

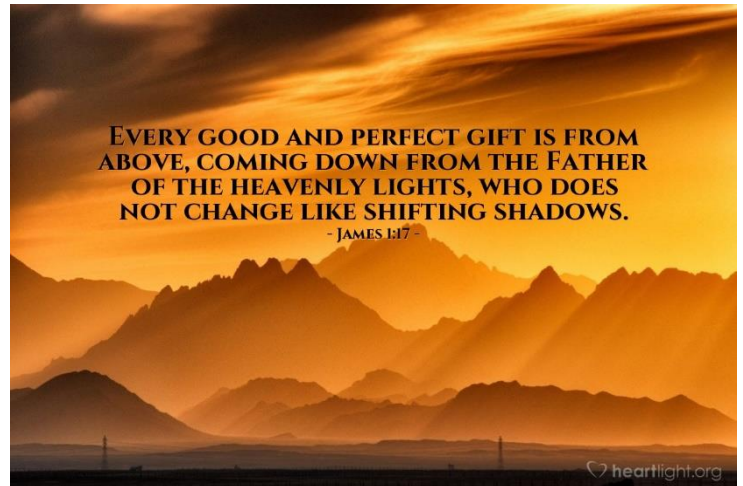
# Guided by a cloud 14 (Exodus 13:21-22)

Over the past year I have frequently prayed for unity. Firstly over the Brexit issues and more recently with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. I was also struck by a post on Facebook which said “I don’t care if you’re black, white, male, female, short, tall, rich or poor if you’re nice to me I’ll be nice to you”. My immediate thought was why ‘they’ have to be nice to you first, why not be nice regardless. One of the amazing things about God’s love for us is that it is unconditional, and we are called to live in perfect unity – Colossians 3:12-14.

**Worship time** [In Christ alone](#) [King of kings, Majesty](#) [O Lord my God \(How great thou art\)](#)

## Read Psalm 133

- <sup>1</sup> How good and pleasant it is  
when God’s people live together in  
unity!
- <sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron’s beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.
- <sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.



David knows the value of living in unity, it is both good and pleasant so it’s good in itself and good for us and therefore a gift from God (James 1:17).

Living together in unity is like oil poured on Aaron’s head. Oil was a valued commodity in ancient Israel for cooking and for moisturizing and refreshing. Today when someone visits you, you may offer them a drink. In ancient Israel, you would also offer oil for their head. The climate was hot and dusty, and oil on the head would be a welcome relief. Psalm 23:5 also uses this image. However, this oil even runs down onto the person’s beard. The host is generous, gracious, not stingy. So unity like oil is precious and refreshing, a generous gift. God doesn’t hold back.

But the oil also runs down onto the collar of his robes. The robe image here is referring the people of God (Exodus 28:9-12). The good blessing of unity flows from the head to the beard to the robe, an image of the whole body of Christ united together with Jesus as our Head.

Unity is also like the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion. Hermon is known for its cool nights and heavy dew which keeps the area around it lush and green all summer long. On Mount Zion there is very little dew, rain or any moisture at all so it stays hot and dry. We are like the dry, arid land of Mount Zion but God sends his blessing of unity upon us like the dew of Hermon.

The fact that Hermon and Zion are united by the dew reminds us that we are all one. Galatians 3:28 says: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Living together in unity is good, it is pleasant, it is appropriate for us as brothers and sisters in Christ and something we should share with others. As believers we are united with Christ, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Unity is God’s gift to us – flowing down over us like precious oil on Aaron’s head or rich dew from Mount Hermon. God pours out his blessing on his people as we worship him in unity and receive his blessing.

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you” 1Peter 5:7