

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 1, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit

Psalm 8 in New Revised Standard Version

Prayer for you on this first day of the  
year of our Lord 2017:

Based on **II Maccabees 1:2-6**

May God prosper you, and Christ keep in mind the covenant he made with you as Abraham's seed and His faithful servant. May he give to you hearts to worship Father, Son and Spirit and to fulfill the Father's purposes with high courage and willing spirits. May the Spirit make your minds open to God's Word, the law and ordinances. May Christ bring you peace, and grant you an answer to your prayers, may the Father be reconciled to you and never forsake you in an evil hour. This we pray for you as we begin the year of our Lord 2017.

**John 16:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>But now I am going back to the Father who sent me, and none of you asks me where I am going.

<sup>6</sup>You are very sad from hearing all of this.

<sup>7</sup>But I tell you that I am going to do what is **best** for you. That is why I am going away.

The Holy Spirit cannot come to help<sup>f</sup> you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.

**G4851** συμφέρω *sumpherō soom-fer'-o* From G4862 and G5342 (including its alternate); to *bear together* (*contribute*), that is, (literally) to *collect*, or (figuratively) to *conduce*; especially (neuter participle as noun) *advantage*:—be better for, **bring together**, be expedient (for), be good, (be) profit (-able for).

Sheets - "**My leaving will cause a new connection**, a joining which will be a tremendous benefit to you... yes of even greater benefit that My actually being here with you! I **WILL BRING YOU TOGETHER WITH THE HOLY**

SPIRIT AND NOT ONLY WILL HE BE WITH  
YOU BUT HE WILL BE IN YOU

**Amplified Bible John 16:7**

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [a]Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) **REFRESHER** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

Five ways the Spirit refreshes you for the new year:

- 1) The Spirit refreshes the Word enlivening the Word and progressively incarnating the Word in you!
- 2) The Spirit infuses prayer and praise with power and passion and begets vital faith in you refreshing you!

- 3) The Spirit teaches and instructs so the Word can cleanse, empower, and refresh you. Deep thinking and learning!
- 4) The Spirit empowers you with gifts and giftedness for the power of refreshment in our ministry! Deep work!
- 5) The Spirit brings refreshing love, graciousness, and the spirit of unity to our hearts!

*When we make firm our connection with the Spirit of God and open ourselves to the infilling of the Spirit we will walk being continuously filled with the refreshing Spirit of the Living Father and Son; deepening our relationship, our thinking, our learning, and our work!*

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 8, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit

**Psalm 29** as call to worship

### **John 16:13-15**

<sup>12</sup>“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

<sup>13</sup>“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

<sup>14</sup>“He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

<sup>15</sup>“All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

1) The Spirit refreshes **the Word**, enlivens the Word and progressively incarnates the Word in you!

a) The Spirit refreshes **the Word**,

Guides you into all truth, guides you into the truth of the Word of God

Hebrew used here is to lead, guide and teach “reiteratively” what the Holy Spirit hears from the Father and the Son;

starts with the Bible and includes confirmation from other sources

b) enlivens the Word - <sup>14</sup>“**He will glorify Me**, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. – He will enliven you with His shekinah glory, the brightness of His image the expression of His being!

By taking what he hears and speaking that Word to you - **present tense** and he will disclose to you what is to come,

he will disclose to you what belongs to Jesus, those things that belong to Jesus **Hebrews** <sup>2</sup>in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of

all things, through whom also He made the world. **If you are Christ's you are heirs according to the promise**

c) progressively incarnates **the Word** in you!

Incarnate - made human, personified into the epitome of something

Incarnate - bring about something that exists as an idea or theory only

**The Word made flesh and walks among us as YOU!**

John 1: **1** 1-5 At the beginning God expressed himself. That personal expression, **that word**, was with God, and was God, and he existed with God from the beginning. All creation took place through him, and none took place without him. In him appeared life and this life was the light of mankind. The light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.

**John's Wonderful Gospel, Ivor Powell**

"All things that the Father hath are mine." (1) The Father's eternal status was Christ's, for the Lord had been with Him from the beginning. (2) The Father's glory was His, for He had shared it before the world was (17:5). (3) The Father's power was His because Jesus had become the exclusive channel by which heaven was operating upon earth. (4) The Father's wisdom was His, for the Lord's voice had also been heard in the eternal council meetings of the Godhead. (5) The Father's worship should be given to Him, and consequently He never rebuked any man who fell at His feet to worship. (6) The Father's possessions were His for God had given all things into His hands.

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 15, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit

Opening scripture

Based on [II Maccabees 1:2-6](#)

May God prosper you, and Christ keep in mind the covenant he made with you as Abraham's seed and His faithful servant.

May he give to you hearts to worship Father, Son and Spirit and to fulfill the Father's purposes with high courage and willing spirits.

May the Spirit make your minds open to God's Word, the law and ordinances.

May Christ bring you peace, and grant you an answer to your prayers.

May the Father be reconciled to you and never forsake you in an evil hour.

This we pray for you as we begin the year of our Lord 2017.

Five ways the Spirit refreshes you for the new year:

- 1) The Spirit refreshes the Word enlivening the Word and progressively incarnating the Word in you!
- 2) The Spirit infuses prayer and praise with power and passion and begets vital faith in you refreshing you!
- 3) The Spirit teaches and instructs so the Word can cleanse, empower, and refresh you. Deep thinking and learning!
- 4) The Spirit empowers you with gifts and giftedness for the power of refreshment in our ministry! Deep work!
- 5) The Spirit brings refreshing love, graciousness, and the spirit of unity to our hearts!

The Spirit infuses your prayer and praise  
with power and passion and begets vital  
faith in refreshing you!

Look at Sheets prayer book

- A. **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

Dunamis -- Explosions of Almightyness W. E. Vine -- As a result of the inner vital union with Christ through the filling with the Holy Spirit of El-Shaddai, the God who is more than enough.

- B. **I Corinthians 12:9** <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, {Vincent says wonderworking faith - i.e. power faith JLM}

As gift, a grace building on the Word you have placed in your heart mind and spirit through incarnating the Word within you! Deep thinking, deep learning, deep study/work.

- C. **Ephsians 5:18** Wuest - Be constantly filled with the Spirit.

First, an imperative. Second, a present tense. Third, a plural meaning, all Christians. Fourth, passive voice i.e. the Christian is acted upon by the Spirit. One does not work it up one prepares themselves as a vessel through deep thinking, deep learning, and deep study/work!

Having placed the Word in our heart mind and spirit, and the Word incarnated in us, the Holy Spirit then interprets Christ to us until we know the essence and fullness of the Father, Son and Spirit.

- D. **Roman 8:26-27** <sup>26</sup>In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup>and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,

because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

1. The Holy Spirit thus energizes {JLM empassions} the saint along the line of prayer for particular things which are according to the will {JLM and passions} of God, prayer directed consciously to Him.
2. we must be so yielded to the control of the Spirit that He can bring into our prayer ministry, the things which God is planning to accomplish. It is clear, therefore, that in order to pray aright, we must be filled with the Spirit.
3. As Alford says, "The Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us, knowing our wants better than we, the Holy Spirit pleads in our prayers, raising us to higher and holier desires {JLM passions} than we can express in words, which can only find utterance in sighings and aspirations."

Wuest Golden Nuggets

THE INFIRMITIES in [Romans 8:26-27](#) have to do with certain weaknesses in our prayer life. The Holy Spirit, Paul says, helps them. The Greek word translated "helpeth," literally means "to lend a hand together with, and at the same time with one." Martha used the same word when appealing to our Lord to bid Mary help her with the preparation of the meal ([Luke 10:40](#)). The Holy Spirit lends a hand together with us as we are praying. It is not that He helps us bear our weaknesses, but He helps our weaknesses.

The weaknesses spoken of here are two, what we should pray for, the matter of prayer, and how we should pray, the form and manner of our prayer. The word "what" has an article before it in the Greek. Literally, we do not know "the what" to pray for. That is, we do not know the particular definite thing to pray for. As to the general subjects for prayer, the salvation of the lost, the sanctification of the saints, our daily needs, these we know of. But to be specific in our praying involves a knowledge of God's will in particular instances, and of that we are naturally ignorant. It is right here that the Spirit comes to our aid.

The word "pray" is from a Greek word made up of a word which means "to pray," with a prefixed preposition which means literally "toward." The composite word refers to prayer directed to God, a conscious definite commitment to Him of our needs, our desires, our petitions. The Holy Spirit thus energizes the saint along the line of prayer for particular things which are according to the will of God, prayer directed consciously to Him.

The word translated "know," is not the Greek word which means "knowledge gained by experience," but "knowledge that is intuitive, natural to one's being and constitution." We do not have intuitive knowledge of the particular thing to pray for. The word "ought" is the same word used in [John 3:7](#) in the word "must." Literally it means, "it is necessary in the nature of the case." The necessity in the nature of the case is found in the fact that God brings His plans to fruition through the prayers of the saints, and in order for us to pray according to the will of God, we must be so yielded to the control of the Spirit that He can bring into our prayer ministry, the things which God is planning to accomplish. It is clear, therefore, that in order to pray aright, we must be filled with the Spirit.

The Spirit Himself, not "itself," should be the translation here. The word "spirit" in the Greek language is in the neuter gender, and consequently its pronoun is neuter. But the Holy Spirit is a Person, and should not be referred to as "it." The translation should be according to sense here, not grammar.

He makes intercession. This word comes from a Greek word which is most picturesque. It is used of one who happens upon one who is in trouble and pleads in that one's behalf. As Alford says, "The Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us, knowing our wants better than we, Himself pleads in our prayers, raising us to higher and holier desires than we can express in words, which can only find utterance in sighings and aspirations."

God the Father who searches the hearts of His saints for their prayers, uttered and unexpressed, interprets those inarticulate sighings of the Spirit in us by reason of the fact that the Spirit pleads for us and in us and through us according to the will of God.

The lesson for us here is that if we expect to have an intelligent, powerful, rich prayer life, we must live Spirit controlled lives.

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 22, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit

Opening scripture Psalm 27 NRSV

**He will guide you into all truth!**

**I Corinthians 1:18-31**

## The Wisdom of God

**18 For the message of the cross** is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing *and* spiritually dead [because they reject it], but to us who are being saved [by God's grace] it **is [the manifestation of] the power of God**. **19** For it is written *and* forever remains written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise [the philosophy of the philosophers], And the cleverness of the clever [who do not know Me] I will nullify."  
**20** Where is the wise man (philosopher)? Where is the scribe (scholar)? Where is

the debater (logician, orator) of this age? Has God not exposed the foolishness of this world's wisdom? **21** For since the world through all its [earthly] wisdom failed to recognize God, God in His wisdom was well-pleased through the [a]foolishness of the message preached [regarding salvation] to save those who believe [in Christ and welcome Him as Savior]. **22** For Jews demand signs (attesting miracles), and Greeks pursue [worldly] wisdom *and* philosophy, **23** but we **preach Christ crucified**, [a message which is] to Jews a stumbling block [that provokes their opposition], and to Gentiles foolishness [just utter nonsense], **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), **Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God**. **25** [This is] because the foolishness of God [is not foolishness at all and] is wiser than men [far beyond human comprehension], and the weakness of God is stronger than men [far beyond the limits of human effort].



26 Just look at your own calling, believers; not many [of you were considered] wise according to human standards, not many powerful *or* influential, not many of high *and* noble birth. 27 But God has selected [for His purpose] the foolish things of the world to shame the wise [revealing their ignorance], and God has selected [for His purpose] the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong [revealing their frailty]. 28 God has selected [for His purpose] the insignificant (base) things of the world, and the things that are despised *and* treated with contempt, [even] the things that are nothing, so that He might reduce to nothing the things that are, 29 so that **no one may [be able to] boast in the presence of God.** 30 But it is from Him that you are **in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom** from God [revealing His plan of salvation], and **righteousness** [making us acceptable to God], and **sanctification** [making us holy and setting us apart for God], and **redemption** [providing our ransom from the penalty for sin], 31 so

then, as it is written [in Scripture], “He who boasts *and* glories, **let him boast *and* glory in the Lord.**”

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 29, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit - Teaches & Instructs

Sternberg's Balance Theory of Wisdom  
- what is it? "wisdom is defined as  
the application of successful  
intelligence and creativity as  
mediated by values toward the  
achievement of a common good..." (pg.  
152)

- 1) The Spirit teaches and instructs so  
the Word can cleanse, empower, and  
refresh you. Deep thinking and deep  
learning!

### **John 16:13-15**

<sup>12</sup>“I have many more things to say to you, but you  
cannot bear *them* now.

<sup>13</sup>“But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will  
guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on  
His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will  
speak;** and He will disclose to you what is to come.

<sup>14</sup>“He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and

will disclose *it* to you.

<sup>15</sup>“All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I  
said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

### **Colossians 2:2-3 AMP**

2 [For my hope is] that their hearts may be  
encouraged as they are knit together in  
[unselfish] [a]love, so that they may have all  
the riches that come from the full  
assurance of understanding [the joy of  
salvation], resulting in a true [and more  
intimate] knowledge of the [b]mystery of  
God, *that is, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden  
all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge  
[regarding the word and purposes of God].*

Remember Christ the Word Incarnate  
in you through the filling of the  
Holy Spirit - Incarnate - made  
human, personified into the epitome  
of something

Sternberg also provides us with a  
practical methodology for preparing  
our hearts and minds for cooperation  
with the Holy Spirit's teaching.

“Its acquisition depends on a) selectively encoding new information that is relevant for one’s purposes in learning about that context; b) selectively comparing this information to see how the new fits with the old; and c) selectively combining pieces of information to make them fit together into an orderly whole.” Sternberg, *Wisdom, Intelligence and Creativity Synthesized*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

**Encode the Word of God, read it, study it, pray it, memorize it - thinking deeply about it and then communing with the Holy Spirit until wisdom and knowledge is opened to you through the Incarnate Word Christ for practical application in your life!**

**So selectively encode...**

**I Corinthians 1:18-31**

## The Wisdom of God

**18 For the message of the cross** is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing *and* spiritually dead

[because they reject it], {JLM those who are encoding TV, novels, newspapers, the world’s wisdom with out the filter of the Word of God } but to us who are being saved [by God’s grace] it **is [the manifestation of] the power of God.** **19** For it is written *and* forever remains written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise [the philosophy of the philosophers], And the cleverness of the clever [who do not know Me] I will nullify.”

**20** Where is the wise man (philosopher)? Where is the scribe (scholar)? Where is the debater (logician, orator) of this age? Has God not exposed the foolishness of this world’s wisdom? **21** For since the world through all its [earthly] wisdom failed to recognize God, God in His wisdom was well-pleased through the [a]foolishness of the message preached [regarding salvation] to save those who believe [in Christ and welcome Him as Savior]. **22** For Jews demand signs (attesting miracles), and Greeks pursue [worldly] wisdom *and* philosophy, **23** but we **preach Christ crucified**, [a message which is] to Jews a

stumbling block [that provokes their opposition], and to Gentiles foolishness [just utter nonsense], 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), **Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

**Verse 3.** Translate in the *Greek* order, “In whom (not as Alford, ‘in which’) *mystery*; Christ is Himself the ‘mystery’ (Colossians 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:16), and to Christ the relative refers) are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden.” The “all” here, answers to “all” in Colossians 2:2; as “treasures” answer to the “riches”; it is from the *treasures* that *the riches* (Colossians 2:2) are derived. “Are” is the predicate of the sentence; all the treasures ARE in Him; *hidden* is predicated of the state or manner in which they are in Him. Like a mine of unknown and inexhaustible wealth, the *treasures* of wisdom are all in Him *hidden*, but not in order to remain so; they only need to be explored for you to attain “unto the riches” in them (Colossians 2:2); but until you, Colossians, press after attaining *the full knowledge* (see on Colossians 2:2) of them, they remain “hidden.” Compare the parable, Matthew 13:44, “treasure hid.” This sense suits the scope of the apostle, and sets aside Alford’s objection that “the treasures are not hidden, but revealed.” “Hidden” plainly answers to “mystery” (Colossians 2:2), which is designed by God, if we be faithful to our privileges, not to remain *hidden*, but to be revealed (compare 1 Corinthians 2:7, 8). Still as the mine is unfathomable, there will, through eternity, be always fresh treasures in Him to be drawn forth from their hidden state. **wisdom**—general, and as to *experimental* and *practical* truth; whence comes “understanding” (Colossians 2:2). **knowledge**—*special* and *intellectual*, in regard to *doctrinal* truth; whence comes “the full knowledge” (Colossians 2:2).

Jameson Faucett Brown

**word of wisdom**—the ready *utterance of* (for imparting to others, Ephesians 6:19) *wisdom*, namely, new revelations of the divine

wisdom in redemption, as contrasted with human philosophy (1 Corinthians 1:24; 2:6, 7; Ephesians 1:8; 3:10; Colossians 2:3). **word of knowledge**—ready *utterance supernaturally* imparted of truths ALREADY REVEALED (in this it is distinguished from “the word of wisdom,” which related to NEW revelations). Compare 1 Corinthians 14:6, where “revelation” (answering to “wisdom” here) is distinguished from “knowledge” [Henderson]. *Wisdom* or *revelation* belonged to the “prophets”; *knowledge*, to the “teachers.” *Wisdom* penetrates deeper than *knowledge*. *Knowledge* relates to things that are to be done. *Wisdom*, to things eternal: hence, *wisdom* is not, like *knowledge*, said to “pass away” (1 Corinthians 13:8), [Bengel].

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

January 29, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
Practical Living in the Power of the  
Spirit -

**Amplified Bible John 16:7**

7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [a]Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) **REFRESHER** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

Five ways the Spirit refreshes you for the new year:

- 1) The Spirit refreshes the Word enlivening the Word and progressively incarnating the Word in you! **The foundation of the Spirit's infilling Christ incarnate IN you through the planting of the Word.**

Three years the disciples had spent in intensive ministry with the Word of God!

- 2) The Spirit infuses prayer and praise with power and passion and begets vital faith in you refreshing you! **The connecting power, the Spirit recalls the word of God, teaches the Word of God, you fill your mind (renewing it) with the Word of God.**
- 3) The Spirit teaches and instructs so the Word can cleanse, empower, and refresh you. Deep thinking and learning! **Deeply focusing on the Word through study, memorization, thoughtful thorough application fo the word to your life.**
- 4) The Spirit empowers you with gifts and giftedness for the power of refreshment in our ministry! Deep work!

5) The Spirit brings refreshing love, graciousness, and the spirit of unity to our hearts!

*When we make firm our connection with the Spirit of God and open ourselves to the infilling of the Spirit we will walk being continuously filled with the refreshing Spirit of the Living Father and Son; deepening our relationship, our thinking, our learning, and our work!*

Power in ministry - Christ... Father Son and Spirit

Luke 24:46-49 - 6 and said, "And so it is written, that the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance [necessary] for forgiveness of sins would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 Listen carefully: I am sending the Promise of My Father [the Holy Spirit] upon you; but you are to remain in the city [of Jerusalem] until you are clothed (fully equipped) with power from on high."

Acts 1:8 8 But you will receive power *and* ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

1st Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are [distinctive] varieties of *spiritual* gifts [special abilities given by the grace and extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit operating in believers], but it is the same Spirit [who grants them and empowers believers]. 5 **And there are [distinctive] varieties of ministries *and* service, but it is the same Lord [who is served]. 6 And there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is the same God who produces all things –**

don't let others box you in as to how the Spirit will work through you! Nor do the gifts necessarily need be identified when they are working! Just glorify God that they did work! in all *believers* [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them]. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [the spiritual illumination and the enabling of the Holy Spirit] for the common good. 8 To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same Spirit; 9 to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit; 10 and to another the working of [a]miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another *various*

kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. 11 All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses. When, how, what, which, where, why Christ – Father Son and Spirit!

Midwest City Church of God

Sunday AM

February 12, 2017

Deep Learning, Thinking, and Work:  
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Spirit -

Five ways the Spirit refreshes you for the  
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- 5) The Spirit brings refreshing love,  
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*When we make firm our  
connection with the Spirit of  
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infilling of the Spirit we will  
walk being continuously filled  
with the refreshing Spirit of  
the Living Father and Son;  
deepening our relationship, our  
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work!*

*Ephesians 4:1-6 NRSV*

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg  
you to lead a life worthy of the calling to  
which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all  
humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>**making  
every effort [giving diligence and haste,  
exert effort, endeavor] to maintain [guard]**



**the unity of the Spirit *[wrought by the Spirit]* in the bond of *[which is]***

**peace.** <sup>4</sup>There is one

body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, ***[the ground/foundation of unity]*** who is above all and through all and in all.

There is perfect unity in Christ – Father, Son and Spirit!

### **Ephesians 4:3**

#### **Endeavoring (σπουδάζοντες)**

Not strong enough. Originally the verb means *to make haste*. So the kindred noun σπουδή *haste*, [Mark 6:25](#); [Luke 1:39](#). Hence *diligence*. Rev., here, *giving diligence*.

#### **To keep (τηρεῖν)**

[See](#) on *reserved*, [1 Peter 1:4](#).

#### **Unity of the Spirit**

Wrought by the Holy Spirit.

#### **Bond of peace**

The bond which is peace. Compare [2:14](#), *our peace—made both one*. Christ, our peace, is thus a bond of peace. Others, however, treat *in the bond* as parallel with *in love* of [v. 2](#), and cite [Colossians 3:14](#), “love the bond of perfectness.”