

January 15, 2012

The Power Of Unity **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

Pro 29:18 *"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."* KJV

Pastor shared about making plans for the future building of new facilities, increasing the size of the congregation in the church as it is now and bringing new families into the fold. However, without complete unity among the members there would be challenges to overcome.

The devil's plan is containment. The greatest deception that the enemy brings to the church, regardless of denomination is "status quo, being content where you are at". We cannot be content, because of what Jesus did in reaching people that must be the primary goal.

Containment means to put limits on something, prevent an enemy or opponent from advancing or making a successful attack.

Working together will enable us to get the job done.

Matt 12:25 *"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:"* KJV

Where there is division, the end results will be destruction.

Gen 11:1-6 *"1And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."* KJV

They were casting a vision, they had direction in what they wanted to do, they were saying the same thing, however their purpose in building was to make a name for themselves, pride entered into the plans, thus the end results were destruction.

God came down to see what they were about and noted that because of their unity, there would be nothing that they could not accomplish. Therefore, He confounded their speech, causing them to be spread about the world.

2 Cor 13:11 *"11Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live*

in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." KJV

Paul encourages the people in Romans 15 "to be of one mind". He also speaks to the people in Corinth the importance of "being of one mind." because there was carnality among them due to the division and strife in the church.

1 Cor 1:10 *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* KJV

1 Cor 1:10 *"But I urge and entreat you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in perfect harmony and full agreement in what you say, and that there be no dissensions or factions or divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your common understanding and in your opinions and judgments."* AMP

1 Cor 1:10. *"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."* NLT

Example given of a marriage, being joined together spirit, soul and body. There must be a joining together of the mind, same purpose, same goals, all going in the same direction. If there is no harmony, then opinions and decisions will not be in the relationship

Many times with a group of people, there will be one dominate person with a strong opinion, able to voice their feelings regarding a matter, that will cause the group to follow along, whether the opinion expressed is right or wrong. Caution must be taken by the leaders to not allow this opinion to advance, because it will cause discourse and strife. The time to voice an opinion is before a decision is made by the leaders. We can be united in our opinions and decisions or judgments.

The reason for the unity is to accomplish what God has called us to do. There will always be an attack from the adversary, he will always try to move us out of the anointing., but we are more than overcomers and conquerors though Jesus. We must continually reach out to the people that Jesus came to save. We can never be satisfied with things the way they are or be comfortable where we are.

There are examples in the Old Testament that Paul tells us in Romans 15, that happenings are for our learning. that we might have comfort and patience through the scriptures. Occurrences in the Old Testament are written as examples so that we may glean knowledge from and act upon and bring about what God has promised. In the New Testament the principle is just as true. God would always first speak to His leaders and then the leaders taking the message to the people. The people joining up with what God had said and begin to bring it to pass.

1 Cor 10:11 *"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* KJV

God does not just speak to the leaders, but will speak to others, who in turn will bring it to the leader as a confirmation to them. He will not speak different things than what He is speaking to a leader.

Joshua 6:1-6 *"Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. 2And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. 3And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. 4And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets 5And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. 6And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."* KJV

Joshua chapters 6 through 8 tell of the leadership of Joshua.

Joshua has taken over the leadership from Moses, he has taken them across the Jordan and now God has given him instructions regarding the children of Israel and how they are to possess the land. There were 31 different kings that have to be taken, Jericho being the first city. God begins to tell Joshua how this will come to pass with exact instructions, and then Joshua took it to the people. Within the instructions, there were other things that had to be followed, all the wealth belonged to God and was to be given to Him. The people were to take nothing, but one man hid some silver and gold and clothing in his tent. The success was great at Jericho, but when they went up against the next city AI, they were defeated. Joshua cried out to God and it was revealed that someone had disobeyed God's instructions at Jericho. Consequently, when the guilty party was revealed, God instructed that the man, his family and all his possessions were to be destroyed. A new plan of attack on AI was devised, everyone followed instruction and the victory was theirs. All the spoil of AI belonged to the children of Israel.

Many times as decisions are progressing along, there will begin to arise problems from people expressing their opinions, which are opposite from the decisions that have been made. These voices have to be dealt with in order to keep unity.

We have to be strong and of good courage to possess the land, and to possess what is ours.

In the first book of Chronicles it tells of David as he was taking over the kingdom from King Saul how a great number of people began to come to him. Before he would let them become a part of his kingdom, he would ask, "are you for me or against me?" David understood the importance of unity and what God had called him to do.

The book of Judges is the account of Gideon. He was called above his ability. All the surrounding kingdoms had been coming against Israel. Taking all their crops, livestock and whatever they wanted, leaving the people without anything. Fear was the ruler in the kingdom. The people were totally outnumbered, they were in hiding. Gideon was hiding in a winepress, threshing out what little grain he had when the Lord came to him. God called him a "mighty man of valor", Gideon did not feel as though this was true. He felt totally inferior and unworthy. God told him that he was going to be used to deliver the children of Israel from all their enemies. Gideon wanted to know where the mighty god was at that he had heard about. Where are all the miracles? The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him. When this happened, Gideon became a different man. He asked for confirmation along the way,

giving a request for two different fleeces. Gideon heard the enemy in their camp talking about God's hand upon him. He took his men and began to separate them out, taking only 300 men in the final count. This group of men was of one mind and opinion and saying the same thing. During the battle that ensued, they were told to place lights into containers and at the order given, break the containers. This caused confusion among the enemy and the battle was theirs because of unity.

No matter how great the challenge is for us individually or corporately, if we will stay in unity and harmony we will accomplish our goals. Unity and harmony starts first. God brought us into harmony through His Son Jesus Christ. All of us working together can accomplish what God is calling us to do.

"Do not think it strange that the darts of the enemy will assail you, however every weapon against you shall crumble and lay at your feet, for the Lord it is He that fights for you, His strong right hand shall sustain you and uphold you. You shall not stand still in terror, as David ran at the giant that came against him, you also shall arise and run to the battle and victorious you shall be, for the Lord has destined it to be for this is His season, this is His hour, it is the year of restoration a time of growth it shall be in your life."