

Ephesians 6:15 NLT "For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared."

Every believer is a work in progress!

Ephesians 4:11-12

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up UNTIL WE ALL REACH UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and BECOME MATURE attaining to the WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST."



THEME SCRIPTURE:

PSALM 133:1-3

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to live together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing- life forevermore."

DAVID DESCRIBES UNITY BY COMPARING IT WITH TWO IMAGES:

- The _____ oil

This precious oil used to anoint was specially made and very _____

It is the _____ that breaks the yoke of bondage. (Isaiah 10:27).

- The _____ of Hermon

This dew found on Mount Hermon in the north of Israel brought _____ and _____

When in unity, God commands His _____

"UNITY" means _____

THE GLUE THAT UNITES BELIEVERS:

1) THE POWER OF THE _____

In the Old Testament, the whole nation of Israel was about to experience a mass exodus from bondage. They were given instructions by God on what to do. It was the blood of the Passover Lamb that united them in their deliverance.

Exodus 12:21-22

"Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe...'"

Exodus 12:13

"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you..."

The early Church kept the blood of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, central to their lives.

Acts 2:42 & 46b

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God..."

As believers, we are united to Christ by his shed blood and to one another. (Galatians 3:28 says "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.")

REVELATION 1:5b-6

"To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

2) THE POWER OF THE _____

Ephesians 4:1-6

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

It is the Spirit of God who baptizes every believer into the family of God. We are called to keep the unity of the Spirit.

Romans 12:18

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Ephesians 4:29-31 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."