

## **Week 6: "One People, One Purpose"**

By: P Theresa Rosario

February 10-11, 2024

We've been on a six week journey understanding more deeply the word ABIDE. What does abide mean? How do we remain constantly in His presence and not just on the weekend? And more importantly how do we come this new creation - going from being cumpers to pickles or cabbage to kimchi? In summary, we learned how abiding in Christ through spiritual disciplines allows us to be transformed into a person who is like Jesus and lives like Jesus. I want to encourage you to review these messages over and over again and allow Holy Spirit to saturate you with His truth!

This morning we are going to look at the mega narrative. The heart behind what the Lord did and what He taught. What was Jesus' end game? Was it to save us from eternal damnation? Was it just an attempt to recruit people who would accomplish his mission or just carry on His teaching?

If we look at Jesus' final prayer, what He is asking of His Father, we can get a glimpse of His true desire.

Let's read John 17:20-21:

### **Jesus Prays for All Believers (John 17: 20-26 NIV)**

**20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

This prayer is for ALL BELIEVERS. Turn to your neighbor and say, this is for you! Turn to your other neighbor and say this is for me.

I'm homeschooling Emet, and, right now, we are learning how to find the main idea of the story. Verse 21 begins to show us the big main idea!

Just like Father and The Son are one, you and I are to be one. And then Jesus says something very interesting at the end, “May they also be in us.” Remember last week we learned about the ongoing state of abiding.

P. Mike taught us about the Present Indicative Participle Verb. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he. Bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” The Indicative Participle implies “a continuous action, emphasizing the ongoing relationship between the individual and Jesus (P Mike).”

Jesus’ prayer was for us to BE. Everyone say, I am, I exist, in oneness with Christ the Son! His prayer implies there is no parting from this existence, that it would not be something we do. One and done. NO, it implies that we are continuously in this state of being.

Now you remember that main idea Emet and I are learning? Well Let’s continue to read at v. 22-23. I believe this would be the big main idea of abiding or continuously remaining.

**22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

I will come back to this word glory that he has given us. But what I want us to see for now is that he gave us this glory SO THAT we could be one with him and the Father bringing us in to complete unity.

The definition of oneness is “the fact or state of being unified or whole, though comprised of two or more parts”

So this idea of oneness will bring this complete unity for a purpose. What is that purpose? It’s at the end of v.23 so that the world would know that God the Father sent Jesus the son. It’s so that all would know personally God’s love.

**24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”**

Here is again, in order that, so that, the love you have for me may BE where? IN THEM, and that I myself may be in them. Wow! Now we all know how Jesus is in us, right? Yes, the Holy Spirit. But remember that has happened yet. The Holy Spirit has not come. Remember the glory he has given us? The glory that makes us one? I believe he is speaking of what he knows will be given once he completes his mission, to die, rise again, and ascend into heaven so that His Spirit, His glory, His manifest presence can be deposit into all who believe.

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus' very being was deposited within us! His existence, His nature, His very essence is within us. That's why he exhorts us to BE Holy as HE is Holy. Dying to our sin nature and fleshly essence so that we can live in His Essence through the power of the Holy Spirit is how we become One People, unified with One Purpose.

As I continue to meditate on how we become one in essence even though we are so very different. The Lord showed me something, I believe, very powerful. But before I get there. Let's look at how in the natural we create unity or a sense of oneness in your family, your work place, or even common people groups.

One might say you have to create a common culture, shared values, and even a common language. I grew up as a military dependent and believe me, there was a sense of unity within all the military families, a mutual understanding and even common language. My dad would call it “shop talk.”

But you can also see that in the medical field, or if you are involved in sports, business associations. Etc. It's funny really. I went to this

conference with a certain organization and there were hundreds of people. And yet, it was so easy to find those who were affiliated with our organization. There was just a presence or spirit about them.

Even if you follow certain theology schools of thought. There is a common language and stance of belief in a given culture. Amen. Language is how we can bring various people with various background together.

Language serves as the bridge that unites diverse individuals, allowing them to share ideas, emotions, and experiences. It transcends barriers, fostering understanding and connection among people from various backgrounds. Through effective communication, language becomes the catalyst for unity, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. In a world of differences, language acts as the common thread weaving together the fabric of human connection.

That's why I love music so much! I believe music is a universal language. It can transcend all kinds of ethnicities, and economic barriers to bring people together.

At this point in the message you may be thinking, P Theresa what does this have to do with being one with the father in complete unity? You see, a person can read John 17 and think, oh that's nice God wants to be one with me. Yes, but that's incomplete. It's not about me. His desire is to be one with an entire people group. Which means you are to be one not only with God the Father, and Christ the Son, but with this one people group! And let me tell you language is key.

Interestingly, as I was meditating on this, the Lord showed me the journey the people went on. At the beginning the people were one and then something happens to scatter them. It's a familiar story but I want us to take a look at it and the significance of the story.

## **The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9 NIV)**

**Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.**

Okay, so what we see so far is the people were one and had a common language.

**3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”**

Now, here these people go and use their unity to be ego centric. They want to build something for themselves, and they want to make a name for themselves. We truly need to be careful when we, God’s people, say we are gonna build something for his namesake, when really we are more concerned about our own reputation and success. Let’s see how the Lord responds to the people,

**5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”**

**8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel —because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.**

Why did God do that? One bible commentary said the building of a city and this tower was a sign of their efforts to become independent from God. The Lord saw their self sufficiency, self dependence and the self serving heart.

He created man and woman to be in relationship with Him. And as you know, since Adam and Eve, it has become all a muck. The people were unifying and coming together to trust in their own strength rather than depending on Yahweh, the one true God.

The rebellion of Babylon (Hb Babel "confusion") was stopped because God intervened. But interestingly, he allowed for other people groups to build big and powerful civilizations like Memphis of the Egyptian Kingdom, Nineveh of the Assyrian Empire, Rome of the Roman Empire. Even more interesting is that each of these cities was kind of like the empire that caused a lot of confusion in its day. They represented the spirit of rebellion and self glorification. Do we know of a nation that is powerful, has a spirit of rebellion and confusion in it?

I believe, He did that to teach the people that our self sufficiency would never be enough to satisfy. God's plan to remedy this situation was the infilling of HOLY SPIRIT!

This infilling empowers us to abide and be one with Christ and be one with each other. Through this infilling God creates ONE PEOPLE, for ONE PURPOSE.

First there was a unified people with one language but wrong motive. Then we have a confused people scattered because God mixed up there language. But then, on the day of Pentecost, we see God bringing unity to his people once again through the giving of the Holy Spirit, with one language, and I'm not just talking about speaking in tongues, I'm talking about Holy Spirit language. How HE talks, how HE trains, and how HE transforms. It is HIS power transforming the hearts of the people to have right motives, and ONE MESSAGE - Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!

Let's jump now to the story of when Holy Spirit came.

## **The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-13 NIV)**

**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

Let's review: They were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in other tongues (or different languages). Now all kinds of debates can be made in regards to this. But let's not go there! Turn to your neighbor and say let's not go there! Turn to your other neighbor and say, "Don't miss the big picture."

The point is the Spirit ENABLED them. The point isn't what language was coming out of their mouth, but rather, where the language came from - HOLY SPIRIT! Later we will see the people heard in the Spirit.

**5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"**

**9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"**

The important thing here isn't what was being said but what was heard - the wonders of God!

**12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"**

This is a supernatural phenomenon occurring and no human reasoning and understanding can fully explain it. Spirit begets Spirit. John 3:6 says, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit.” Which is why we are called to be born again in the Spirit! As powerful of an encounter, some still were closed off.

**13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”**

To this, I say, doubters gonna doubt, and haters gonna hate! YOU CHOOSE. Call to decision, Altar call, prayer for infilling of Holy Spirit.

Spiritual exercise explanation - Special Element - Give Me Jesus

**22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17: 22-23)**

BEING ONE WITH THE FATHER

BEING - WHAT IS HIS ESSENCE? HIS ESSENCE IS LOVE!

**1 John 4:13-16 (NASB)**

**13 By this we know that we remain in Him and He in us, because He has given to us of His Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.**

**15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has [a]for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.**



## **OG QUESTIONS:**

- 1. During this 40 day fast and journey of abiding, what has the Lord revealed to you?**
- 2. What things may the Lord be asking you to die to so that the fullness of His life can BE within you?**
- 3. In what ways do you or do you not feel one with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? In what ways do you or do you not feel one with the body of Christ?**
- 4. What steps can you take to grown in your union with God and with others?**
- 5. In what ways is God calling you into the world to BE his very essence (LOVE)? What does Christ LOVE flowing through you look like in this world?**
- 6. Discuss as a group how you can collective go and do something to BE LOVE in the community.**
- 7. Close your time with praying for one another.**