

Devotional Questions – Psalm 133

1. *Why is unity good and pleasant (Psalm 133:1)?*
2. *Why is unity like the precious anointing oil* (Psalm 133:2)? *The correct term is “**ointment.**”
What comes to mind when you think of the anointing oil*? *The correct term is “**ointment.**”*
3. *Why is unity like the precious dew of Hermon (Psalm 133:3)?
What comes to mind when you think about the dew of Hermon?*
4. *What connection does ‘life forever more’ have with unity?*

Personal Reflection:

- *If God’s blessing is eternal life – how important is it that we strive to get along now with those with whom we will be spending eternity?*
- *When the church ‘lives in unity’ what does it look like to us and the watching world? *The correct expression is “**dwelt together in unity**” Psalm 133:1.*

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Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Psalms* Volume 2 pp 1055-1060.

1. Why is unity good and pleasant (Psalm 133:1)?

The scripture gives at least 17 reasons why **“unity”** Psalm 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 13 of believers is *good and pleasant* because when in effect:

- *The Lord Jesus Christ is in the midst*
“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” Matthew 18:20.
- *Witness is borne to the Lord Jesus Christ*
“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:35.
- *God is faithfully glorified*
“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 15:5-6.
- *Intercessory prayer is effective*
“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” Romans 15:30.
- *Co-labourership with God is effective*
“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building” 1 Corinthians 3:9.
- *The ministry is expanded*
“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf” 2 Corinthians 1:11.
- *Leaders support members in fulfilment of “the law of Christ”*
“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” Galatians 6:1-2.
- *God's holiness is made known*
“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” Ephesians 2:19-21.
- *The Body of Christ is built up*
“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; 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 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” Ephesians 4:14-16.

- *“Righteousness and true holiness” and honesty are encouraged*
“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” Ephesians 4:23-25.
- *Steadfastness in the Gospel against opposition is encouraged*
“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God” Philippians 1:27-28.
- *Humility and mutual support are encouraged*
“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” Philippians 2:3-4 with 1 Peter 5:5.
- *Ministry of “the holy scriptures” 2 Timothy 3:15 is enriched*
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” Colossians 3:16.
- *God’s love with respect to Calvary, Romans 5:8, is extended to the wider community*
“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you” 1 Thessalonians 3:12 with 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.
- *Good works in anticipation of the Lord’s Return are exhorted*
“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” Hebrews 10:24-25.
- *Spiritual gifts are exercised most effectively to mutual benefit and God’s glory*
“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 4:10-11.
- *Sin is resisted by “the blood of Jesus Christ”*
“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” 1 John 1:7.

2. *Why is unity like the precious anointing oil* (Psalm 133:2)? *The correct term is “ointment.”*

Psalm 133:2 refers to “Aaron the chief priest” Ezra 7:5. Aaron with “the precious ointment upon the head” Psalm 133:2 is therefore a type of “the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” Hebrews 3:1 “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost” Luke 4:1. “Precious ointment” 2 Kings 20:13, Psalm 133:2, Ecclesiastes 7:1, Isaiah 39:2, “very precious ointment” Matthew 26:7 is “holy ointment” Exodus 30:25, the first mention of “ointment” in scripture, depicting “the Holy Ghost.” “Oil of holy ointment...shall be an holy anointing oil” Exodus 30:25, “Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee” Song of Solomon 1:3. Jesus’ name soothes, “wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores” are “mollified with ointment” Isaiah 1:6, His name.

The Lord Jesus was anointed with ointment.

“And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment” Luke 7:37-38.

“(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)” John 11:2.

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment” John 12:3.

The Lord Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Ghost.

“That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” Acts 10:37-38.

The anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ with ointment pictures the anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ **“with the Holy Ghost and power”** at His baptism for His subsequent ministry that Acts 10:38 describes.

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” Matthew 3:16-17 with Luke 3:21-22.

Today’s believers are **“endued with power from on high”** Luke 24:49 by **“the same Spirit”** 1 Corinthians 12:8, 9 **“for the work of the ministry”** Ephesians 4:12 as the Lord Himself commissioned the first disciples.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” Acts 1:8.

Note also the following similarity that associates **“an holy anointing oil”** Exodus 30:25 with **“the Holy Ghost.”**

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” John 14:16-17.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” John 14:26.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” John 16:13.

“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him” 1 John 2:27.

Just as **“the house was filled with the odour of the ointment”** John 12:3 so it is with the work of **“the Holy Ghost”** Acts 13:2 because for *all* aspects of *effective* ministry **“all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit”** 1 Corinthians 12:11.

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?” 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

The answer to Paul’s question is only **“the unity of the Spirit”** like **“Oil of holy ointment...shall be an holy anointing oil”** Exodus 30:25. That is why Paul exhorts believers about **“the unity of the Spirit.”**

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called...Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:1, 3.

Access to, belief in and preaching of the **“pure words...of the LORD”** 12:6 **“undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens”** Hebrews 7:26 **“thy word...magnified above all thy name”** Psalm 138:2 are essential pre-requisites for the fulfilment of Ephesians 4:3:

“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ” 2 Corinthians 2:17.

What comes to mind when you think of the anointing oil*? *The correct term is **“ointment.”**

The two women that anointed the Lord Jesus, Luke 7:37-38, John 11:2, 12:3. They came from the extremes of society but their devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ was the same and it bears out the observation by the late Dr Bob Jones Snr. that *‘The greatest moral monstrosity on the face of the earth is a woman who doesn’t love the Lord Jesus Christ.’* See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1295. The husband of a saved woman should therefore encourage in her **“the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price”** 1 Peter 3:4 so that husband and wife may **“know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”** Ephesians 3:19. Paul therefore exhorts **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”** Ephesians 5:25.

3. Why is unity like the precious dew of Hermon (Psalm 133:3)?

Dew depicts blessing, Psalm 133:3, both spiritually and materially.

“My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass” Deuteronomy 32:2.

“And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath” Deuteronomy 33:13, an indication of the hydrological cycle: **“All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again”** Ecclesiastes 1:7.

Unity, like dew, is blessing because it is *good and pleasant*. See *Question 1*.

What comes to mind when you think about the dew of Hermon?

The Lord’s provision for His people that pictures the **“pure words...of the LORD”** Psalm 12:6, see remarks in *Question 2* above i.e. make sure you have a pure i.e. *Holy Bible* for individual sustenance, effective ministry via **“good doctrine”** and steady growth **“in Christ Jesus”**:

“...in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat” Exodus 16:13-15.

“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not

live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live” Deuteronomy 8:3.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4.

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” Luke 4:4.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained” 1 Timothy 4:6.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13. Only one Book fulfils 2 Timothy 1:13. See:

www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Revival - A Seven-Point Plan.*

All modern versions are Vatican versions straight from **“THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”** Revelation 17:5. See *Did The Catholic Church Give Us The Bible?* by David W. Daniels www.chick.com/catalog/bibleversions.asp and *Undeniable Proof the ESV, NIV, NASB are the new “Vatican Versions” and The NKJV is a Poor Substitute for the True Bible* by Will Kinney brandplucked.webs.com/kjbarticles.htm. No modern i.e. Vatican version has ever brought revival or ever will. **“They are even the dross of silver”** Ezekiel 22:18. Vatican versionism should be confessed and forsaken for revival. **“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”** Proverbs 28:13.

4. What connection does ‘life forever more’ have with unity?

The connection now is the union of the believer with the Lord Himself, as Paul explains. Note again the association between **“the Holy Ghost and...power”** Acts 10:38.

“And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power...he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit... What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” 1 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 19-20.

Personal Reflection:

- *If God’s blessing is eternal life – how important is it that we strive to get along now with those with whom we will be spending eternity?*

Paul thought it important enough to **“beseech”** the brethren. See *Question 2*.

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called...Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:1, 3.

- *When the church ‘lives in unity’ what does it look like to us and the watching world? *The correct expression is **“dwell together in unity”** Psalm 133:1.*

Paul explains what it looks like, *something worth being with*. See *Question 1*.

“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 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” Ephesians 4:15-16.