

Series: **STRONGER TOGETHER**

Topic: **Stronger Together**

Text: **Psalm 133:1-3**

Date: **8th April, 2018**

This series x-rays the power of working in teams, of collaborations, and of effectively working with a group of people. You need to be attentive because God wants to use this series to bring restoration to His children, restore destiny relationships, heal broken hearts resulting from failed relationships, and get people in the right direction for the fulfillment of their destinies.

“How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that's where GOD commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.”

– Psalm 133:1-3 (Message)

Through this passage we see the importance and effect of unity. Unity draws down God's anointing on us and when God anoints His people, it is not for glamour or show, but the specific purpose of accomplishing His will. We should realize that the place of unity is a place of the anointing and of consecration, so that we can become more useful to God. We desire more of the anointing that comes through unity.

Where there is unity, good things flow, positive connections occur, and consecration happens. There is something big about unity, about working together, and about collaboration; in that space there is a constant flow of blessings and there is providential help.

Exodus 30 describes the anointing oil required to anoint the tabernacle of God (verse 25) and His priests (verse 30). Each ingredient had its specific function in the mix, all combining to create the kind of oil that enabled the high priest to function in his roles, one of which is to reconnect people to God. Similarly, when we Christians gather together in *unity*, we command forgiveness; the blood of Jesus is present and cries out for mercy on our behalf. In the place of unity, we come to the blood of sprinkling that speaks mercy even over the 'worst' kind of person present in our midst – it works such that when we gather together, the anointing of God falls, draws the forgiveness of God over all kinds of sin no matter how terrible, making every one of us acceptable, cleansed and holy before God. The hold of guilt melts away because of the blood of Jesus.

This may raise concern of the kind of people coming to church but we must remember that Jesus came for the *lost*, He came for us *all*. God does not condemn anyone, so we should not condemn them. God accepts all who willingly return to Him, that is why church is for everyone; we just have to get the construct right of always operating in unity. Remember also that before God we are all precious, the same and the blood of Jesus avails for us *all*, a benefit of operating in the anointing in unity. Unity provokes the overflow - the description of the anointing in Psalm 133 is not a trickle, but an overflow. Bear in mind that the Body of Christ is Holy, but the church is carnal, that is, full of imperfect people; it is when we come together in unity that we become holy.

The spirit of the kingdom is a spirit of 'let us', as seen even with God in Genesis 1:26, where we see the presence and effect of the trinity (the three Persons in the Godhead). This emphasizes that kingdom life is not meant to be lived in isolation. Sayings such as, “One with God is majority,” do not align with God's plan. He can work with one man to achieve a purpose but He would rather work with more, as the bible declares, “If God be *for us...*” and not, ‘If God be *for me...*’ (Romans 8:31).

Yes there are situations that make you decide to cut off and be on your own but this is not God's will. Isolation is a ploy the devil uses to keep you disconnected from God's mainstream interconnected expressway. A disconnected Christian can be likened to a mobile phone that cannot connect to network; its other functions like the camera, calculator, or torchlight are add-ons and are not as important as the primary function of connecting it to other phones. This tells us that it is not possible to continuously relate with God

while being secluded from His other children, as the bible points out that if you cannot love man whom you physically see, how can you claim to love God whom you do not see (1 John 4:20)? If this is you, may God restore you to the right place of functioning in Him where you can relate with God and *all* His children in a family atmosphere of acceptance, patience, unity of kingdom purpose and genuine love. In times of conflict with loved ones who are Christians, you should remind yourself that they are also children of God and He will work on them to bring them to the place they should be in Him.

In talking about communities, the family is the first community we are put into. From there, we form friendships of our choosing and join other communities available such as clubs, work, and church. Narrowing our chosen community to church, bear in mind that church exists because God wants a family where every believer can come in, connect and grow for no one can grow in isolation. The family is very crucial because we would hardly survive in the first 24 hours of our physical existence without the soft landing of family. This is similar to the spiritual family called church, which is not perfect but our coming together creates the enabling environment for the growth of every one of us.

The Word of God says it is not good for man to be alone, as isolation gives way to unsavory, unwanted burdens - do not allow isolation make you become the devil's a dumping ground, like the mad man of Gadarenes in Mark 5:1-20.

Judas' isolation, some scholars say, also had tribal connotations and he could not correctly deal with the diversity he experienced, increasing his animosity, which became obvious at some point, for instance, his statement about the broken bottle of alabaster oil (John 12:3-4). His disconnection made it easy for Satan to enter into him, leading to the betrayal of Jesus (Luke 22:3-4). You should watch your heart always and be careful how you treat the connection with your family, for God placed you there so He can perfect His purpose. In spite of the wicked people amongst your family members, cutting any of them off should be your last but not first action. There is a construct you must go through to become who you were ordained to be and if you cut off, you remove the formulation and disrupt your growth process - Joseph was the nation Israel's preservative agent sent ahead for their physical survival but he needed his wicked brothers to get to Egyptian throne.

When it comes to relationships in the church community, bear in mind that we have five (5) different levels of people influx:

- The *community*, made up of people who visit 2 or 3 times a year, such as during watch night service and for New Year service. These set of people claim to be members of this as their church.
- The *crowd*, comprising of people who visit once or twice a month to enjoy the service and get answers to prayers.
- The *congregation*, made up of people who attend most services but have not come to see/accept other members of the church as part of their family. Such set of people don't care as much if the Church functions properly or not.
- The *committed*, consisting of those who actually get involved by aligning with the church's vision. This set of people asks questions, and they genuinely have the welfare of the church at heart.
- The *core*, encompassing those who have become responsible enough to take up leadership position, from lower leadership roles to top leadership roles.

Which of the levels above describes your current state as a Christian?

Prayer:

Father we receive grace to remain connected with our family members and with other believers. Where there is broken connection, we receive capacity for reconnection. We receive grace to maximize the community You have put us in and our destiny helpers will not elude us. As we enter a new month we refuse to remain dry, heaven will water our hearts and none of us is permitted to be stranded this week in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

