

***The* BATTLE PLAN *for* PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

PART III: CONDITIONING

LESSON 6

HORIZONTAL: Unity vs. Division

“Above all, put on love—the perfect bond of unity.” (Colossians 3:14 HCSB)

An interesting passage in Genesis 11 describes the construction of the tower of Babel. In this biblical account, ungodly people decided to build a city with an enormous tower for their own glory and prestige [reputation]. They planned it out and began the enormous challenge, and at first found success in their efforts. But God looked down from heaven and basically said, "Because of their unity, nothing will be impossible for them." So He intervened [to come between]. He divided them by changing their communication into numerous languages to prevent them from finishing their prideful monument. In their confusion and chaos, they abandoned the project and separated themselves by language, spreading out across the land.

What is so striking about this passage of Scripture is that God Himself noted that when people are unified, they are able to exert tremendous power and momentum [force or speed of movement]. Even *ungodly* people! So imagine how powerful unity can be for people who worship and obey the God of the universe. If they seek the Lord and act in unity, *nothing* can stop them. [Better translation in NiRV—The Lord said, "All these people are united and speak the same language. That is why they can do all this. Now they will be able to do anything they plan." (Gen. 11:6)] That's why the enemy does everything possible to keep God's people divided. Because once we come together in unity, we gain momentum and take ground for the kingdom.

United prayer is powerful. But prayer from a divided people...well, not so much. This is why removing bitterness toward

others and choosing to forgive is so crucial. In fact, any pride or selfishness should be seen as an enemy of unified prayer.

In John 17, Jesus prayed a beautiful prayer, asking God to unify believers into *one body*, that the world would know He was sent by God to bring salvation to the world (John 17:21). Psalm 133:1 echoes the same theme: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!"

God loves and blesses unity. It speaks volumes about the body of Christ when we worship together and love one another as God intended. It also draws attention to our Savior, who died to cleanse our sins and now lives to intercede for us to God the Father. When people see unity, they see purpose, love, and power. It's attractive and beautiful. And when an army of people work together to accomplish a goal, they become a formidable force indeed.

The early church in the book of Acts had this momentum. Scripture says they operated with *one mind*, devoted to prayer and to each other's needs. Their unity was so powerful and attractive, in fact, that God's hand of favor was on them, and the church grew by thousands in a brief time. Acts 2:43 says the people felt a "sense of awe" as a result.

But what do we communicate when we remain divided? When believers fuss and debate sideline issues of faith, pushing each other's hot buttons, digging into their various postures, leaving no room for anyone's way but their own way, how is the world supposed to see faith in Christ as the answer? Is Jesus divided? Or is it man's pride, selfishness, or ignorance that brings division?

Ephesians 4:1-3 (HCSB) urges us to "walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us."

Powerful movements of God in the past have arisen as a result of prayer and unity. The Great Awakenings and similar revivals almost always resulted from people praying in unity, seeking God's

forgiveness and cleansing, setting aside their petty [showing by meanness of spirit] differences and forgiving one another, joining hands and hearts in desperation for the Lord to show up.

And He did.

God's blessings fall when believers dwell together in unity. God moves when we rid our hearts of any sin that holds us back and seek His face together. He promises us in Mark 11:24-26 that He will grant us our needs when we forgive one another and are clean before Him. But He also warns us in I John 4:20-21 that we cannot hate our brother and claim to love God at the same time. When we don't forgive, then neither will He forgive us.

In order for a home to flourish, unity must dwell there, with no bitterness between husband and wife. In order for a church to flourish, unity must dwell there, with no selfish motives, bitterness, or pride. In order for a nation to flourish, unity must dwell among the people instead of a civil war of agendas, morals, and worldviews.

Romans 12:18 reminds us to live peacefully with every- one-from our side at least, to the extent that we can control it. But when it's beyond our influence, we pray. Fervently. Desperately. In unity with other believers. For when even two people come together in unity and truly seek the Lord, Matthew 18:20 says He is there in the midst of them.

So pray for unity. It's a powerful weapon against the enemy. Don't let him divide us over secondary issues. We must fight back by choosing to love one another, forgive one another, and seek the Lord in both humility and unity. When we do that, we gain momentum. Then when momentum builds, and when others see it, we proclaim that our unity comes because of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Can you imagine churches actually working together within a city to win the lost? Can you picture pastors unselfishly praying with other pastors, sharing resources among themselves without worrying about who gets the credit? Can you see your city becoming a place where outsiders flock toward because of the

powerful movement of God among a willing people? Then pray for it. Fight for it. Ask the Lord to link you with others who desire to experience it as well.

It's been done before. In the most unlikely places. And God desires to do it again. He says over and over, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things" (Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV).

Oh, that God would unify us again and bring a fresh revival to our land!

Do you want it? Then what will you do?

PRAY:

Lord, I've seen the kind of damage that can result from being in conflict with others, when we're keeping our distance, especially among fellow believers. I've felt the hypocrisy of it all. I've kept seeing the same names and faces when convicted about people I struggle to get along with. But it's hindering me, Lord, in my prayer and in my freedom. Help me take whatever steps necessary to bring healing to any broken relationships, and to desire unity with everyone who claims the name of Christ . . . so that together we can work for Your kingdom and the glory of Your name.

HOMEWORK:

- 1. The story of the construction of the tower of Babel found in where?**
- 2. T F: In this biblical account, godly people decided to build a city with an enormous tower for their own glory and prestige.**
- 3. God looked down from heaven and basically said, "because of their unity, nothing will be impossible for them". Why do God intervened and divided them by changing their communication into numerous languages to prevent them?**
- 4. Interesting the word 'Babel' defines 'confusion' but it really means 'the gateway of god'. It means 'access the gateway of heaven by demons'. Remember satan is the god of the world or the prince of power of air.**
- 5. In their confusion and chaos, they _____ the**

project and separated themselves by language, spreading out across the land.

6. God Himself noted that when people are _____, they are able to _____ tremendous power and momentum.
7. Y N NS: You could imagine if deaf godly people are unified in Jesus' Name, they are able to exert tremendous power and momentum. You can imagine how powerful unity can be for deaf godly people who worship and obey the God of universe. You can imagine IF the deaf godly people SEEK the Lord and ACT in unity, nothing can stop them?
8. Who does everything possible to keep God's deaf godly people divided?
9. Y N NS: Do you believe once we deaf godly people come together in unity, we gain momentum and take ground for the kingdom of God?
10. UNITED PRAYER IS: weakness? or powerful?
11. DIVIDING DEAF GODLY PEOPLE—THEIR PRAYER IS:
weakness? or powerful?
12. Your next step is:
 - ☞ removing _____ toward others
 - ☞ and choosing _____ others
 - ☞ any pride or selfishness should be SEEN as a what?
13. In book of John 17, Jesus prayed a beautiful prayer, _____ God to unify believers into one body.
14. Y N NS: Have you asked God to unify deaf/hearing believers into one body of Jesus Christ?
15. Name one God loves and blesses? _____
16. It [_____] speaks volumes about the body of Christ when we deaf godly believers worship _____ and _____ one another as God intended.
17. When deaf godly believers see _____, they see what?
 - ✎ Define 'purpose'?

✎ Define 'love'?

✎ Define 'power'?

18. It's [_____] _____ and _____.

19. Y N NS: Do you see 'attractive and beautiful' in your church today?

20. When an army of deaf godly believers work together to accomplish a what? _____

21. What is in 'a goal'?

22. Then an army of deaf godly believers become a what?

23. The early church in the book of Acts had this _____:

☞ They operated with _____ mind,

- They devoted to _____ and to each other's _____.
- Their unity was so powerful and attractive, in fact, that God's hand of _____ was on them,
- and the church _____ by thousands in a brief time.
 - The people felt a _____ as a result.

24. Today, if your deaf church following the example of the early church had this momentum.

✓ If your deaf people operate with _____ mind,

- if your deaf people devoted to _____ and to each other's _____.
- the deaf people—their unity was so powerful and attractive, in fact that God's hand of _____ is upon your deaf church.
- and your deaf church _____ by hundreds today?

- The deaf people felt a 'sense of awe' as a _____.
- Y N NS: Do you believe if your deaf church is willing to follow the instruction exactly as in the book of Acts in the early days?

25. Powerful movements of God in the past have arisen as a what?

26. The Great Awakenings [1700-1800's] and similar revivals almost always _____ from people:

☞ _____ in unity,

☞ _____ God's forgiveness and cleansing,

☞ _____ their petty differences and

☞ _____ one another,

☞ _____ hands and hearts in desperation for the Lord to show up.

- Y N NS: Did God showed up?

27. Y N NS: Have you seen God's blessings fall when deaf believers live together in unity in your church?

28. Y N NS: Have you seen God moves when deaf believers get rid their hearts of any sin that holds them back and seek God's face together?

29. Y N NS: Have you seen God grant the deaf believers their needs when they forgive one another and are clean before God?

30. If a person says, "I hate you, I never want to see you again here in my church, or go to hell!" Then this person labeled as a what?

31. Name two that trouble marriage, home, church, politic, etc?

32. Romans 12:18 reminds you to live peacefully with everyone— from your side at least, to the extent that you can _____ it. But when it's beyond your influence that what should you do?

33. Which one are you: Passive? or Fervently?

34. Which one are you: Happy? or Desperately?

35. Y N NS: Have you pray for 'unity'?

36. Name one a powerful weapon against the enemy?

37. Don't let the enemy divided you over 'secondary issues'. What are the 'secondary issues'?

38. You MUST FIGHT BACK by _____ to:

☞ _____ one another,

☞ _____ one another, and

☞ seek the Lord in both _____ and _____.

○ When you do that, you gain _____.

- Then when momentum builds, and when others see it, you _____ that your unity comes because of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who loved you and gave Himself for you.

39. You can imagine deaf churches actually working within a city to win deaf lost? Can you picture deaf pastors unselfishly praying with other deaf pastors, sharing resources among themselves without worrying who gets credit? Can you see your city become a place where outsiders flock toward because of the powerful movement of God among a willing people?

☞ Y N NS: Are you a willing people?

○ Then what should you do? _____

○ Next what? _____

○ You ask the Lord to _____ you to others who desire to experience it as well.

40. Y N NS: God desires to do it again and again?

41. God would unify us again and bring a what to your land [church]?

42. Y N NS: Do you want 'a fresh revival' in your life?

43. Then what will you do?

44. When?