

UNITY

THROUGH

LEADERSHIP

BEN HOWARD

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Ben Howard
Sound of Liberty
7286 Hwy 53W
Dawsonville, Georgia 30534 (USA)

Website Address: www.SoundofLiberty.org
Email Address: TwoAnd@tds.net

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'Unity Through Leadership'
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By Ben Howard
Dawsonville, Georgia (USA)

UNITY THROUGH LEADERSHIP

By
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I'll be reading in the fourth chapter of the Book of Ephesians to begin our message. We are going to read several scriptures on the thought, "***Unity Through Leadership***." The Word of God speaks of unity. In plain language, *unity* is believing the same thing, looking at the same thing, going the same way, having the same mind. Paul spoke of it in 1st Corinthians 1:10, "*Let us have the same mind and the same judgment.*" In the first chapter of the Book of Romans when Paul spoke of unity he said, "*having a mutual faith.*"

Paul wrote about the Church coming to the unity of the faith. Now when I say, "unity through leadership," I believe God has some leadership in the earth, apostolic leadership, and not only that but I believe He has leadership in each one of you through the Holy Ghost to lead you individually. There will be a ministry preaching the Word of God where all the preachers preach the same thing; one won't preach it one way and another preach it another way. I'm talking about all that are in the Bride; they'll recognize what God is doing and they'll speak the Word the same way.

Let's pray before reading the Word. *Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, we thank you now for another privilege to come and stand before you, and praise you, and thank you, Lord. As the song says, "I didn't come to ask you for anything. I just came to praise you." Oh, God, I pray that you will accept our praise tonight, as we praise you, we honor you, and we wait for the anointing of God. We are craving the anointing of God to be upon us as we speak the Word. God I pray that you will just help us to do what you have ordained and to speak what you have ordained to be spoken, and that you will just make this Word come alive to us. We spoke last week, Lord, about the washing of the water of the Word, how the water moves, the liquidity of the Word, how it washes and cleanses the Church. I pray, God, that you will let that same Holy Spirit just anoint us that we may receive from you, and that we may be able to speak what we do receive. Lord, I pray that the people be anointed to receive that that you give. We praise you for it in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Unity through leadership--Jesus Christ is the head of the Church; but I want to show you how He filters His leadership down into the earth, how He did it in Bible days, and how the Bible says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." He doesn't change. I want to read starting with Ephesians 4:1-2—"***I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;***" Now I want you to notice this--"*with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.*" Now those are all great words right there. *Lowliness* means don't be high minded. Don't think you're a know-it-all. Don't be a stuffed-shirt. Just be humble before God and depend on the Lord for the revelation of the Word of God. Also, it says, "*in meekness.*" A lamb is a meek animal, and that's what Jesus Christ is. He's the Lamb of God; but also, He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

There are times when we need to differentiate how to operate and how to be led of the Lord; because Jesus told us one time to be wise as a serpent but harmless as a dove. Now a serpent kind of watches what it's going to do. It's wise. It doesn't get in a hurry. A lot of times it will wait and it will watch. Be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. That's the way we do in this hour. Someone may ask you a question and you don't attempt to answer it even though you know the answer, if you think the answer might lead to a lot of strife, and contention, and will serve no purpose.

There is one faith; that faith is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and faith in the Word of God that God revealed to His apostle that He sent for the Gentiles, namely Saint Paul. There's no room for another faith! I'll tell you, I just love God's Word, and I love God's ways. You may wonder why I get a little excited about it sometimes but I can't help it, because this Word of God is right! It is wonderful. It is beautiful. Sometimes I think about how God thought so much of us Gentiles. The Jews called us dogs. Back before the gospel came to the Gentiles we lived at such a low standard, but God loved us Gentiles and He wanted to get out of the Gentiles a wife for His Son. So He sent a special messenger, Saint Paul, to bring a gospel to cleanse us and reveal to us the righteousness of God, showing us that it's not *our* righteousness, but it is *His* righteousness. So, there *is* a message for us, there *is* a book for us, and there *is* a way to find out perfectly what the will of God is for us and what we are to believe.

Paul said, "There is one faith." So if someone says, "What faith are you of?" Of course, we know they are basically saying, "What church do you belong to?" See, they misdirect the question. There is only *one* faith. I'm of the *faith of the Son of God*. That's the faith, and that's the only one God honors!

I don't know how you feel about it, but I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to see you sitting here. I'm happy to see you in truth. John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." So, we're walking in truth here and we're not here to tear down something somebody else is doing, because we just want to be in what *God* is doing. The Word of God will tear down traditions.

Now, what is leadership? In the days of Paul - Paul said, "These things you've heard me preach, you preach the same thing and commit to other faithful men that they may preach these things, too, that there be one gospel." That is in 2nd Timothy. "*Commit these things to other faithful men.*" In other words, it wasn't scripturally legal in the eyes of God to be preaching something different than what Saint Paul preached. He said in the Book of Galatians, "If I or even an angel from heaven come and preach anything other than this, let them be a curse." So there is a way - there is unity, and everybody doesn't have the right to just go preach whatever they want to. We preach what God sends us. God sends leadership through a ministry.

There was a man that said to me one time, "Well, I'm like ole Paul. Paul said, 'I didn't receive it of men, neither was I taught it of men, but only by Christ Jesus.'" But that was the *apostle's office* talking. That was the apostle talking. You wouldn't have heard Timothy saying that. Paul told Timothy, "*These things you've heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also,*" (2nd Timothy 2:2) so that every one will be speaking the same thing. Also, Paul said, "*That ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" (1st Corinthians 1:10) And, he said, "*My gospel,*" in Romans 16:25. And "*Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;*" (Colossians 1:25)

See, that's the thing about it, when we come to church we want to feel good about it. We want to feel like we're right. We want to feel like we're not just guessing and probing and wondering

if we're right. We don't want to feel like we're just adrift somewhere with no captain at the helm of the ship. We don't want to feel like we're just out here drifting on the sea and somehow we're praying, "Lord, let this ship blow into the right port somewhere." No. We're not that way. That's not the way God left us. We're going in a direct way and there is direct leadership, and step by step we can feel comfortable with how God is leading when we see it through the eyes of the Holy Ghost. I believe that is important, because God talks about entering into that rest. How are we going to enter into rest in the Lord and be comfortable unless we feel, and know, and see by revelation exactly where we are at and how God is moving us? ***Unity through leadership***-- There is leadership in the body of Christ. Amen.

Continuing with scripture. Verses 5-7—"***One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*** (I like that.) ***But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.***" That means if God has given you a gift, He gives you grace to go with that gift. This, of course, is basically speaking of the ministering gifts. If God calls a man to preach, He will give him grace; and when He gives you grace, He'll give you wisdom of how to do these things. Listen as we continue on.

Verse 8—"***Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.***" Now he's talking about ministering gifts here. He's not talking about the nine spiritual gifts for the Church. He gives these *ministering* gifts to men, and therefore, a woman cannot be a minister of the gospel as far as preaching the Word of God. The leadership is in a man. Why? Because a man can make a decision and stand with it better. As a general rule, ladies can be moved by emotions a lot of times, (they've got a different nature, see.) and when you're dealing with the Word of God sometimes you just can't change. You just can't be moved by emotions. You just have to stand true to that Word and let the chips fall where they may. Since the Garden of Eden, God put the leadership in the man, so when He ascended on high He led captivity captive but He left the gifts here, the *ministering* gifts, with men. When Jesus called his twelve apostles, He didn't call a single woman to be an apostle. There's not a single woman in the Bible that God called to be a preacher. He gave these gifts unto men, and there is unity through leadership. See, leadership. If a woman tries to preach the gospel, you know she is out of the will of God, you know she's out of the Word of God, and you know this cannot be according to the Word of God. The Word of God is what is right. God said, "Let My Word be true and every man a liar," (every one that says it is different).

So he continues here, Verses 9-10 says—"***(Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (That was to bring the Old Testament saints up) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.)***" Now watch, when He ascended on high He did something, see. He did something. The ministering gifts that were in Him, He left them in the earth. Watch what He did; Verse 11 says, "***And He gave some apostles...***" There is where your leadership begins in the ministry. How many heard what I said? That's where your leadership begins in the ministry. It is through that apostolic office, just like Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles in the early Church and the leadership as far as the doctrinal direction of the church. It started first through Saint Paul and filtered out through all the rest of the ministry, until finally they were all speaking the same thing.

So he said, Ephesians 4:11—"***And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***" Now what did He give them for? Verse 12—"***For the perfecting of the saints,...***" (for the maturing of the saints). There's a scripture in the Book of Hebrews that says, "A babe desires the sincere milk of the Word, but strong meat

belongeth to them that are of full age.” Now full age is perfected, is matured, and is complete. I believe there is some strong meat being given to the Church, because the Church is full age. I believe there are some that are able to eat this strong meat and realize there is leadership in the earth today through an apostolic ministry, and there *are* apostles. You say, “Where are they, Brother Howard?” God will make known every one of them by the ministry that they have. Not that it is wrong for an apostle to say, “That’s my office. That’s what God called me into.” It’s not wrong at all; but it is not something he will definitely boast about. It is something that the people will see and know, and through the message he is preaching it will bring the Church to unity doctrinally. Amen.

All right, it says here in Verses 12 and 13 that the five fold ministry is given for the perfecting of the saints, “...*for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith,...*” There’s your word *unity* again—unity through leadership. See, the five fold ministry is given for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith. So the ministry brings unity, doesn’t it? And we cannot have unity unless we have recognition of the ministry. Do you know why? Because every one of you have a head on your shoulders and every one of you have a mind, a brain, inside that head. Every one of you can think; and every one of you does think. Many times we think this, and we think that; but one time I heard Brother Branham say, “We ain’t got “*no think*” coming when it comes to these things God said. It’s God’s Word that is right.” When we’re talking about your mind, we’re talking about that grey matter up there that through some miraculous way (and only God knows how) thoughts and imaginations travel through. But God put in the Word something so that we would *know*--like a landmark or something. He put in there (in the written Word) that *He set in the church first apostles*, so when we get an idea or revelation, or something of that nature, we’ve got something to measure it by to see if it’s right. Paul said, “Once I go off the scene there’s going to be men rise speaking perverse things to draw disciples after themselves.” And that definitely was the sowing of the seed of the Nicolaitans. Everyone went their own way, because they wanted to build something for themselves. But we want to build something for Jesus Christ! We want to see the Church perfected for Jesus Christ! He’s the head of the Church; and God set in the Church first apostles. I’m talking about unity through leadership. There’s where the leadership comes. And it says very clearly here (Ephesians 4:11-12) that He gave this five fold ministry for the work of the ministry, the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come into the unity. Like my title says, “Unity Through Leadership.”

You might say, “Well, I’ve got the Holy Ghost, Brother Howard.” If you’ve got the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost is leading you, it will not lead you contrary to the Word. It will lead you only in the pages of God’s Word, because Paul said, “I laid the foundation,” and he said, “No other foundation can be laid.” He didn’t say we couldn’t build a house, but he said you couldn’t lay another foundation. We can never get away from what Paul said as a foundational teaching. He said, “I have espoused you (or have introduced you) to Christ.” He got us engaged. There’s a marriage to take place in this end time. That marriage is where Christ and the Bride are married together. It will be done through the unity of the ministry; by the ministry bringing the unity of doctrine, of thought, of motives, and objectives as Christ deals right through it. You say, “Will Christ deal right through that?” What did I say about the Word of God earlier? The Book is right, the Book is true, and whatever the Book says, that’s the way it is going to be. Whether I think it ought to be different or you think it ought to be different, it’s going to be the way the

Book says it's going to be. And the Book says here that He will bring the Church to unity through the five fold ministry.

Then we pick up Verse 13—*“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:”* Now, brothers and sisters, that brings us to a certain place in Him. How do we get to that unity? How do we get to that place? Unity through leadership--see, leadership of the Holy Ghost, leadership in the ministry. Now some people say, “I’ll pray and get mine through the Holy Ghost.” If you do, and the Holy Ghost speaks to you, do you know what the Holy Ghost will do? The Holy Ghost will point you to the Word; He will point you to the actual living ministry in this hour. The Holy Ghost will do like that woman at the well did. When she went into camp she said, “Come, hear a man that told me everything whichever I did. Is not this the Christ? Come see a man that told me everything!” In other words, the Holy Ghost will point you to someone that is in the Word of God, someone that is preaching the Word of God; because God chose by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. It is by the preached Word of God; that is what the Holy Ghost will teach you. You say, “Well, Brother Howard, I thought He’d make me shout. I thought He’d give me dreams.” He will. He will give you dreams. He will give you visions. He will make you shout. He will put joy in your soul. He can give you the gift of tongues. He can do all these things. But when it comes time for you to believe a certain thing about the Word of God, He’s not going to change His Word for you. He’s going to point you right to the Book, and He’s going to say exactly what I’m saying tonight - that He has a ministry that’s preaching the Word of God..., He has apostolic leadership and He has pastors and teachers that are preaching and teaching the true Word of God. He is not going to do different from that. Brother and Sister, I know that is strong meat there, but those of full age can handle strong meat. That’s the way God will do it.

In these things God is doing, He’s leaving us without an excuse. I believe it’s in the second chapter of the Book of Romans where it says that we will be without excuse. See, God’s making it so plain. He’s laying it out here. He’s got men that *He* has ordained, that *He* has anointed, that *He* raised up, and it’s not *our* doing; and it’s really none of our business who He uses. Those He does use are not going to be going around blowing their horn all the time. It will be done in simplicity. And another thing, when it *is* done, it will point you to the Word and will put you so solidly in the Word that you can’t question it.

Paul said, “When I’m gone certain men will arise...” When the church ages started they had already been drawn away, and wheat and tares were growing together. John said in 96 A.D. “Thou art fallen;” and the church stayed in a fallen state until the end time. But God said, “I will restore it back.” And when He does, He will set in the same ministry that the early Church had, the same offices, not the same men; the same offices, and that being apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. There are apostles on the scene today and they’re standing there saying, **“This is the way. Walk ye therein.”** But many say, “No, that’s not the way *I think* it ought to be.” See, there’s where the problem comes. “That’s not the way *I think* it ought to be.” See, if you pray and ask God, He will point you to the ministry. He did all the way through the Bible.

Like the eunuch there in Acts, chapter 8, when Philip came and joined himself to the chariot; there the eunuch was, reading the Word of God. There he was, God dealing with his heart. He’d been up to Jerusalem to a big revival and he was reading in there where it says in Isaiah, *“As the sheep is led to the slaughter, so He opened not His mouth. He was brought to death.”* And the Spirit of the Lord spoke to Philip and said, “Go join yourself to that eunuch.” Philip did. And

Philip said to the eunuch, "Understandeth thou what thou readeth?" Do you know what the answer was? The eunuch answered, "How can I understand except some man explains it to me?" We could say, "Can't the Holy Ghost explain it?" The Holy Ghost can do anything He wants, but God has certain guidelines that He works by and He doesn't go outside of those under normal circumstances. There may be isolated cases in the out-of-the-way places in the jungles or something where the ministry is not in operation and God will do whatever He needs to do there. But He's going to have a Bride.

In the days of Paul, Paul was the apostle. In Bible days, there were prophets, New Testament prophets such as Judas, Silas, Agabus; those prophets were right in there, God was building that ministry. But see, God knew it would fall away. He knew it wouldn't come to perfection there. And in the Book of Genesis with Adam and Eve, before they reached perfection there came a falling away. But God brought it back; through that second man, Christ, He started a new creation. When He said, "It is finished," on the cross, the old creation was finished and He started a new creation on the day of Pentecost. This new creation has new leadership! My I feel that anointing; praise God! And when this takes place... Listen to the Bible; don't just take my word for it, listen to the Bible. I wish I could say it like I feel it. This Bible is the truth! This Bible is right. This Word of God cannot fail. Not one good promise of this Book can ever pass away.

Upon saying that, let me read Verse 14. After we're brought to the unity of the Spirit by the leadership of the five fold ministry, notice what Ephesians 4:14 says. It says, "***That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;***" Now what he is saying here is this: Once this ministry is recognized, we cannot be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. There will be different doctrines out there, but we've heard a message, we've got a ministry, we've got the leadership of God, and we cannot be tossed to and fro! I don't know if you appreciate that or not, Folks, but you should. As you go out in the land today you'll hear different ones say, "We believe it this way. It could be that way. It's possible it is this way. Where is there an answer?" God's got the answer. You take the Seventieth Week of Daniel for example, many people say, "Well, it could be three and a half years or it could be seven years; we don't really know, and it really doesn't matter anyway." You don't get that from God's Word!

When this ministry is really recognized; Paul said, "We won't be tossed to and fro." Can you believe that? Can you believe we're not going to be tossed to and fro? We're not going to wonder what we ought to believe and what we ought not to believe. You say, "Well, I don't know, Preacher. Everybody has a right to believe what they want to." You have; but if you're a child of God, you surrender your rights to God's ways. A sheep has a right to its wool, but it fully surrenders it into the hand of the shearer and blesses those that are around by its wool. So, we have a right, yes, as individuals to believe what we want to. But the thing is..., your "*want to*" will be changed. The only thing you'll want to believe is the correctness of God's Word. Nothing else will satisfy. You won't be happy with anything else. And when you do surrender your rights to God's ways Paul said in the Book of Hebrews, "We enter into that rest." We don't have to struggle and worry about these things.

I just thank God real good for His blessings, for how He has opened up to us the Book of Revelation (which we have had printed and titled "The Interpreted Book of Revelation," which is available to you by request). I thank God for the understanding of the seven seals, the seven church ages, and how the seven messengers came. I used to read about Christ walking among the

seven candlesticks, and I had no idea what it meant. I had no idea what the seven stars were. I had no idea what the seven spirits were. I had no idea when the mark of the beast was going to take place, or about two prophets that will be in Israel and will smite the earth and turn water to blood. I had no idea about those things. I tell you, Folks, we're blessed beyond words. We're blessed in such a great and tremendous way. Sometimes I think we get so much food that we don't recognize our blessings. I've got some pictures that were taken in the Philippines and many are living in little grass huts. If they get one bowl of rice a day to eat they count themselves very fortunate. They don't have any electricity or plumbing in these out-of-the-way places; yet, there are people living there and people believing God. Some of God's children are there. See, we're blessed, Folks! We're blessed, we're blessed, we're blessed, we're blessed! We're blessed by the Holy Ghost. We're blessed by Jesus Christ for sending us the ministry to keep our minds straight, to give us peace of mind about what we believe and the direction we're going. I believe it is all settled to God's people what an apostolic ministry is and where the leadership is. See, unity through leadership.

Then he goes on down here-- *that we're no longer tossed to and fro*. Here's what the ministry will all be doing, Verse 15—***“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”*** When this takes place the body will begin to edify one another. See, some can sing, some can testify, some play instruments, and so on. See, everybody moves in their place and blesses one another. You don't have to wait on the preacher to tell you what to do all the time. Sometimes the church in South Carolina will begin to sing and worship God even before we come in. It means a lot to me to see people move right on in and begin to worship God in Spirit and in truth.

Here's what he says in this next verse. Verse 16—***“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted...”*** Now he's not talking about the ministry. I want you to notice this. It starts up there in verse 8 telling about what Christ did when He ascended on high-- He poured these ministering gifts in first, see, these *ministering* gifts; and these gifts will bring the Church into unity and into maturity. Then they get so they're not tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. But verse 16 shows the whole Church, the whole body, and everybody functioning there, see. I hope you see that. Everybody is doing their part—every member.

Let's read that. Verse 16—***“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*** That means the whole body setting in, not just the preacher any more, not just the ministry anymore, but the whole body begins to bless one another, to supply each other's needs. Out in the congregation you'll see the glory of God lighting up the saints with the gifts of the Spirit and everybody using their gifts; a gift of tongues, a gift of singing, a gift of prophecy, and so on. See, once the ministry gets the mind and the thinking of the people together, going in the right direction doctrinally, then that frees your mind to just yield yourself to God, to worship God, to let God use you, to prophesy, to speak in tongues, to sing, to edify. That's when the saints really get something from God. That's real church order right there.

The unity of the Spirit is brought, because there is a ministry. Then the Church is brought to the unity of the faith. Then the Church is no longer tossed to and fro. What happens when that takes place? We grow up into Him. Then every joint, every member of the body, begins to bless one another. Everyone finds their place. God may put a song on someone's heart in the congregation and they'll be just sitting there and maybe just break forth into a song; because they

do not have to worry if this is right or if that is right. They're not going to sit there with their minds all torn up thinking, "I don't know if this is right or not. I don't know if this preacher is right or not." No; through God's leadership He's brought it to unity. Through His true ministry that you see that He has set in the Church, God has straightened that out and done that for you. But now it is time for you to begin to yield yourself to the Holy Ghost, yield yourself to God, and yield yourself to the gifts God put in your life. You don't have to sit there with your mind tormented—"Is there one in the Godhead or is there three?" "Should I be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ or the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?" "Is this preacher right or is that one right?" "What should I do here?" "How should I believe this?" No; all of that will be gone; and all of it is gone to those that are in full recognition of God's ministry and what God is doing in this day and hour.

Then into place comes nine spiritual gifts. There are three clusters of three gifts each. There are three power gifts, three revelation gifts, and three vocal gifts. Once God gets the ministry established (bring into existence, put on a firm basis, cause to be recognized) down to verse 16, then we begin to edify each other with these gifts that God gives us. (1st Corinthians 12) You're to have these gifts. When you're straightened out on your doctrine, and you know what you believe, and we're all in unity, then you can yield yourself to God and these gifts will begin to work among us.

Ok, what are the three vocal gifts in the Bible? Tongues, interpretation, and prophecy. Then there are three revelation gifts, whereby God gives you revelation. These revelation gifts are supernatural revelation that comes from God to you. These are the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. The word of knowledge is supernatural knowledge. The word of wisdom is where you know exactly what to do. You don't know how you knew what to do, it just came to you and all the sudden you just knew it would work, and you did it, and that was the right thing to do. By discerning of spirits you'll know what type spirit is trying to influence you. God will let you discern that spirit and know whether it is of God or not.

Then there are three power gifts to give the Church power. One is faith. By faith you're able to overcome. By faith you're able to go from victory to victory. You're able to be healed. That faith gift is just like this: you have faith, you believe God. It's like when Paul was bit by the serpent. Paul was picking up sticks to build a fire, and a poisonous serpent latched on him and bit him. He should have swollen and fallen dead immediately; but the Bible says, "Paul shook it off and felt no harm." See, he didn't get healed, because he wasn't sick. What it was, he had the faith. See, God told him, "As you have testified of me in Jerusalem, you are going to testify of me in Rome." He knew he was going to Rome, so by faith he felt no harm. So, one of the three power gifts is faith.

Another one is the working of miracles. See, there's a gift of working of miracles. What is a miracle? A miracle is not necessarily a healing, though it can be a healing. A miracle is like when Paul was preaching the gospel and he said he perceived the man had faith that had been lame from his mother's womb, and he spoke the Word and said, "Arise to thy feet," and immediately the man got up and began to walk. That's a miracle. It's also a healing, but it's a miracle.

Let me give another illustration of a miracle. I believe it's in Acts, chapter 9. Dorcas had died. They had taken her into an upper room and they were telling of all the good things she had done. They heard that Peter was over at Joppa, so they sent for Peter to come; not to preach the funeral, but they expected God to do a miracle. So Peter came over. They were crying; and Peter put them out of the room. He looked down at this dead woman; she didn't need healing. Healing

wouldn't help her. She had already passed that stage. He looked down at this woman and said, "Dorcas;" (He spoke to a dead woman.) and the Bible says she opened her eyes, and when she saw it was Peter she sat up. Brother, that's a miracle. Just like Jesus calling Lazarus from the grave; that's a miracle. See, these gifts are in the Church, and we are to be blessed by them. We're to edify one another by them. And when we are brought into unity through the ministry, then all these other things can find their place, and it can release you from the struggling of wondering whether you're right or wrong in your belief, because you will know of surety.

That's two of the power gifts (faith and the working of miracles). There is another one. It is healing; where God absolutely heals you. There were people in Bible days that had gifts of healing where they could just pray for people and they would be healed. Everybody doesn't have the *gift* of healing. We can have faith, and believe, and God can heal; but some people have the *gift* of healing. They can lay hands on people, pray for them, and seems like the Lord just moves especially through that person to heal people. That is the gift of healing. God can move upon you through the gift of healing and you lay hands on a person, they can be deathly ill and be healed immediately on the spot; and maybe you haven't prayed for many people and seen them healed, but God showed mercy on this one. That's the gift of healing.

That's what God has for the Church. See, if you have the Holy Ghost you have access to all of this. If you have Jesus Christ, all these gifts are in Christ and He wants to use all these gifts in the Church. Notice this, watch how Paul laid this out here. He brought in about the unity of the Spirit and how there's one Lord, one faith, and how we should do it; then he showed how it was to come about. He said, "And when He ascended on high, He gave gifts unto men. First apostles, secondarily prophets, ..." And he said, "These are for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until we all come into the unity of the faith; that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro." And *then*, and *then*, he says, Verse 15—"***But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body*** (he's not talking about the ministry) ***fitly joined together and compacted*** (compacted—that's close) ***by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part*** (every part, see, not just the ministry), ***maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***" That's when each one edifies the other. Maybe this brother or sister says something or does something to edify another brother or sister. A lot of times it edifies me to just see you come up into the church yard fellowshiping. God is putting a body together.

Ok, let's go over what we went through—"Unity Through Leadership," being the title of the message. The leadership that brings unity is the five fold ministry starting with 'first apostles.' Once the leadership comes into being and God gets this five fold ministry in operation, then they're for the perfecting of the saints, the maturing, the building up. "*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body.*" Then, see, we grow into the perfect stature, and we're no longer tossed to and fro, and we're speaking the truth in love. This is exactly how Paul has it written. Then, he says, the whole body begins to edify itself, every part. He says every part of the body begins to do its thing; because the ministry has programmed their thinking they don't have to struggle and fuss, and wonder, "Are we right doctrinally? Is this church right? Is that group right? Is this preacher right?" See, as long as you're torn up like that God can never bless you and lead you. Once you understand, "Hey, this is true; I feel comfortable with it; I know it's of God; I know this is the truth." Then you can begin to meditate on God, "Lord, use me to bless the people." How many pray that when you come to church?

“Lord, would you use the gifts in my life to bless someone?” See, every part edifies and blesses one another.

See, Brother Clifford testified about the crossties. He had a dream before he went to work that there were crossties in the road in a certain place. He remembered that dream on his way to work and was kind of looking for them, expecting them, and there they were just like the dream said. See, that edified me and lifted me up. It let me know, “Hey, God is moving. God is moving with His people.” That’s what you want to do, testify about some of these things God does for you; tell the other saints, because it encourages us. When you have a dream and it comes to pass you want to testify about it. It helps other people; it helps their faith grow. Paul said, “Your faith groweth exceedingly.”

I appreciate you. I believe you’re on the right track. I believe you’re going the right way, but I do believe we’ve got room to move up. I believe that in our hearts we could find room in our spirit and our soul for thoughts of this manner: “Lord, what can I do to bless your other children?” It may just be walking up and shaking hands with somebody and telling them you appreciate them; just things like that. Well, God bless you. I feel I’ve said what the Lord would have me say tonight. I appreciate you. I appreciate what you are doing for the gospel. Without you and your help we certainly couldn’t get this gospel out. I love you in the Lord. May God bless you as you meditate upon Him and grow in His grace and His knowledge.

Heavenly Father, in your name, Jesus Christ, we come to you praising you for your mercy and goodness, thanking you, Lord, because you’re the same yesterday, today, and forever. Take these words and use them for your glory we pray, and we’ll be careful to praise you in Jesus Christ’s wonderful name. Amen