

Bringing Heaven to Earth: Part 6

Unity of the Believers

Pastor James Bell

What have you been looking for spiritually that you haven't seen taken place within your life yet? The Spirit of the Lord declares that He opens and closes doors that man cannot fathom. His timing is purposeful and because of your obedience, this seed will bring forth the more that He has placed within your Spirit. Because of the promise of more, His word is everlasting! Take this few moments remaining to prepare your heart for the seed. This preparation is your intentional actions that will produce the harvest to ready the multitude for His return. Harvest time is upon us.

A brief recap from our last few Sundays:

1. A Glimpse of Heaven: Understanding what Heaven is right now
2. Accepting God's will: Having a change in our thinking that produces a paradigm shift. This change brings our hearts in line with God's heart.
3. Executing Heavenly Mandates: Carrying out our greatest commandment to love the Lord God with all of our minds, soul, heart, and strength. And a second command to love our neighbors as ourself.
4. Expressing Heaven's Virtues: The works of the flesh are opposed to the fruit of the Spirit. We learned no one that practices the works of the flesh will inherit the Kingdom of God (Heaven on Earth) and that fruit is cultivated. Fruit is not a one time event and that fruit must go through seasons of pruning, weathering, and harvest.
5. Empowering through Prayer: Prayer that brings the focus of who we are addressing and not what we are addressing. Prayer must begin with our complete reverence of God's holiness and bring His holiness into our right now reality. Prayer is not about how long you pray but how often you pray. Pray is a two way conversation that involves space and opportunity for God to interact with us.

Today we will be placing emphasis on how the unity of the believers brings Heaven to Earth.

John 17:20–23 NLT

20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will

believe you sent me. 22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

John 17 was a prayer that Jesus was specifically asking for the 12 but in verse 20 He expanded the blessings to all who believe. This includes us, the church, right now. And the emphasis of us being in unison. Being of one mind and one accord.

Romans 12:4–8 NLT

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

When we visualize the body and how every part has its specific ability and how it operates. That each part is dependent upon another. But these parts will not operate if the brain is not sending the signal. This makes the brain a vital part of the whole operation. But if the brain does not receive blood and oxygen the brain cells begin to die. To illustrate this in the Spiritual, we are the body just as scripture alludes to and Christ is the head and the heart is God. God’s will is communicated to the body by the word (Jesus) and the body operates accordingly.

So let’s look at this through scripture:

Exodus 25:1–8 NLT

1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 “Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them. 3 Here is a list of sacred offerings you may accept from them: gold, silver, and bronze; 4 blue, purple, and scarlet thread; fine linen and goat hair for cloth; 5 tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; 7 onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest’s chestpiece. 8 “Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them.

God desired to dwell among His people. But this dwelling place would not erect itself. God wanted His people to bring Heaven to Earth! So God gave precise directions to Moses on how to build. The details are found in Exodus 26-30. And for time sake you can read this on your own, but God’s dwelling place was to be a reflection of Heaven. (This is the heart sending blood and oxygen to the head, Moses). But Moses wasn’t

skilled in none of these areas. His call was to lead the people. But God does not give a command that He has not given to ability to fulfill.

Exodus 31:1–11 NLT

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 “Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. 4 He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. 5 He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft! 6 “And I have personally appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to be his assistant. Moreover, I have given special skill to all the gifted craftsmen so they can make all the things I have commanded you to make: 7 the Tabernacle; the Ark of the Covenant; the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement; all the furnishings of the Tabernacle; 8 the table and its utensils; the pure gold lampstand with all its accessories; the incense altar; 9 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils; the washbasin with its stand; 10 the beautifully stitched garments—the sacred garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to wear as they minister as priests; 11 the anointing oil; the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. The craftsmen must make everything as I have commanded you.”

God provides two men that are knowledgable of this type of skill but two men alone cannot construct the entirety of what God commanded. So God filled them with His Spirit that gave them wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. This means that their ability now had God's anointing upon it. God's anointing empowers us to go beyond our natural ability. God's anointing not only enhances our talents but calls us to more. With God's anointing the two men became leaders. These guys now had the heart of God with the ability to teach others, making them not just craftsmen but leaders capable of directing the entire construction of the tabernacle. Their gifting wasn't separated from His calling - it was inseparable from it. God's appointment was the basis of their gifting demonstrating that God's Spirit empowers ordinary work for sacred purposes.

God's Spirit empowered Bezalel and Oholiab with talent and intelligence, giving them ability in every kind of crafting—woodwork, stonework, metalwork, engraving, embroidery, and weaving. God inspired both men to teach all other craftsmen who had been given special skill, and together they completed the tabernacle according to God's specifications. The people willingly volunteered because their hearts moved them to do so, demonstrating that God's work is accomplished through godly, Spirit-led servants.

Exodus 39:32–42 NLT

32 And so at last the Tabernacle was finished. The Israelites had done everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses. 33 And they brought the entire Tabernacle to Moses: the sacred tent with all its furnishings, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts, and bases; 34 the tent coverings of tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; the inner curtain to shield the Ark; 35 the Ark of the Covenant and its carrying poles; the Ark's cover—the place of atonement; 36 the table and all its utensils; the Bread of the Presence; 37 the pure gold lampstand with its symmetrical lamp cups, all its accessories, and the olive oil for lighting; 38 the gold altar; the anointing oil and fragrant incense; the curtain for the entrance of the sacred tent; 39 the bronze altar; the bronze grating and its carrying poles and utensils; the washbasin with its stand; 40 the curtains for the walls of the courtyard; the posts and their bases; the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; the ropes and tent pegs; all the furnishings to be used in worship at the Tabernacle; 41 the beautifully stitched garments for the priests to wear while ministering in the Holy Place—the sacred garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to wear as they minister as priests. 42 So the people of Israel followed all of the LORD's instructions to Moses.

God's dwelling place had been constructed just like God had commanded. Every detail met the criteria of the instructions given by God. But did we happen to see what judged every article of the tabernacle? The head, and although this was Moses in reality in reference to the tabernacle but Jesus is the head of the church, the body of Christ and according to John 12, Jesus said the word is what will judge us. Have we built our lives according to the standard that God has given us? Are we Bringing Heaven to Earth in the unity of Believers? Is our mission to be the individual that God has called us to be among the body of believers?

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 NLT

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? 18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body

together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. 27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

There is one body, not many bodies, and it is one body with many members, not one member. The Holy Spirit baptized all members into one body, and they all share the same Spirit. Each member has a specific place, function, and operation within the body, but not all members possess the same gift, office, or function. An eye cannot be a stomach and a heart cannot be a toe. Although they function differently they have a common goal at heart. To complete the body. Can we survive without a leg? How about lungs? We focus on to much of the parts that are seen instead of the parts that are not seen. A worship team is a vital part of a ministry but can worship still be orchestrated without them? SLM is a truth to this statement!

Despite this diversity, there is unity in the operations of the same Spirit, resulting in harmony, unity, and coordination. Critically, every member relies on the other members. Recognizing all spiritual gifts within the body is essential—it is recognition, not competition. All members share the same love and care for each other, and they experience joy and sorrow together. There is no independence within the body; all members are interdependent on one another and Christ.

So what are the parts of the body that have to present?

Ephesians 4:4–14 NLT

4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. 7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." 9 Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. 10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

Bringing Heaven to Earth must be comprised of the five fold ministry. Their office is to equip the people to do the work of the ministry. This equipping is foundational to Bringing Heaven to Earth. This equipping brings maturity to the church. This equipping is the anointing of God's Spirit that uses the gifts of individuals to move beyond their natural ability.

In closing:

1 Corinthians 12:28–30 NLT

28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. 29 Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!

When we operate individually as we have been assigned and anointed, Bringing Heaven to Earth will be just as it was in the constructing of God's dwelling place. When the tabernacle was completed, the Lord filled it with His glory—His presence manifested among His people as they journeyed toward the Promised Land.

Let me pray with you today!