- Father loves them with a spectacular and undying love
- We would be One with Him; Us in Him and Him in us

(Consider Philippians 2:1-11 – Jesus’ humility and resultant death was ‘that every knee bow.. and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father’)

For the joy set before Christ – the joy? Redemption of the world. We have ‘exousia’ ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel’ Mark 16. We also have ‘dunamis’ And you will received power when the Holy Spirit comes on you to be My witnesses....’ Acts 1:8

Dunamis: ability; with an inherent power capable of reproducing itself. (Same power mentioned in 2 Peter 1:3). Divine, because it belongs to the Godhead, and with knowledge of Christ we have the ability to live godly and proclaim the good news.

Oneness is never the goal; this would fall short of the call to preach the gospel; preaching the gospel is not the goal either – it is Father’s chosen way of letting the world know that He loves them and desires relationship with them.

Psalm 133: unity beautiful to look at and attracts the commanded blessing – which is *life forevermore*. *Where there is oneness souls are added to the Kingdom – to Father. Acts 2. Together in the upper room and together every day.*

Where there is a departure in the ‘mind of the Lord’ gospel labour suffers. See Phil 4:2 The Holy Spirit unites; the flesh divides. To be one as God is one is to be one mind with Him.

Philippians 1:27

‘Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel’

Much admonishment in the New Testament letters – ultimately points to the gospel and the gospel always points to the love of God. Consider the Ephesian church – very powerful (Paul had not held anything back from them which was helpful in his letter/s and had drawn the elders together Acts 20-22-24) yet it is the first church Jesus addresses in Revelation 2. Having moved away from their first love, the church moved away from the first works – is now one of the least Christian nations. Although they were encouraged to unity/oneness, they neglected first works.

We have the greatest gift to fulfill the greatest command and thereby fulfill God’s greatest desire that the world will know He loves them and desires relationship.

As we continue to be one with God, we must continue to be one with His desires and priorities and these must form the essence of everything we do – thus glorifying the Father. Jeremiah 32:38-40. One heart and one way – the way of love; **continuing as one in the way of love that the world be won.**