

May 24, 2026

Unity in the Spirit Acts 2:1–6 & 1 Corinthians 12:1–13

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.” Acts 2:1

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.” 1 Cor. 12:4

This is Memorial Day weekend. Tomorrow is "Memorial Day." It is the day each year when our nation remembers those who have died defending our country. It's a day we honor the sacrifices others have made to give us a free nation. And let us never underestimate the sacrifices of others in obtaining our freedom. Let us honor those who have given their lives for us.

As many have noted, freedom is not free. We enjoy the freedom we have today because many gave up their freedom and died to obtain it for us. It is only right that we remember them this day and give thanks to the Lord for them. *(Silence)*.

The major problem that led to this Memorial Day remains with us worldwide. Conflicts continue across the globe, with people still experiencing unrest and a lack of peace. We cannot help but be reminded of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Lebanon, our country and Israel against Iran, and many other conflicts. As these wars persist, many lives will be lost, and nations will continue to remember their war heroes.

What does the Lord call us to do this morning? To create a peaceful world where there is no aggression and no plans for nuclear war! A world where the Spirit's unity prevails despite our differences in race, color, and gender. A world where the Holy Spirit, descended on the disciples today, guides our leaders to bring peace to the world. Lives wouldn't have been lost if someone hadn't wanted to disrupt the peace of the world. Be with me as we explore the importance of unity in the Spirit.

Unity is one of the most beautiful—and most challenging—aspects of the Christian life. We live in a world divided by opinions, backgrounds, politics, preferences, and personalities. But Scripture tells us something powerful: **Unity is not something we can create through human ego; it is something the Holy Spirit provides.**

Pentecost and Paul's teaching to the Corinthians demonstrate that the Spirit creates a community that is distinct yet profoundly united. This unity is not achieved by force or uniformity, but through the presence and power of God. Let us look at how the Spirit makes us one.

The Spirit unites us in God's Presence (Acts 2:1–2). “They were all together in one place.” Before the Spirit descended, the disciples had already gathered. They weren't there because they had everything figured out or because they felt strong. They were gathered because Jesus instructed them to wait, as we heard last week (Acts 1:4). Unity begins with obedience—a willingness to come together before God. Then, suddenly, the sound of a rushing wind fills the house. It's not a private whisper or a gentle breeze; it's a sound that everyone can hear. The message is clear: the Spirit's work is for all of them. Unity begins when we acknowledge that God is at work on something greater than any person's preferences, gifts, or plans. The Spirit brings us together so that we can receive what we could never get on our own.

The Spirit unites us in Purpose (Acts 2:3–6). Tongues of fire rest on each of them, and they begin to speak in other languages. People from every nation hear the wonders of God in their own tongue. The miracle is not that the Spirit erases differences and that everyone suddenly becomes the same; rather, it is that God speaks through their differences. There are different languages, cultures, and stories, but one underlying message: the mighty works of God.

Unity in the Spirit does not mean uniformity. It consists of diverse people empowered for one mission—to make Christ known. The world is divided by language, culture, politics, and fear. But the Spirit creates a new community where differences become instruments of grace. Pentecost teaches us that unity is harmony, not sameness; it is mission, not convenience.

The Spirit unites us as One Body (1 Corinthians 12:1–7). The Corinthian church was filled with spiritual gifts, but it was also divided. Some members valued certain gifts more highly, while others felt inferior or superior based on the gifts they had. Paul reminds them: “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.” **The Spirit gives gifts not to elevate individuals,** but to strengthen the entire body. Every gift is important. Every person is important. Every contribution matters. Unity grows when we stop asking, “What do I prefer?” and start asking, “How can my gift serve the body?”

The Spirit unites us into One Family (1 Corinthians 12:12–13). Paul reaches his climax: “We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.” Jew or Gentile, slave or free, young or old, new believer or seasoned saint—the Spirit does not just bring us together; He makes us one. This unity is not fragile, optional, or based on agreement or personality. It is rooted in the Spirit who creates the unity and lives in us.

What Unity in the Spirit looks like Today. Unity in the Spirit looks like:

- **Praying together** even when we don’t see everything the same way.
- **Serving together** even when our gifts differ.
- **Listening to one another** because the Spirit may speak through someone unlike us.
- **Celebrating each other’s gifts** instead of competing with them.
-
- **Standing together in mission** because the world needs a united witness.

Unity is not the absence of differences; it is the presence of the Spirit. At Pentecost, the world gathered because they heard something they could not explain—a united people, a Spirit-filled people, a people declaring the wonders of God.

Today, we pray for the manifestation of this Holy Spirit to unite people around the world, helping us recognize that while we have our differences, God made us all, and inspiring us to work toward a world free of conflicts and war.

Come, Holy Spirit. Unite us as one body and one people, just as in the beginning!