

All For One ...

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ" (Ephesians 4:15 NIV).

Many years ago, in the late 1980's at one of our General Conferences, I heard a message that greatly affected me. I do not recall the name of the minister speaking that night, but I profoundly remember his word to us as he recalled a story he had read in a magazine.

The story went something like this:

A man was in a terrible car accident and was paralyzed from the neck down. He was unable to speak or move but he had all of his mental faculties. His wife would come faithfully every day and visit with him, talk, and comfort him.

Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months. She came in one day to explain that she was divorcing him and marrying another man. He said that in his mind he was screaming "NO, NO, NO! I'm going to get better, I'm going to walk again!" He wanted to scream out of frustration that she could not hear his desperate cries nor respond to him.

He did in fact recover, but he never forgot the horrible vexation of being fully aware of everything around him but being unable to move or express himself.

The minister then said the Lord very clearly spoke to him and said, "This is how I feel! I am the head and you are my body in the earth, but unless you are listening to my voice, unless you are responding to my direction, I am paralyzed and my will cannot be done without your help."

During our quarterly three days of prayer and fasting earlier this month, the Lord very clearly said to me, "Don't paralyze me!" It's one of those things you don't soon forget or take lightly. The sermon I referenced above came flooding back to me as He spoke those words.

In conclusion, in this final stretch of time before the coming of our Lord, let us move as His body in the earth; fully functioning as one with Him, daily fulfilling His wishes, His heart. Let us be the mature body of Christ, fully yielded and sensitive to the mind and will of God.

We are called to be soldiers in the army of God, and now is the time to re-enlist without any reservations, restrictions, demands, or past failures keeping us from going "ALL IN!"

All for One, and One for All!

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