

SPIRITUAL SYNERGY

Synergy is a combination of two Greek words and literally means to work together. Webster defines it as *“The simultaneous action of separate agencies which, together, have greater total effect than the sum of their individual effects . . .”* R. Buckminster Fuller in his book *SYNERGETICS* provides this illustration. Chrome nickel steel is formed from iron, chromium, nickel, and carbon. The tensile strength of each is as follows:

* Iron -	60,000 lbs p.s.i.	* Nickel -	80,000 lbs. p.s.i.
* Chromium -	70,000 lbs. p.s.i.	* Carbon -	50,000 lbs. p.s.i.

If we took each of these individually and formed a chain, it would break at 50,000 lbs. for a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. If we braided them together into a cable we would add their combined strengths and have 260,000 lbs. p.s.i. If, however, each loses its identity by being melted together into an alloy, that new metal has a strength of 350,000 lbs. p.s.i. This new metal has a greater strength than the mathematical sum of its individual parts. This is synergy in the world of science.

The application of this principle to the Spirit world is obvious. Nothing is more foundational to the conversion process than “death to self”. Jesus repeatedly announced that if any man would be His disciple he would have to take up his cross and die (Matt. 16:24ff., Mk. 8:34 ff., Lk. 9:23ff., etc.) He continued that whoever would try to save his life would lose it. When we are baptized we are baptized into His death (Rom. 6:2 - 13). In this brief passage there are 12 specific references to death and one to crucifixion. Paul said that he was crucified with Christ and that Christ was living through him (Gal. 2:20). Even more specific are his words to the Colossians that we are dead and our life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). Since our old nature has been put to death and buried, Christ in us becomes the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

When we die to self and become one with Christ, we lose our former identity. Please consider: **“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”** (Gal 3:27-28). **“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all”** (Col 3:10-11)

This is the kind of unity that Jesus has with God, and it also the kind of unity that we to have with Christ and with one another. Consider again this prayer of Jesus: **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me”** (John 17:20-23).

This unity can be considered as spiritual synergy. It calls upon people from every kindred, nation, and tongue to deny themselves and be alloyed with Christ. The denial of self does not diminish our effectiveness and power, in Christ it enhances them “exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20). In Christ, the combined total is greater than the sum of our individual parts. There is only One Body and God designed it to be without schism or seam. He has broken down walls of partition and made us one. **“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit”** (Eph 2:19-22).