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**You can download the [DISCUSSION GUIDE](#) here:**  
**“Divided or Directed”**

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**Have you ever been in a situation where a lack of communication caused total chaos?**

- When people can't understand each other, things fall apart.

One thing the Bible makes clear is that AGREEMENT is instrumental in the success of our faith— “...if any two agree.”

- However, it is important that our relational agreement be **centered** upon a Godly purpose.

**For example:**

1. Two people can agree to have premarital sex.
  - That agreement leads the relationship away from God not toward Him.
2. Two people can agree to abuse a substance together.
  - Again, that agreement leads the relationship away from God not toward Him.
3. Two people can agree to lie and cheat in order to steal from others.
  - Once more, that agreement leads the relationship away from God not toward Him.

**The Bible reveals two instances, one in the OT and the other in the NT, where relationships are seen to be in agreement—united in purpose.**

1. The first is against God's plan.
2. The second aligns with God's plan. Let's take a look.

We will discover today that it's **important to have understanding** in this regard, because continued confusion in life's journey might be a direct repercussion of the **wrong kind of agreement in our relationships**.

- This kind of error results in unnecessary distance from God's presence due to the fact that we find agreement in walking paths that don't align with His purpose.

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Let's look at the first example:

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**Genesis 11:1, 4–9 (NKJV)** Now *the whole earth had one language and one speech.* <sup>4</sup> And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens....” <sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let Us go down and there **confuse** their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup> So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. <sup>9</sup> Therefore its name is called **Babel**, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord **scattered** them abroad over the face of all the earth.

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**1 Cor 14:33** tells us that **God is not the author of confusion**, **but** it seems that He **allows it when necessary**.

- However, we also discover that He **empowers unity** when it serves His **divine purposes**.

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**Acts 2:1–8 (CSB)** When the day of Pentecost had arrived, **they were all together in one place.** <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. <sup>3</sup> They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup> Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because **each one heard them speaking in his own language.** <sup>7</sup> **They were astounded and amazed,** saying, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language?

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So now, here’s what we see:

- There are two biblical experiences that involve unity and God’s involvement in the people’s ability to communicate.
  1. Babel
  2. Pentecost

Why did God confuse language at Babel but unify it at Pentecost?

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- What was different?

1. At **Babel**, the people were building something without God for their glory.
2. At **Pentecost**, the people were building something with God for His glory.

**This is an important topic because today there is no shortage of challenges regarding the motives behind what each of us may be building.**

One modern author who, using the Book of Acts as an inspiration, tried to encapsulate God's intentions for His Church by stating that he believes the challenge is for Jesus-followers to **move beyond building our own earthly kingdoms**.

- He said it directly in this way: *"We [must not settle] for a Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity is actually about abandoning ourselves."*<sup>1</sup>
- This was the **core issue at Babel**—  
they wanted to build for themselves, not for God.

⇒ **Does anyone want a move of God in the earth?**

Let me insert something...

- R.T. Kendall, in his book *Holy Fire*, warns of the danger of pride in religious movements:
  - *"The greatest opposition to a move of God often comes from those who were in the last move of God but became proud."*<sup>2</sup>
  - Look no further than the **Pharisees** of Jesus's day to see the reality of such challenges.

**The people of Babel thought they could create something lasting  
without God...but God had other plans.**

### **#1 – God Disrupts Prideful Plans**

**The people at Babel were united, but their unity was centered on self-exaltation, not God's glory.**

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- Their ambition was misplaced
  - Their arrogance was unchecked
  - Their actions were in rebellion.
- God disrupted their efforts not to harm them, but to redirect them toward His will (just as He does in our lives today).

**A.W. Tozer, in *The Pursuit of God*, warns of the danger of misplaced ambition:**

- *“Promoting self under the guise of promoting Christ is currently so common as to excite little notice.”<sup>3</sup>*

**God saw through Babel’s pride.**

- He knew their unity was not for His kingdom, so He confused their language to humble them.

**R.T. Kendall, in *The Word and the Spirit*, reminds us:**

- *“There is a false unity that comes through compromise and a true unity that comes through the Holy Spirit. Only one leads to revival.”<sup>4</sup>*

**At Babel, they sought human unity without spiritual obedience—so God intervened.**

- ♦ Bottomline: **God would rather scatter proud people than bless self-exalting unity.**

## **#2 – God Deposits Power for His Purpose**

**At Pentecost, God reversed Babel—not by erasing language barriers, but by empowering people to understand the Gospel across languages.**

- The Spirit gave them power
  - Their message had purpose
  - Their audience received proof of God’s glory.
- When we seek God’s kingdom first, He doesn’t divide—He unites, empowers, and sends.

**Jack Hayford, in *The Beauty of a Spiritual Language*, explains why the Spirit moves in this way:**

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- “When the Holy Spirit moves upon the church in power, one of the first signs of revival is a fresh outpouring of Spirit-filled speech.”<sup>45</sup>

At Babel, God confused speech to scatter people.

At Pentecost, He empowered speech to gather them for His mission.

R.T. Kendall, in *The Presence of God*, reminds us:

- “Many churches today want to build monuments, but God is looking for movements filled with His presence.”<sup>46</sup>
  - Pentecost wasn’t about a physical building—it was about a Spirit-filled people sent to the nations.
- ◆ Bottomline: **God doesn’t just honor unity; He infills Jesus-centered unity with a power that transforms families, communities, and even nations.**

### # 3: God Designs Relationships for Kingdom Expansion

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**Matthew 28:16–20 (CSB)** ***The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee**, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

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**Acts 2:42–47 (CSB)** *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house....<sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.***

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**Babel was about building a monument to themselves.  
Pentecost was about multiplying a movement for God. <sup>7</sup>**

At Pentecost:

- God provided a message
  - Created a movement
  - Expanded His mission.
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- The Church thrives when we prioritize God's mission over our own agendas.
    - If we unite for selfish ambition,  
He may allow the enemy to scatter us.
    - But if we unite for His mission, He will send us with **power**.

⇒ **POWER....**

- The early church expanded rapidly because  
...they focused on multiplication, **not** monument-building.

**R.T. Kendall, in *Understanding Theology*, explains the secret to a church's effectiveness:**

- *"If you are seeking God's presence more than you seek His power, you will get both. If you seek only His power, you may get neither."*<sup>8</sup>

**Babel sought power without presence,  
while Pentecost sought presence that led to power.**

◆ Bottomline: **If our unity is about comfort instead of calling, God may have to scatter us again.**

**The Choice Between Babel or Pentecost:**

1. Babel was man-centered unity; Pentecost was Jesus-centered unity.
2. Babel was powered by flesh; Pentecost was Spirit-empowered.
3. Babel scattered people; Pentecost sent people.
4. Babel resulted in confusion; Pentecost resulted in clarity.


**Babel and Pentecost were both acts of God, but only one was empowered by the Spirit for global transformation.**

**Today is about moving from:**

1. Confusion to Clarity
2. Division to Direction
3. Self-centered Desires to Spirit-led Ambition

### **Step 1: Reflection**

- Where have I sought my own way instead of God's way in my relationships?
- Have I built relationships around my comfort and convenience, or have I submitted them to God's purpose?
- Am I working to unite people for God's glory, or am I allowing pride, offense, or selfish ambition to cause division?

 Ref. Gen 11:4: *"Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves."*

**Application: Many times, we try to build something for ourselves—whether it's our reputation, control over family dynamics, or influence in our community.**

- But if our relationships are self-driven instead of Spirit-led, God may have to scatter our plans to bring us back to Him.

### **Step 2: Repentance**

- Have I allowed pride or offense to keep me from reconciliation in my family, friendships, or church?
- Am I guilty of gossip, bitterness, or resentment that contributes to division rather than healing?
- Have I ignored the call of humility, forgiveness, and servanthood in my relationships?

 Ref. Acts 2:1: *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place."*


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**Application:** True unity does not come from forcing relationships to work but from surrendering to the Holy Spirit and allowing God to heal what is broken.

- Do you need to forgive someone, apologize, or take the first step toward reconciliation, encourage them to do so this week or even today.

### **Step 3: Reception**

- Do I need a fresh touch from God to empower my relationships with love, wisdom, and clarity?

 Ref. Acts 2:4: *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

**Application:** Pentecost reminds us that unity comes not by force but by surrender to God’s mission.

- This is your invitation to receive and be filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit.
- The people of Pentecost had to reposition themselves.

### **Step 4: Release**

- From battling scattered, confused plans to being sent with clarified kingdom strategy.



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<sup>2</sup> Kendall, R.T. *Holy Fire: A Balanced, Biblical Look at the Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives*. Charisma House, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*. Moody Publishers, 1948.

<sup>4</sup> Kendall, R.T. *The Word and the Spirit*. Chosen Books, 2003.

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<sup>6</sup> Kendall, R.T. *The Presence of God: Discovering God's Ways Through Intimacy With Him*. Charisma House, 2008.

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<sup>8</sup> Kendall, R.T. *Understanding Theology: Volume One*. Christian Focus, 1996.

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