

Title: Diligence VI – Victory through Diligence  
Pastor: Fred May  
Date: 26 October 2008  
Time: 10h30



A. Unity – the Key to Victory

**Ephesians 4:3 NASB**

<sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1. Agreement – Earth's Greatest Power

**Genesis 11:6**

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

**Matthew 18:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

**Acts 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

**Acts 4:24, 31**

<sup>24</sup> So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

2. Why Jesus interceded [John 17:6-19]

**Unity, community and witness of compassion**

(i) "The Name" - intimacy in relationship

**John 17:11 [Matthew 6:9-13]**

<sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*.

(ii) "Father's heart" - for offspring, next generation, their nurture

**John 17:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> 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.

(iii) "The Glory" - the fulfilment of collective eternal purpose

**John 17:22, 4**

<sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

<sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

(iv) "Love's witness"

**John 17:23**

<sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

**I John 3:14, 16-18, 22-23**

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

<sup>22</sup> And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. <sup>23</sup> And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

**B. Divine Order – the 'Body'**

**I Corinthians 12:4-7, 12, 26**

<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.

<sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

**1. Christ's gift = government**

**Ephesians 4:7-8, 11**

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers

**2. Father's gift = diversity**

**Ephesians 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,

**3. Spirit's gift = variety**

**Ephesians 5:1-2, 17-20 (power activation)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. <sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**C. God's purpose through unity**

**1. Corporate maturity**

**Ephesians 4:13-16 NASB**

<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a

mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

## 2. **Authentic representation**

### **Colossians 3:14-15 NASB**

<sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.