

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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“UNITY”

Jesus said:

*“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**”*

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and **I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**”*

*“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**” (John 14:19, 20, 21 & 23)*

*“The Kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!”, **for indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you.**” (Luke 17: 20 & 21)*

Paul said:

*“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”*

*“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every **man perfect in Christ Jesus.**” (Colossians 1: 27 & 28)*

The words that I have just quoted, which were spoken by Jesus Christ, and one of His apostles (Paul), speak of “unity” ----- The “unity” of God and His offspring (Acts 17: 28 & 29), man. These words are not speaking of the “unity” of believers, of men, or of nations; not at all. They go far beyond that.

This message is directed to those who have been “Born Again”, not according to the flesh, but according to the will of the Holy Spirit (John 3: 3 – 6 & 1: 12 & 13). To the natural mind of man, what our Lord spoke about in John 14 and Luke 17 will seem to be foolishness (1 Corinthians 2: 13 – 16); but to the one who is being taught and led into all Truth by the Holy Spirit (John 16: 13 – 15), our

Lord's words will be received, understood, and will fill the heart with life, light, love and truth ----- all reflecting the Glory of God through Jesus Christ!

This message is intensely personal, and I am directing it to "you" dear reader, as it was given to me. May Father grant us the grace of "hearing" ----- of "seeing" ----- and may our Lord be glorified in us and through us, as His word falls on the deep and fertile soil of our heart, where it will reproduce after Its own kind. Amen.

Now then, let's look at the definition of the term "unity", and then review what our Lord said in John 14: 19 – 21 & 23 as well as Luke 17: 20 & 21. First, Webster defines "unity" as follows:

"The quality or state of being made one: oneness ----- being in concord, accord, harmony."

When our Lord spoke the words that John and Luke recorded, He spoke clearly, in a straight forward manner that was, spiritual in nature, but none the less, easily understood. While He did not use the term "unity", He certainly defined "unity" when He spoke about being in a believer, who had His word in them, and kept or obeyed that word. He certainly defined a state of "oneness" when He said that He and Father would make Their home in that believer, in whom was the Kingdom of God. Oh, what an otherworldly declaration! Man in God ----- God in man ----- reflecting His own likeness and image ---- - all of the fullness of the Godhead in a true state of oneness! Again, Paul says:

"The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1: 26 & 27)

If this issue of "unity" between God and man, be true, one might ask: Why are we not seeing the fruit of this Truth in large measure, among professing believers today? For the answer, we only need to measure ourselves by the Word of God; not by personal opinion, or the science of psychology, or man's religion; we need only ask: What say the Scriptures?

Sadly, very few professing Christians today would agree with the position of that great warrior of the Faith, J.C. Ryle (1816 – 1900), when he said: *"My only aim and desire is to find out what the Bible says, and to take my stand upon it's teaching."* Brother Ryle understood what God said when He uttered these words:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4: 4)

Dear reader, whenever we pose a question such as: Why do we not see a greater evidence of unity between God and the professing believers of our day, all we need do is turn to God's word for the answer. It is as simple as that. It could not be any simpler for us than ----- "Only believe!" ----- Only believe God.

Every promise or blessing that Father has given His sons and daughters is predicated upon His word:

“It is written.” There are no known exceptions, and certainly the blessing of unity between Christ and a man is clearly predicated upon the Word of God. After all, where did this concept, of “God in man” and the Kingdom of God within man come from; from the Word of God, or the word of Man? If from man’s word, we could easily explain the widespread absence of God’s power in professing believers. However, those of us who have Father’s living word within us and have set our heart to obey Him ----- For us, we know the concept of Unity between God and man came entirely from God’s word. That being true, we need only to look into our Father’s word for the answer to our question. Again, all of the promises of God, given to man, (and certainly the promise of unity between God and man is a blessing), are all predicated on ----- “It is written” -----

*“He who has My commandments (My word) and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.
And he who loves Me -----will be loved by My Father -----and ----- I will love him ----
And manifest Myself to him. If anyone loves Me ----- he will keep My word; and -----
We will come to him -----and -----make Our home with him.”*

Could it be any clearer, dear reader? The promise of this blessing of “unity” is contingent upon: First, having God’s word within, and second, upon having a heart that desires to keep or obey His word. To claim this promise of unity, or any other promise of God apart from having and obeying His word, is nothing more than religious vanity. In fact, God’s word tells us that when we set His word aside in favor of man’s word or our own affections (2 Corinthians 6: 12) that we have “no right” to claim any of God’s covenant blessings. It is written:

*But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to declare My statutes, or take
My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind
You?” (Psalm 50: 16 & 17)*

We must never forget, that all of our God’s covenant blessings are contingent upon our receiving, believing, and obeying His word. It is impossible to live our lives out in the “fullness” of His blessing, except as it is written:

“_ _ _ _blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11: 28)

*“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole
Heart!” (Psalm 119: 1 & 2)*

I must confess that as I meditate on Christ’s words, as recorded in John Chapter fourteen and Luke Chapter seventeen, I am overwhelmed. The sheer magnitude of what God promises us, when we, by His grace, meet His conditions, simply overwhelms my flesh and human reasoning. A great conflict arises deep within my soul, where the flesh and the Spirit confront each other (Galatians 5: 17). The conflict that rages in the heart of “fallen man”, over the Word of God, is a conflict between light and darkness ----- between good and evil -----between the truth and a lie -----between life and death! It is as real as any raging conflict in the natural realm; and the stakes are beyond anything that the flesh of man can imagine.

Make no mistake about it dear reader, if you sincerely desire true “unity” with Christ, as described in His own words in John 14 and Luke 17, there will be a price to be paid. That price is outlined in Luke 14: 26 thru 33. It is written:

*“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he **cannot be My disciple.**”*

*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me **cannot be My disciple.***

*So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has **cannot be My disciple.**”*
(Vs. 26, 27, & 33)

As long as man’s heart is divided between Christ and his or her family, job, hobby, possessions, friends, or their church -----they are disqualified as His disciple; and they will not experience the “unity” of being One with Him! They are not in agreement with Him (Amos 3:3), and therefore cannot walk with Him. They may believe in Him, attend a church regularly, tithe, take communion, go on mission trips, preach, teach, etc. -----but until they are willing of heart to pay the price of being “One with Him” as outlined in Luke 14 -----they will not experience the blessings that follow those who have counted the cost and willingly submitted to His word. Could this Spiritual truth explain our Lord’s words when He said:

“For many are called -----but -----few are chosen.” (Matthew 22: 14)

Oswald Chambers heard “The Call”. He submitted to it before counting the cost, and entered into the raging conflict between the Spirit and the flesh. He referred to this conflict when he said: *“From that day on for four years, nothing but the overruling grace of God and the kindness of friends kept me out of an asylum.”* You can read brother Chambers own words in the book entitled: “Oswald Chambers -- -- Abandoned to God”, Chapter 7, Dark Night of the Soul 1897 – 1901.

After brother Chambers was delivered from the conflict between the Word and the flesh, he began to speak and teach as if he were in “unity” with our Lord. I believe he was. After being delivered from the religious spirits that actually hate Jesus, Chambers wrote: *“God makes us broken bread and poured-out wine to please Himself. To be “separated unto the gospel” means to hear the call of God; and when a man begins to overhear that call, then begins agony that is worthy of the name. Every ambition is nipped in the bud, every desire of life quenched, every outlook completely extinguished and blotted out, saving one thing only -----“separated unto the gospel.” Woe be to the soul who tries to put his foot in any other direction when once that call has come to him.”* (My utmost For His Highest – February 2)

Clearly my friends, to live life in the reality of “being one” with Christ, you must be in agreement with Him through His word. There is no other way, except total submission to His word. To think otherwise, puts one in direct opposition to the Word of God, and counted by Him as wicked (Psalm 50: 16 & 17). Most assuredly, it is an exceedingly serious matter for man to reject God’s Word, to ignore God’s Word, add to, or take away from God’s Word; and yet, that is exactly what many of us are doing daily. We are following the behavior of those who, in Jesus day, considered themselves God’s people. They too, rejected the Word of God in favor of what “they believed”, and were quite confident of their

good standing before God, just as “many” of us are today. Here is what Jesus said to them, and to all who follow in their footsteps today:

“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because There is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?”

“He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” (John 8: 43 – 47)

Again, I ask: Could our Lord’s words in John 8: 43 - 47 explain His statement in Matthew 22: 14, when He said:

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Dear reader, I implore you to open your Bible and read these scriptures over and over again, asking our God to allow them to fall into the deep soil of the heart and reproduce after itself --- 30 --- 60 --- 100 fold! Our only hope for being found worthy of His choosing us to be One with Him is found in our yielding and “total” submission to His word. Anything short of total submission to His word disqualifies us as being worthy of Him (John 8: 31).

What about you, dear reader? Do you love His word? Is it written on the tablet of your heart? Is it in your mind? (Hebrews 8: 10) Can you hear His word? Are you His offspring (Acts 17: 28 & 29)? Are you of God?

Yes, these are sobering questions, and as time grows shorter with each passing day, each of us needs to examine ourselves by the Light of His word, to see if we, in fact, are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13: 5). May God grant us the grace to do so, and to do so quickly!

And now, please allow me to share a few final thoughts concerning our subject of “being One” with Christ. First of all, man’s relationship with God always begins with God, and its outcome is determined by God -----not by man. Man must cooperate, but even that cooperation begins with God. Clearly, it is written:

“No one can come to Me unless -----the Father who sent Me draws him;” (John 6: 44)

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, _ _ _ .” (Romans 8: 29a)

“Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known, the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not

of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?” (Romans 9: 21 – 24)

“Therefore my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence -----work out your own salvation -----with fear and trembling; for it is God -----who works in you -----both -----“to will” -----and -----“to do” -----for -----His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2: 12 & 13)

All men, (including you and I), have their beginning in God, and their end as well. Whether or not they be vessels for wrath or mercy is determined by the Word of God (John 12: 48). If we become One with Him, as promised by His word, it will be because He first worked in us “the will” to set our hearts to agree with Him; but even that is not enough to enable us to walk out that which we agree to; He must then do a work in us that will enable us “to do” that which He commands that we do.

“for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15: 5b)

As our Lord was preparing to return home, He prayed a final prayer for Himself, then for His disciples, and finally for those of us who would believe Him -----you and I (I pray). Here are His final recorded words concerning “Unity with Himself”:

“I do not pray for these alone (His disciples), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also may -----be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me -----I have given them -----that they may be one -----just as We are One: I in them, and You in Me;” (John 17: 20 – 23a)

May our Lord grant us the grace to receive a deeper revelation of this Truth, and work in us the ability to walk it out in Him -----for His glory, as it is written:

“For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen -----to the Glory of God -----through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Your brother,

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Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)