

The Power of Unity

Pastor Othniel James

Main Scripture: Acts 5: 11- 42

Supportive Scriptures: Matthew 1: 20-21; John 1: 29; Acts 4: 12; Exodus 7: 10-12; John 1: 4; Matthew 16: 18; Luke 24: 47

Notes:

The name of the Lord Jesus is made known to us to save us from our sins. He didn't come to make us rich and wealthy. The purpose of him being revealed in the form of a servant is to take away our sins. John 1: 29.

In Acts 5 we see an attack on the unity of the church. we read were Ananias and Saphaire were both killed in an act of divine judgement. The spirit of the Lord remained and self was suppressed.

Those who had to share didn't consider it for their own, they laid the funds at the apostles' feet so that those in need could be blessed. The attitude of the church is not selfish. People are thinking about a brother as a brother and loving each other.

We see a picture where the church is advancing. They were already warned not to preach in Jesus' name but there can be no church or gospel or deliverance or signs or wonders from the Lord except it be done in His name. I say from the Lord because we have signs and miracles being done that the Lord did not sanction. How? Let's look at the Signs that Pharaoh's men did after Moses threw down his staff Exodus 7:10-12

Acts 5: 13 - unless someone was totally committed they would not join themselves to the church but they magnified them and believers were added to the Lord.

Can you imagine to the power of God is moving in the church and the spirit of the Lord is present and ruling in the assembly. Those who were not fully committed would not even seek to join themselves in the church. News is spreading across the towns and people who have a problem and the problem is caused by sin, sicknesses and disease and unclean spirits and there is so much power in the church that men are bringing their loved ones laying them on the streets so that as the apostles pass by, for their shadow will heal them. Other cities are learning what is happening in Jerusalem and they are bringing their sick and the oppressed to be healed.

A set of angry priests rose up - what's wrong with seeing good things happen to those who were suffering?

These men were from the Sanhedrin council - a religious authority - God was moving and they had no control so they sense a spirit of Jealousy.

The second persecution - was for the performance of signs and wonders possessing great unity and being different from the world. They were attracting crowds, people were healed and delivered and because of that, a door of persecution was opened against the church.

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It is not good to say we have the truth and we are not opposed. A church that's advancing the kingdom of God must face opposition. If we are not challenged something is wrong. It is not ok for us to be boastful about having the truth and not under attack.

This is the beginning of the church - doing as the Lord commanded and the persecution is coming. Signs and wonders not to promote an individual but to promote Jesus.

God's judgement came down so hard on Ananias and Saphire because the attack was on the unity of the church.

God will defend his people. The Lord expects us to be bold because he has deposited in us a Spirit of boldness and if we need more we can ask of God in prayer for boldness to present the message of the kingdom of God to others.

The ministry of Jesus Christ is for everyone, not a select few. It's a ministry for people. If we are not witnessing to people we have lost the power. If you want this church to become a club and a monument with no power then stop talking to people. We are not taking this gospel to people. A lot of us, don't mind and are very selective with whom we share this gospel with everyone. Every person that we encounter is a candidate for the kingdom of God. Let it be that they have rejected the message but not that we have rejected them.

John 1: 4

The message of the gospel has such a great sense of urgency that these men did not sleep until late the morning but early in the morning, they were already in the temple teaching.

How many of us know that right now we can experience miracles like these. God knows how to protect his people and if he puts something in you no man can imprison what God has deposited in you. God knows how to release his people from them to advance his kingdom.

The church must have an open door no man can close the door. We cannot obey men we must speak and share the wonderful words of life. Jesus has an interest in the people.

Acts 5: 28 - It's one thing having to deal with Jesus and his ministry but now his disciples are still preaching about Jesus and the entire Jerusalem is filled with his doctrine. I wonder if we can have an appetite to go street by street to fill this country with the doctrine of Jesus.

Can we truthfully say we are obeying God rather than men? If man tells us we can't witness in some of our workplaces and we have to keep the religious arguments low key or our personal beliefs and we understand it is an attack on the church. But what we do is we hear what men say and we try to find out how we can work around the laws that are in place but the church that we are aligned with, our forefathers, the command is given and they boldly defy the command.

What's the use of the gospel if the name of Jesus is not proclaimed?

There are bills being passed through the senate and these bills will become law and we are sleeping building our own wealth and the church is sitting back wondering how we can move around the laws and

still have our padded pews. Luke gives us a vivid account that these apostles were connected to heaven they were persecuted but heaven spoke back to them to not be passive but be bold.

The church is standing boldly as a witness - Acts 5: 32

A whipping and a command and they left the presence of the council rejoicing and that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. - Acts 5: 41

The entire Jerusalem was filled with the doctrine of Jesus - that is the pattern that we should practise - every house and the temple should preach Jesus.

Jesus did not call us to fill a church and a lot of us spend our energy trying to fill the four walls but the gospel of Jesus Christ cant be controlled you can't tell where it ends.

What does this statement mean to you: "Behold the Lamb of God ..." Consider the man Christ Jesus with all power given to him. What do we think about the message of Jesus is it eternal life? if so then those without him are abiding in eternal death.

Let pray that the Lord gives us an attitude where we make attempt and seize every opportunity to advance the message of Love and Hope and Salvation - the message of Jesus Christ.

Pray for me that I will seize every opportunity and the Lord will download in my spirit methods how the Lord wants us to move forward as an assembly. To look at the opportunity he has given us and not to be blinded with small-minded thinking.

We are in a moment of time where God will release something on us and we want to be what he wants us to be. We are teaching here and life is being affected near and far. It's bigger than a physical location. Its big brothers and sisters this is the working of the Lord.