

The A, B, C's Of Our Spiritual walk

Tabernacles = body

Pentecost = soul

Passover = spirit

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THE A, B, C'S OF OUR SPIRITUAL WALK

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1. Last Hour Sons

The Spirit has been impressing upon me that He will be sending young people to my door to share with them the things of the kingdom. He has started to do that, and a 13-year-old from Nazareth, Ethiopia has emailed me asking me to teach her as a spiritual mother. That is the reason I am

writing this book—to share simply the spiritual walk with those who are hungry to walk in the Spirit.

One year, Bill and I came to British Columbia to pick fruit to can. We came to a cherry orchard and the owners wanted to know if we would like to pick cherries for them. It was the *last day* of the harvest. The fruit packers would not buy any more of their cherries after this day. We said, "No, thank you. We have come to pick fruit to take home with us."

They gave us a tree to pick and Bill climbed up in the branches while I picked the ones closer to my reach. After a while I looked up at Bill and saw the Spirit moving on him with tears. He said, "The Lord is bringing that story in Mat.20 about the parable of the workers, before me. The workers came at different times of the day.

"One group worked only for an hour and when they were paid, they received the same wages as those who had worked through the heat of the day! The workers objected to this but the farmer said, `Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last, the same as you. Can't I do what I want with My own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?" (The Message Bible)

The Lord showed us the spiritual meaning of this parable. Those of

us who were called many years ago have been walking 'in the heat of the day.' Now that harvest time is here, there are some coming in who have walked with the Lord for only a short time. The Lord, in His goodness, is going to give them the same reward that He is giving the ones who labored long. And, what is that reward? ***It is His nature. It is coming to maturity!*** As He told Abram, "I am thy exceeding great reward!"

"But, Lord, they don't have time to learn all the things we learned. How shall they come to maturity?" we wonder.

His answer was, "I will bring them in by revelation!" So, for those, I am laying a background of spiritual principles, some *A, B, C's of **A Spiritual Walk*** to help them along their way.

2. An Important Question

I want to teach deep things in great simplicity. That is not easy to do, so I was asking the Lord for help and guidance. He told me to ask the hungry ones a question that would set the tone of this study: ***"Why did God make man in the first place?"***

Some people answer right away, "So man can learn to be good and go to heaven."

Some say, "He was lonely, so He created man for company."

Somehow, I don't think either of those answers are true. He tells us Himself in Genesis 1:24-27, "**...Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature...**" It seems God wanted to have a family that was like Himself! How wonderful that would be—to have a world full of people whose nature is *love*! But it looks like God's plan failed and the devil got in and messed up His plan. It seems that mankind acts more like the devil than like God!

That's just what it *looks like*, but it is not true! God intended his man and woman, Adam and Eve, to be tempted and fall from their godlike state where they walked and talked with their Maker. They were innocent and had never proven their love for Him. Being innocent as a little child, they couldn't understand God's nature of love. He did not want people to serve Him because they were supposed to. He wanted to test them—to let them know both good and evil, so that they would learn to *choose* what was good—what was like God's nature. He could have shut the gate to the Garden of Eden so that Satan would not have been able to get in, but He didn't.

God wanted a family like Himself, but He knew His people would have to go through a long period of testing to learn what He was like, and to *want* to be like Him.

3. Start at the Very Beginning!

Do you remember the famous musical called *The Sound of Music*? In it, the governess wanted to teach the children how to sing and they said they didn't know where to start. So, she made up a song for them that goes like this: "Start at the very beginning; a very good place to start!"

And that is what we are going to do—start at the very beginning of God's creation and learn what happened there. If we do that we will be able to learn what happened to the whole human race in its beginnings, and why we are like we are today.

Some people tell me, "We were born good. We just turned bad if we kept bad company."

Others will say, "It has something to do with Eve eating an apple off a forbidden tree."

Neither of these ideas is true, for that is not what the Bible says—the Book that God gave to us to show us about Himself and His ways. We need to learn what He says so that we will know the truth. When we have the truth, we will be free.

Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of Eden where they had dominion over all the creatures of the earth. Everything God had created for their pleasure was

available to them. They enjoyed the beauty that He made for them, but most of all, they enjoyed Him when He came into the Garden and spoke to them 'in the cool of the day.'

There were many trees of every kind in the Garden of which they could partake freely. There was even one called The Tree of Life but they didn't eat of that one. Everything on earth was theirs to enjoy, but their Creator gave them one law—one rule that they were to obey. He said "Do not eat of the ***Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*** If you do, you will surely die."

He didn't give them a whole lot of rules of "Do this; don't do that." He just asked *one thing* of them—"Don't eat of this one tree." That wasn't much to ask of them, for they had free access to everything else! They had only one command to keep. You would think that if they loved the Lord, they would be happy to obey what He said. They wanted to do that, but one day temptation came their way.

It came in the form of a serpent who brought to this innocent pair a temptation which they had never known before. He came first to Eve with a suggestion that questioned God's Love. ***"Hath God said, Ye shall not eat?"***

This was just like saying, "God grudges (is mean, unwilling to be kind). He cannot really love you or He would not keep back any good thing from

you." Ignoring the many proofs of God's love abounding everywhere, he points to the one thing that has been denied. He questions what God does—this is how he opens the temptation.

Do you know—if we question what God does, *we judge God?* We get out of our place and put Him out of His! The serpent was drawing Eve to be God's judge, rather than His worshipper. If we do this, we will, in time, make *ourselves* as Gods, and make God a liar. A really humble soul never judges God. It will not question God's ways.

Eve met the question with *knowledge*. She argued with the Serpent instead of giving God His place in worship and submission. She utters truth while her soul drinks in the lie!

This is man's first trial. ***If doubt God's love, you feel you must love yourself.*** So man turns to find his joy out of God; in things that cannot satisfy. This is the fundamental lie—*God does not love!* This lie leads man away from God. It is easy to keep our distance from God if we believe the lie that He does not love us! If God does not love us, we will try self and creature (people) love.

Not satisfied with making God out to be grudging and unloving, the enemy of man next denies ***the truth of God.*** "The serpent said, 'Yea, *hath God said,* Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' **Love** being

doubted; **truth** is next attacked. God now is treated as a liar!

"And the woman said unto the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, *Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*" (Genesis 3:1-3)

The Serpent's next step is to deny the truth. He said, "***You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.***

"When the woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate." (The Message Bible).

Again, if God loses His place, something else must take it. If you doubt the truth, you will believe some lie in its place! Where God is not trusted, Satan will be! To this day, wherever man is doubting God, he is building his happiness upon the devil's lie. Could men, if they believed God's word, go on happily in a course of disobedience and self-will? But they believe a lie. Their happiness in sin rests on believing the devil.

The truth is, man must trust some one! The man who doubts the love

and truth of God, having given up on God, must trust people. If someone asks him to sin, he will obey them, for they are now in the place of God to him. If we believe God, we are free. If we will not trust Him, we are the tool and slave of any thing or any one who is stronger or cleverer than we are.

Men see no harm in seeking to be gods—in setting themselves up to know or judge both good and evil. Self-glorying is thought to be no sin, while judging good and evil seems almost to be our work. But both are sin, for they rob God. They take His place, to put self into it. If God is dishonored, **self will be the center**. When that happens, man will come into an 'evil heart of unbelief.' Then he gives place to the world, the flesh and the devil. What he doesn't know is the truth that God's plan for His creation is to make them like Himself! Don't we, as parents, long to see our children take after us—at least, after our good points? That was first in God's Heart when He created man.

"God spoke: 'Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself...'"

This was God's plan all the time. The fall of our first parents into believing the devil's lies about God did not change God's plan one bit! In

fact, it was God who allowed him to enter the Garden and tempt this innocent pair.

Why would God do that? Well, look at it this way. They were as innocent as babies. You can't trust anything into the care of babies, now can you? So God planned that His man and woman would be put out of that perfect place and would be tested in ways that they never knew before. In other words, they needed to grow up. And when you grow up, you learn how to live. Adam would now have to work hard to grow food. It was no longer there just for the picking like it had been before. Eve would know pain in bearing children. And, after a lifetime of toil and struggle, they would die and their bodies would lie in the grave.

They had chosen to be like God, independently of God—by their own efforts, doing their 'own thing.' So, God was going to let them try to prove if they could be like God, knowing good and evil. They needed to know what their nature was like since the enemy had injected his lies into them. And, they needed to learn what their God was like so that they would love Him truly. And finally, they would learn the nature of the enemy who had lied to them about God.

They had no idea that their now-sinful natures would be passed on to their children from generation to generation. It didn't matter that they did

not sin in the same way. The nature of sin was in them and the end would be death.

4. Who Wants to Eat Dirt?

Some people think that God cursed mankind because the world is in such a mess. He did not do that! He cursed the serpent who tempted His children. And He said such a strange thing to him. Would you believe He said, "**....and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life...**" Genesis 3:14.

Okay—it's time for a science lesson. Do snakes eat **dirt**? I don't know one that does! They eat insects and small creatures, but not dirt. So, what is the Lord telling us here? Think really hard, now. Who is it that Satan would like to control and to take away from loving the Lord? Why, His creation, of course. His man and woman.

And, think again: what are they made of? Hmmm! It seems they are made of **dirt**, even the **dust of the ground**. So, listen carefully, for the Lord is painting a big picture in His **Picture Book** for us to see. Satan is not really a snake. He is a spirit who rebelled against God's authority and was cast out of heaven. He is able to take any form that he wishes to take.

When the Lord said Satan would eat dirt all the days of his life, He was telling him that he would be allowed to tempt mankind just as he had done in the Garden. Now, why would God allow that? Hadn't Satan done enough damage to His children? Why would He permit him to do any more?

This is what I have learned. If someone has wronged you with words, or deeds, you can forgive them or you can hold bitterness against them. If you choose to remain angry, Satan has permission from God to eat on your fleshly ways (your dust) and make you miserable.

If you choose to forgive, you feel all washed clean inside, and find you can pray for that person that the Lord will change his heart.

What happened in the Garden is not just a story in a book, nor is it just history. It is something that happens to us every day of our lives. In any point that we are not yielded to God, or our parents, or our teachers, the enemy can come and tempt us to be rebellious and follow his evil ways. The only way we can free ourselves from him is to repent and cry unto the Lord who has given us dominion over him. He cannot eat on our flesh if it is yielded to the Lord. That's the way the Lord set it up—so that we would learn the difference between good and evil the hard way! That would help us to grow up. How do you like that!

5. Clothed in the Garden

When the Woman took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, he ate it also. ***"Immediately, the two of them did 'see what's really going on'—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves. When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden. They hid from God. God called to the Man, 'Where are you?'"***

"He said, 'I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.'"

"God said, 'Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?'" Adam blamed his wife Eve (although he had received this command directly from God). Eve blamed the serpent. Some people think God cursed them for their disobedience, but He cursed the devil for doing this! He cursed the ground that man would till with his hard work, the sweat of his brow. He told him he would return unto the ground, for he was made of dust and would return unto dust!

Then, God did something unexpected which has a deep meaning for us. ***"Unto Adam and also to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."*** In order to make them coats, He had to

kill an animal. This would be the first death in the garden, and God had to perform it. He was painting a picture for mankind to show them that blood would have to be shed to cover their sin and to atone for it. The animal's blood would, for now, cover their sin until Jesus, the Lamb of God, would come and die on the cross to pay the debt of sin for every man. For almost 2000 years men would sacrifice animals and shed their blood as an offering for their sin, until Jesus came! His Blood would not only cover their sin; it would remove it and make it possible for them to put on the nature of the One who loved them and gave Himself for them!

Here is one of the beautiful pictures that God has painted in the scriptures: *a life paying the price for a life*. Yet, this was not the end of the matter. Since they had fallen from the truth and denied the love of God, they had, unknowingly, entered the enemy's camp and he was now their god. They would believe his word over God's! They stood in a condition of death but didn't understand yet what that meant.

God said He would have to put them out of the Garden. If He allowed them to remain and they ate of The Tree of Life, they would remain in their pitiful, fallen state forever. The Lord did not want that to happen, for He had plans to redeem them—to buy them back from the enemy's grip on their lives. So, He had no choice but to put them out of the Garden and set

a guard upon the gate. He did it out of love, in order that they would not always remain in their lost and dying condition!

6. God Makes A Picture-Book

Our first parents, Adam and Eve, listened to Satan who convinced them that God was not to be trusted. They were told that He didn't want them to be like Him—that He was grudging and mean. They felt they had no choice but to make their own way. "Who needs God, anyway? We can be like God in our own efforts. We know how to be a god!" Since that time, man has walked that way trying to be a god in his own right—not feeling any need of his Maker.

That attitude proved that God was right to let the devil into the Garden to tempt them. They didn't know or understand God's Love for them, so they chose to go their own way. In doing so, that bright presence of the Holy Spirit left them and they no longer talked with the Lord as before.

How do you suppose the Lord was going to bring them back to Himself? How could He teach them about Himself and His nature? First, they would see His beauty in all of nature which came forth from His Hand for them to enjoy. Then, He chose a small group of people He called the

children of Israel, to whom He would reveal Himself and the ways in which they ought to worship Him.

In case Israel thought they were better than others, He told them that He chose them because they were the fewest of all people. He loved them because He had sworn unto their fathers to keep covenant with them. The covenant was a promise that the Lord gave to Adam, and renewed to Noah, to Abraham, to all Israel at Mount Sinai, to King David, to the Prophets and the New Covenant to the believers. In each covenant He told of a Redeemer Who would come to deliver them from their fallen state and bring them back to fellowship with God.

To teach His people about Himself, He had them write a '**picture-book.**' How do we teach children? First, we give them things they can touch and handle. From touching, they go on to pictures. We give them pictures to represent things. If there is writing under the pictures, they can't read it for some time until they learn their **A, B, C's**.

That is just how God taught His people! He told Moses how the people were to worship Him. They did it like He said, making animal sacrifices, with the shedding of blood, to cover their sins. He gave them Ten Commandments to show them what His nature was like. Some say we should throw out all the commandments today since Jesus has come.

Would that make it alright to do the things that the commandments told us not to do? They all show us what God is like—what He would not do!

We do not keep the Ten Commandments to be approved of God, but because they tell us what God is like. He says we are not to lie, covet, steal, and we are to love Him with all of our hearts—would we want to change any of that?

The early believers who walked with the Lord were called 'patriarchs.' What the picture-book tells us about their lives teaches us many lessons. We need to always bear in mind that those things which happened back there are ***pictures*** from which we learn spiritual things. They are not the ***real things*** themselves—they are just pictures of the real things. The pictures were given to teach us the things of God until Jesus came and we could see clearly what God was like. And not only see, but partake of His Spirit which would reveal Him to us and work His nature in us!

Some churches say, "We don't need the Old Testament (God's Picture Book) today. Jesus has come and He is all we need to know about." They don't know that *Christ is concealed (hidden)* in those pictures and stories and lives that God gave us before Jesus came. Now that *Christ is revealed* in this New Testament time, we still need the pictures to explain many spiritual things. A number of believers today want to go

back to a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and restore animal sacrifices again.

They don't realize that that would be going backward! We now have the real Spirit of the Lord that Jesus sent us after He was resurrected. Why then should we sacrifice an animal for our sins when Jesus suffered and died for them to be forgiven? They want to go back to what the Picture-Book tells them, instead of seeing what the Picture-Book is telling them about Jesus Christ who is ***the reality of the pictures!***

If you loved me a lot and treasured a picture you had of me, what would you think if I appeared in person to you and we could hug each other and talk back and forth? Wouldn't that be better than admiring my picture? I think so, but many Christians want to hang on to ***the picture*** instead of welcoming the ***real***, who is the Lord Jesus Christ come to dwell in our hearts!

Born-again Christians are now the temple of God—made 'without hands' as Jesus said. His Blood is sufficient. He will never build another temple and we shall never again look to the blood of an animal to have our sins forgiven. *We have the real thing!* We have what the Picture-Book was pointing to!

7. A Free-Will Offering

I have had people ask me "Why did God let the serpent into the Garden? If He had kept the gate shut and kept this rebellious, wicked creature out, man would not have fallen into a sinful state."

I, too, have wondered about this, but once I understood, I have to admit that the Lord did everything right—even to allowing Satan to enter the Garden to tempt God's man and woman. It was no mistake on His part.

Adam and Eve were fresh from the Hand of God, made of the dust of the earth. Even though they were grown people, they were like innocent children. They knew very little about life. Here is how I will explain it: take, for example, a little baby. How well does he know his mother? All he knows is this lovely person who is so soft and warm, and comes to attend him every time he cries. She provides his food and cleanses his body when it needs it. She does everything for him.

But, he doesn't *know* her! He doesn't understand her nature or her love. She is, in his eyes, the one who meets his every need. That is about it! We talk about a child being *innocent* which means he doesn't have any knowledge of evil. This is how our first parents were. And, many people know God only in that way—as One who will meet their needs when they pray. They do not really know what He is like. I often say, "If people really knew what God is like, they would all want to serve Him!"

For the first 2000 years after our first parents were put out of the Garden, people walked in what we call The Age of Innocence. After that time, the Lord brought in the Ten Commandments which He gave to Moses. This showed the way in which man should walk because it showed us what God was like. Some people thought if they could just keep all those commandments, God would be pleased with them and they would be worthy enough to go to heaven.

But, there was a big problem here. No matter how hard they tried, they were unable to keep them. They wanted to, but they couldn't do it. Why? Because they had given themselves over to *self-worship* and they did not have the power of God to keep His commandments. Man can not keep them without His power, without a changed nature! Just try the first one, for example, which says we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, strength, and mind. A fallen person cannot do that, because he has too much self-love in him and not enough love for God.

In addition to the Ten Commandments, the Lord showed Moses how he was to set up a priesthood and organize the worship of the Lord. Moses was told how to prepare the temple and the furniture and the worship. Basically, there were offerings for sin given at special times. Some were compulsory—you *had* to give them if you wanted your sins to be covered,

and others you could offer freely if you wanted to, just to show your love for God. These last ones were called *a free-will or voluntary offering*. I never understood much about these until recently when the Lord showed me something about them.

In the past months there have been so many bad things happening in the world and trouble everywhere that my heart was becoming heavy with all the evil reports. I suddenly cried out to the Lord in my thoughts: "Lord, why don't You just deal with man's sin and not let it get so bad?" (I was, in fact, saying: "Stop them from sinning; stop them from their evil ways. You have the power to do it!")

I wasn't expecting an answer, but I got one! I heard the Spirit of the Lord inside me say, **"I want a free-will offering!"** I suddenly understood what He meant. He did not want children that He had to *force* into good behavior. That would not result in a change of nature! He wanted a life offered freely. The scriptures call it a free-will offering, or a voluntary offering. He does not want someone to serve Him grudgingly, but from the heart! Lev.1:3 and 7:16 mention this.

When I came home, I stopped to admire our prize rosebush. Last year it was spindly and had all of two blossoms. A friend came along in the fall and pruned it away back. Frankly, I thought it might never grow

again! To our surprise and joy, it is magnificent—bushy and loaded with huge red roses. As I admired it, I heard the Spirit say, "***And then comes the pruning.***"

The lesson all came together! To 'zap' a man's sin would never change his nature! He must offer himself freely unto the Lord and then the Lord will prune from him all the unfruitful branches and cut down all the works of the flesh so that His life could come forth in fruitfulness!

A week later as I was thinking about these things, I heard the Spirit say, "***I am going to prune nations!***" There is so much evil in every nation. The Bible says we are living in a day that was as wicked as the time when God sent the flood upon the world in Noah's time. This may be a worry or a concern to you, but the Lord needs to cut them down so that they may be fruitful! We are now in the time of the earth coming to a place where the Lord is arising to cut down whole nations so that righteousness might come forth. God is not judging the earth because He hates the people who are doing evil—He intends to cut them down to size, as the saying goes, to show that He is God and they will only be satisfied and happy when they know Him and walk in His ways.

8. The First Children

The first children that Adam and Eve had can teach us a lot about spiritual things. Their life is full of pictures for us to understand our way. I Corinthians 15:46 explains something we need to know. ***"We follow the sequence in Scripture. The First Adam received life, the Last Adam (Jesus) is a life-giving Spirit. Physical life comes first; then spiritual—a firm base shaped from the earth, a final completion coming out of heaven. The First Man was made out of earth, and people since then are earthy; the Second Man was made out of heaven, and people now can be heavenly. In the same way that we've worked from our earthly origins, let's embrace our heavenly ends."***

This is what the picture looks like: Cain was born first, so he is *the natural man*. Abel was born next, so he is *the spiritual man*. When we are born into this world we have a natural mind which tells us which way to go. It makes plenty of mistakes, for it is a fallen mind, influenced by the devil who planted his lies in the mind of our parents.

Then Abel is born and he stands for the spiritual mind. Both minds want to be accepted by God. I'm sure their parents told them that a life must be slain to cover their sin. They knew what God required. But, Cain was content to be *religious*. He was a good gardener and brought the fruit of the ground as an offering to the Lord. There is a mystery hidden here in

these offerings!

God required a life for a life! The life of the animal and its shed blood stood for the life of Jesus and His shed Blood which would be poured out for us in God's appointed time. In the meantime, they needed to understand what the 'picture' meant. God was not pleased with Cain's offering. In fact, He refused it which made Cain quite upset. After all, he had worked really hard to till the ground from which this offering came.

Ah, but this is where we have to think deeply. God is not talking about vegetables here, as if He is saying: "I don't like squash. Bring me some lamb chops." No, it was nothing like that. Cain brought the fruit of his ground—he was made from dirt! And, so he cultivated the dirt and brought forth something he thought would please his Creator. This thought came from his own mind, not from the mind of God! He refused to face the fact that he was a sinner and needed the sacrifice of a life in place of his own. He brought his own goodness, or self-righteousness, believing God would be pleased with it. He believed that *cultivating his ground*—by education, by self-improvement, or by any means to *improve* the fallen creature, was pleasing and acceptable.

Abel was a keeper of sheep so he offered the life of one of his sheep. This was an open confession of sin and the need for atonement through

death, which was a picture of the death of our Saviour. Cain was *religious* but Abel really wanted to *know God* because he was willing to obey Him. He set his heart to be a *worshipper*.

Both offer unto the Lord, hoping for His acceptance. The flesh desires to be accepted without *dying to selfhood* and this is impossible.

Cain was so angry because his offering was not accepted that he killed his brother Abel—the first murder on this earth. And how sad, when it was his own brother! We see here two minds at work. One, the natural, or carnal (fleshly) mind and the spiritual mind (which is the mind of Christ). The natural mind always wants to slay the spiritual man. He can't stand it that this man is accepted of the Lord and he is not!

Carnal (fleshly) men desire a religion to fill that empty place that is in all men—but what they offer to God is *the improvement of mankind*. But, God has cursed Cain's way. He said of him: "Cursed art thou from the earth." The carnal mind which lusts against the spirit is *cursed by God*.

Spiritual men see that sin must be judged in them and that their lives are no longer their own. They are to be yielded to the One Who paid the price of their redemption. That which the *Cains would cultivate*, the *Abels would bring to death*. Spiritual men take up their cross and die daily until Christ is

fully formed in them. Some seek to **improve self**, but spiritual men choose to **die to self**.

Is it wrong to try to improve mankind? Are we not called to do good works and to bring forth *fruit* in the earth? To understand this, we need to know something of the two offerings—the Burnt Offering and the Meal Offering which Israel offered to God for 1500 years. In one, a *life* was offered, and *fruits* in the other. God claims the **life** as His portion in creation. It represents what **man owes to God**.

The **fruit and herbs** were man's portion —what **we owe to man**. God accepts good fruits where the *life* has been *first given to God*.

Someone close to me was a very 'good' person, full of good works and helping people and groups working for good causes. She was religious, but she did not know God. One day the Lord gave me the opportunity to talk to her. She didn't know that she was offering Cain's offering--her own works, to the Lord for her acceptance. I explained to her how she needed to receive the *life* of Jesus for her sinful nature. Then she could do good deeds because she was a new creature, because she belonged to the Lord, rather than thinking by doing them she would gain her salvation! She had an open heart to my words and gave her life to the Lord and told me she had a different motive now to do good. It was not for her acceptance with God. It was because she

was His child that she wanted to show forth His Love. That's the difference between Cain's offering and Abel's offering!

This may still seem like a mystery to you. If it does, just ask the Lord to open up your spiritual understanding and He will make it plain to you.

9. Is Satan Still Eating Dust?

I said to someone once, "When Satan comes to tempt me now, or to accuse me, he doesn't find much dust to eat. He can't even make a sandwich anymore!"

I want to tell you why I said that. As Christians we are used to thinking of the devil as some Halloween character dressed up to frighten little kids. We don't seriously think he has anything to do with us. After all, we are good believers and we never venture into any of his playgrounds! He has nothing to do with us.

I wish that were so! I must tell you that it is not so. The enemy of our soul hasn't learned any new tricks since the one he used in the garden worked so well. He still uses it all the time. That is why the Bible calls him *the accuser of the brethren*. He doesn't try to scare us into following him—he just has to accuse us and convince us that God does not love us.

You might object to that: "No one would believe his words in our day

because we know that God loves us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross tells us so!" Hmm. I wish, oh how I wish that were true!

Hardly a day goes by but I am confronted by someone who is unhappy or depressed because they can't pray, or feel unworthy of God's love, or are depressed. Yet, they are dedicated believers who love the Lord and have served Him for some time. Why are they feeling like this?

Thoughts come into their minds that are accusing them or accusing others of being unloving, and that God does not accept them. A dear friend recently found her body was 'shutting down.' It was refusing to accept food—she could hardly swallow down any food. She told me about her life. All I knew about her was that she is a dear person who loves the Lord and is precious.

After a lot of sharing, the Lord caused me to understand why her body was shutting down. As a child she was always put down as the one who was less than the others—something like the story of Cinderella. She found even her Christian friends treated her like that. When she was in their presence she felt that they were thinking she was ignorant. Because she felt that way, she had a hard time talking—she couldn't get her words out clearly to say what she wanted to say. This made her feel that she really *was* ignorant and stupid and they didn't like her much.

The Lord caused me to understand that she had, for years, felt she was *unworthy to be loved*. In recent times, it had progressed to being *unworthy to live*. And that's when her body started 'shutting down.' This word was the answer to her health problem and how she felt about herself and her friends!

I asked her some pertinent questions. "Whose voice was telling her she was stupid or ignorant? Whose voice was telling her that her family and friends thought she was ignorant?" She looked at me rather surprised, so I continued.

"Would you tell yourself that? Would the Lord say that about you?"

She shook her head, "No!"

"Then, please tell me **who** was it who convinced you that you were ignorant and that your friends were thinking you were also?"

Her eyes got wide. She had never thought for one minute that she had been listening to the lies of the enemy against her and against the love of God from her friends! She was so spiritual and lived such a pure life that she never dreamed, for one minute, that the enemy had access to her "*dust*" and was injecting his lies into her mind. And she had been believing them!

We had a time of prayer in which she renounced (broke) the lies of

the enemy and refused him place in her mind to accuse her of being less than what she was in God! The following day she had a lunch date with some friends and she still suffered some fear at being with them. The Lord told me to ask her this question: "What do you call the daughter of a king?"

The answer, of course, is a 'princess.' So, she was encouraged to go, knowing herself to be a princess in God's eyes, and she had a lovely time. She felt at ease with her friends and was able to speak smoothly and eat without any hindrance. She felt she had overcome and was going to be careful not to receive the lies of the accuser any longer!

The following day I had a phone call from a new sister in the Lord. I knew nothing about her but the problem that was uppermost was that she was having a hard time to pray. She had been delivered from smoking and had gone back to it and was suffering a lot of guilt over that. She felt the Lord no longer accepted her so she had no liberty to share her heart freely with Him. Guess who was talking to her and putting guilt on her and speaking against the love of God?

I asked her the same questions as I did my friend. **Who** was speaking to her and causing her to fear that her Father didn't love her because she had `failed' Him? Learn this lesson from the Garden: guard

your mind. If there are thoughts that put you down, or say God doesn't love you, know that they are not from you, nor are they from God! Refuse them as lies and command them to be gone! Know that the nature of your Father is nothing like that! Do not let the enemy eat on your dust!

10. We Marred the Picture

Do you know how I am writing this book? I ask the Lord daily what He wants to share with His people. Sometimes He is silent and sometimes He gives me the words of a song, or the title of the next chapter to show me what He wants to share. Today I heard, 'We Marred the Picture.'

The word '*mar*' means '*to spoil the beauty of; damage; injure; to detract from the perfection or wholeness of; to spoil.*'

Who is the One who is drawing the pictures in this ***Picture Book*** that we call the Old Testament? Is it Moses or the prophets who told us how things should be? ***No! No!*** It was our God! He was the One Who told His children how to make the pictures and He told them to be careful not to mess it up by putting in their own ideas.

The works of some famous artists are worth millions of dollars. Some people try to copy one of these pictures and pass it off as the real thing so that they can get a lot of money for it. But, anyone who really knows

what the picture should look like, is not easily fooled by a copy, or an imitation.

The same thing can happen with spiritual 'pictures.' The true ones, untouched by man, unchanged from God's purposes, are very valuable to us as His children. But, if man tries to change the picture to profit by it, it is simply a cheap imitation and cannot set any man free or bring him nearer to His Maker.

When God first started giving Moses the pattern for the temple in which the people would worship, He warned Moses: ***"Be careful to do it exactly as you saw it on the Mountain." (King James says, "...according according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." (Heb. 8:5)***

Why was this so important? Simply because the pictures, examples, and shadows, were to show forth what *the real was like!* If man changed the picture they would get a distorted image of what God was like and He would have very little value in the eyes of the people. Sad to say, that is what has happened in our day. The pattern, the picture that God made has been so changed and altered that the majority of mankind have a false image of God. They imagine Him to be what the serpent said He was: one who was grudging and did not love, and who lied to His children!

How often have I said to Bill, "If people only knew how loving,

gracious and kind our heavenly Father is, they would come running to Him!"

Some of this generation of ministers hardly give the Old Testament a passing glance. They dismiss it with the words, "Oh, that was for the Jews. It's not for us today." They do not realize that they are throwing out the pattern, the blueprint of the spiritual building that God is making on the earth. There are many truths that they cannot "see" because the picture has been marred. No longer do they value what the Lord has given us for our spiritual growth.

Years ago I longed to know what the Old Testament meant by all those 'pictures.' I would read through chapter after chapter on how the temple was made and the order of their worship and I didn't understand a word I read. Finally, when I cried out to the Lord that I wanted to *know* what His Word meant back there, He told me, "I will show you when you are able to bear it."

Quite a few years went by before the Lord answered that prayer, but when He did, I was ready to hear it! He put into my hands a book called ***Types in Genesis*** by Andrew Jukes. It was written before the pictures had been so tampered with that you couldn't tell what they meant. I kept my nose in that book for several years until my heart was satisfied that I had found an *original* spiritual picture painted by the Great Artist Himself!

How I rejoiced to know what some of the types, shadows, and examples, of that Picture Book, meant. It changed my life! I want to share some of that understanding with you.

11. Color It Red

"....though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

"....though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18.

I woke up today with these verses ringing in my heart. And then I heard the title of this section: ***"Color it Red."*** I knew the Lord wanted me to tell you about the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for our sin.

From the age of an infant until I was 26 years old, I went to church. If anyone had asked if I was a Christian I would have replied with certainty, "Of course I am. I've attended church all my life!" But, truthfully, I didn't even know what made a person a Christian. I thought it was being good and attending church. I know there are multitudes who also believe this to be true. I didn't know anything about sin, nor about the Blood of Jesus. I didn't think of myself as a sinner, and I didn't know that the Blood of Jesus was shed to deliver me from sin.

Some people recognize Jesus as a great teacher, and a great prophet, but they do *not* recognize Him as a *sacrifice for sin*. Other religions admire Jesus but that doesn't make them Christians! ***What is it then that makes us Christians?*** It is His Blood—and faith in his Blood--not faith that He was a great teacher—not faith in His great goodness. If we count on any other thing, we are denying His Blood! It is only because of His Blood that anything has happened in the area of justification, redemption and forgiveness of sin. And that is what is important about the Blood.

One minister we knew used to say, "Slice the Bible anywhere, and it will bleed." Oh, I wonder what he meant by that! It means that the Blood of Jesus, shed for our sin, runs like a scarlet cord throughout the Bible, from beginning to end. As Adam had fallen when he decided to be like God independently of God, by self-effort, so in coming back into intimacy with God, we must acknowledge our great need of Him and confess that we can do nothing without Him!

If we have read the Old Testament, we know that the Israelites were told by God to offer up animal sacrifices for their sin. These did not take away their sin, but covered it until such time as Jesus, the *real Lamb of God*, should come and take it away! Romans 5:6-8 in The Message Bible tells us:

"Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't,

and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him."

Colossians 1:14 tells us, ***"God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much; the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating."***

I certainly believed that Jesus died on the cross. On Good Friday I would read about His passion and cry. But, that did not make me a Christian! I needed to have His Blood applied to my heart and I didn't know anything about that. I still counted on my good works to make me acceptable to God.

Genesis 2:7 tells us that man was created from the dust of the ground. The word "ground" is "Adam" or "Adama" so Adam was given that name because he was taken from the dust of the ground. He was

named after the ground!

We see this ultimately as the redemption of the earth or the Promised Land which is really your body because you are made of the dust of the earth. The land of Canaan was a type and shadow of *your bodies!* The Promised Land was a physical land inheritance for the nation of Israel when they came in under Joshua—*but that is not the whole picture!* The *real picture* is that *your body* (made of the dust of the ground), is the **real Canaan**—*the real* Promised Land, full of giants who have to be overcome! This body is *your* Promised Land! This is what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about.

Adam was made a living soul. The soul is in the blood. In the original Adam, the soul and the blood were linked together. The blood represents the soul. It is the Blood that *makes* an atonement for the soul. It is the blood that covers sin! Nothing else but the blood can cover sin! Balancing your bad deeds with some good deeds—that's not going to cover the bad deeds! Only Blood can cover sin.

Isaiah 53, the great chapter of the crucifixion, is a prophecy of Jesus' crucifixion. Verse 12 says, "**He poured out His soul unto death.**" The soul is in the blood, and in the sacrifice, the Blood was to be poured out upon the ground. It represented the soul being poured out. So, when Jesus' Blood was poured out upon the ground, His *soul* was being poured out unto

death!

We, as the Body of Christ, are crucified with Christ. We go through a piece of that same thing. If the world hated Him, you can be sure they will hate us. Many, throughout the centuries, have died for their faith as well. We also are given a taste of His sufferings. We have to learn to die to the death of the soul—death to the self-life.

It was not lawful to eat the blood of any animal. The blood was to be poured out upon the ground. It speaks of the offering of Jesus being made for the whole earth. Adam's sin was passed down through the generations, through the soul (the blood). Our blood is tainted with what we got from our parents, who got it from their parents who got it from Adam.

The virgin birth of Jesus is important because if He had been engendered or begotten by Joseph, He would have been the son of somebody who was the son of somebody and finally, the son of Adam. If that were the case, Jesus' soul would have been no different from ours—it would also be tainted. He would have been in need of a sacrifice Himself! He would not be eligible to become the sacrifice for sin because He would have had exactly the same problem that we do! This would have disqualified Him as a sacrifice for sin. He would have been in need of

redemption as much as the rest of us!

Those caught up in New Age teachings say that Jesus' Blood was no different from ours. If that is so, they are yet in their sins and there is no forgiveness for them. That belief robs Christ of His deity and makes Him the same as any other man!

When a baby is born and the mother cannot say who the father is, they have a blood test that can determine who the father is. They do not test the mother's blood, for the baby's blood originates from the father! The Blood of Jesus originated from His Father. When Mary protested that she **"knew not a man"**, the angel answered, **"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."** Luke 1:34-35.

The Law of God was very firm in that the sacrifice had to be without blemish. Hebrews 9:14 says, **"Through the Spirit, Christ offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice, freeing us from all those dead-end efforts to make ourselves respectable, so that we can live all-out for God."** It is quite clear that Jesus wants to redeem **all** of mankind, even the whole earth!

The law said that if an Israelite made a sacrifice outside the temple grounds, which many did, it was lawful. **But**, they had to bring the

blood to God at the temple in Jerusalem. It had to be applied in a correct manner under the altar. Jesus was crucified outside the city walls, outside the camp, on the Mount of Olives. He was legally sacrificed by people who were qualified to do that (the priesthood descended from Aaron).

Lev. 17:1-9 gives us the laws of sacrifice that are extremely important. According to these laws, "Any and every man who slaughters an ox or lamb or goat inside or outside the camp instead of bringing it to the entrance to the Tent of meeting to offer it to God in front of The Dwelling of God—that man is considered guilty of bloodshed; he has shed blood **and must be cut off from his people**. This is so the Israelites will bring to God the sacrifices that they're in the habit of sacrificing out in the open fields. They must no longer offer their sacrifices to goat-demons—a kind of religious orgy. Tell them: Any person(who) doesn't bring it to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice it to God, **that person must be cut off from his people.**"

What do you suppose that means? It means you are not a part of this particular tribe any more, or of this nation. It is not merely *genealogical*; it is **legal**. It's a matter of lawful citizenship. The law says that if you make a sacrifice outside the temple grounds, (which many did), it was lawful. **But,**

you had to bring the blood to God at the temple. It had ***to be applied correctly—on the ground under the altar. You had to bring the blood to the proper place! What this tells us is that Jesus is the fulfillment of all their sacrifices!***

He made a sacrifice, carrying His cross outside the camp —outside the city walls.

But what would they do with His Blood? We have to apply it properly to a place *where He has put His Name*. Where is that? If we were talking about lambs and goats and bullocks, we would have to bring that blood to the temple in Jerusalem. Before that, it was taken to Shiloh. Before that, it was taken to the Tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness. You had to take the blood to Jerusalem because it had to be applied properly!

But, when we come to Jesus Christ Who is the true Lamb of God and is that *better* sacrifice, the question is: ***"What do you do with His Blood?"***

You sprinkle it on the altar of your heart, according to Hebrews. Also, if you look at it in terms of Passover, you have to put His Blood on the lintels and the doorposts of the *house*. What house are we talking about? It's you! You are the house! Your forehead is where He has put His Name according to Rev. 22:4. He has placed His Name in your forehead—His Name is no longer in Jerusalem! His Name is no longer in Shiloh! He's 'been

there and done that!' He has moved on to a better address!

He moved out of Shiloh and moved to Jerusalem. And when that turned into a slum, He moved into the suburbs—that's us! He's not going back because *we have a better covenant; we have a better temple; we have a better priesthood; a better High Priest!* Read the Book of Hebrews to know that we are *not* going back at some future time, to what was worse back there!

The New Covenant is permanent. It is not just a temporary interlude between two Old Testament kingdoms as so many have tried to teach. It is not so! So—you have to do something with His Blood. You have to apply it to where He has put His Name. ***You are now the temple where the Blood of Christ must go.*** And, *if you do not do this, you lose your citizenship in Israel and your genealogy will make absolutely no difference.* You will not be acceptable with the Lord because you call yourself one of "the chosen people." Your only acceptance will be that the Blood of the Lamb of God has been received by faith.

I can attest that this is so. After 26 years of church-going and considering myself a model Christian, I received the Blood of Jesus for the remission of sins and I became a new creature. I received a new nature and the things I was interested in before held no more attraction for

me. And, the things of God of which I knew little, became my meat and drink.

Hearken not to those who, with deceit in their lips, will try to tell you that Jesus' Blood was the same as any other man's. Either He was Emmanuel, God with us, or we are yet in our sins, cut off from the nation of God and His people. The Picture that God painted for us is very clear on this point. We dare not miss it! ***Color this picture red!***

God guaranteed, by the Blood of Jesus, to remember my sins and iniquities no more!

He guaranteed, by the Blood of Jesus, to give me a Teacher who would cause me to personally know God.

He guaranteed, by the Blood of Jesus, that He would give me a new heart, and a new spirit, and that He would write his law on the inside of me so that I would live and walk by a new nature.

God has guaranteed to me, by the Blood of the Covenant, that He would be my God and I would be His person.

12. The Covenants of the Lord

From the beginning, the Lord made covenants with His people. He made the first one in the Garden when ***"God told the serpent: 'Because***

you've done this, you're cursed; cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head; you'll wound his heel."

This covenant has already happened, for Jesus was "wounded" at Calvary, and the serpent was defeated by His death on the cross! As His children, we have power over all the power of the enemy through Jesus' victory.

God spoke seven covenants in all, revealing to His people that He would send a Deliverer to them. Each covenant had some detail as to how they would recognize this Deliverer when He came. Two years ago the Lord dropped the word 'covenant' into my heart and I understood that He wanted me to know about the covenants. Before too long, He brought to me some tapes on the seven covenants of God. I now have them also on CD's and in writing. There are 15 lessons in all, and if you write and ask me for them, I will send them to you.

It was through these covenants to the patriarchs that we learn of the coming of the Lord. But to Israel, they seemed but vague scratches in the Picture Book of God. They said "Yes" to them at the beginning and then began to go their own way until God finally divorced them and said He would

make a *new covenant* with them. (God had a divorce?! Yes, He did.)

Almost everyone has heard of Joseph who was sold as a slave to the Egyptians by his jealous brothers. In God's time He was taken out of prison to save many people alive when a great famine hit the world. He was greatly loved and respected in Egypt, and his family was invited to live there and was given land and provision. The years went by and Joseph passed on and ***"A new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He spoke to his people in alarm, 'There are way too many of these Israelites for us to handle. We've got to do something: Let's devise a plan to contain them lest if there's a war they should join our enemies, or just walk off and leave us.'"***

"So they organized them into work-gangs and put them to hard labor. But the harder the Egyptians worked them the more children the Israelites had—children everywhere! So Pharaoh issued a general order to all his people: 'Every boy that is born, drown him in the Nile. But let the girls live.'" Exodus 1:8, 22.

When God renewed the covenant to Abraham, He told him that his seed, the children of Israel, would be ***"afflicted for 400 years"*** and then the Lord would deliver them and judge Egypt who had done this to them.

So, here is the scene: All the children of Israel are in captivity as slaves, in Egypt. All the baby boys are to be drowned. It sounds like a place of "no deliverance." Who could get them out of this mess? The Nile River, which was to be the means of wiping out the race, was used by God to save their Deliverer. Only God could have thought of that!

One brave mother hid baby Moses for three months. By faith she made a little basket and waterproofed it and set little Moses in it and set it afloat by the edge of the river. She was trusting that her God would watch over him so that he would come to no harm. God did more than that! He picked him out of that basket and set him in the Pharaoh's palace! The Pharaoh's daughter, who was childless, saw this child floating in the water, and took him home to be her own son. I'd call that a "Wow!" wouldn't you?

13. Jesus is the Lamb of God

Moses was brought up in the palace of the Pharaoh but when the 400 years were almost up, he left his place of honor to join his own people, the captive slaves. They were not too sure he was going to deliver them, for every time he went to Pharaoh to demand that he set them free, Pharaoh made harder demands on their work. But, God got really serious

about setting them free. He gave Moses a rod and when He told him to speak a judgment, it happened just as he said. I will not go into all the plagues he brought upon the land—you can read them in the Book of Exodus. I will just say this: He, one by one, brought judgment upon all the idol gods that the Egyptians worshipped. For example, "You like frogs? I'll give you frogs" until there were frogs everywhere!

They worshipped the Nile River so the Lord turned it into blood. By each plague, He was showing His sovereignty—that He was God over all—that no idol-gods could stand before Him! Finally, when Pharaoh continually refused to let the people go, Moses issued a final judgment from God: ***"At midnight I will go through Egypt and every firstborn child in Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave girl working at her hand mill. Also the firstborn of animals. Widespread wailing will erupt all over the country, lament such as has never been and never will be again. But against the Israelites—man, woman, or animal—there won't be so much as a dog's bark, so that you'll know that God makes a clear distinction between Egypt and Israel.***

"Then all these servants of yours will go to their knees, begging me to leave, 'Leave! You and all the people who follow you!'

And I will most certainly leave." Ex. 11:4-8.

After these last words with Pharaoh, the Lord gets out His paint brush and with bright, bold strokes paints a picture that will not soon be forgotten. Because it is such an important lesson that He has to teach His people, He draws a picture that will be told as long as the earth survives. Yet, there will be many people, especially in our generation, who will not "get it." They will see the picture just as something that happened to those people 'back there'. They will not realize that it was a shadow of something *real* that would happen *to them* when Jesus came!

Here is how the picture starts: The Israelites were told to take a lamb to their house. If there were not enough people to eat all the lamb, they were to invite some others to share it with them because it must all be eaten. If there should be any left over, it would have to be burnt. They couldn't put it outside for the dogs to eat *because it represented the Lord Jesus Christ.*

They were told to put the blood of the lamb on the lintels (the beam over the door), and on the side posts of their doors, the entrance to the houses. When they did this, the death angel would pass over them. They were also told to be ready to travel, for the Lord was going to deliver them as He said: ***"The blood will serve as a sign on the houses where***

you live. When I see the blood I will pass over you—no disaster will touch you when I strike the land of Egypt." Exodus 12:13.

Now, this is an exciting story in itself, but it is but a shadow or a picture of something great and wonderful that would happen in the spirit! Moses told them this day was to be remembered as a memorial and would be celebrated as the ***Feast of Passover***—when the Lord passed over them. It paints a picture of the time that we gave ourselves to Jesus and asked Him to come into our lives as our Saviour. When we did that, the Blood of the Lamb of God was applied to our minds and we received a *new life*. We passed from death unto life, no longer to walk in the ways of old Adam, but to learn the new ways of the Spirit of Christ who had entered our life. It is so real that the Lord says that ***we are now His temple—not some building of clay***. That is why it is such a big, important picture. And, when we receive His Blood for the forgiveness of sins, we begin to leave Egypt—the ways of the world and the carnal nature, just like the Israelites left Egypt that night in the midst of the wailing of the people.

We should also consider the lamb. It had to be without blemish, for it spoke of the pure, holy Lamb of God. And, with this feast they would eat a certain kind of bread—unleavened bread which had no yeast in it. What's wrong with yeast? I thought all bread had yeast in it. The priests

were forbidden to put yeast or honey on the altar to offer it to the Lord. Yeast is a form of *leaven*. Leaven is "something that will cause fermentation and raise dough; an influence that spreads silently and strongly, changing opinions or conditions." Well, tell me, what could be wrong with that?

Remember what happened in the Garden? It just took a little "leaven" of doubt of God's Love and our parents were ready to leave Him and do their own thing! We cannot offer an attitude like that to the Lord! The bread that is eaten with the unblemished Lamb must not be anything that would 'lift up self.' So, it is flat bread—no leaven—because ***it represents our Lord.***

Well, okay, I guess I can see why the Lord wouldn't want leaven in the Passover bread. But, what's wrong with honey? He said He didn't want us to offer that to Him either. I don't get it!

Oh, but the Lord is so faithful to tell us what His pictures mean so that we will know how to walk and what it is that pleases Him. Honey is our own goodness, our own sweetness, and we can't put that on the altar either! We all know people who are 'so sweet', but mention the name of Jesus and their sweetness changes to sourness because they have no place in their lives for Him. The Lord doesn't want our 'baddies' and neither does He want our 'goodies', for He alone is worthy. ***"Worthy is the Lamb that***

was slain."

"Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose... and they shall not appear before the Lord empty." Deuteronomy 16:16. So, there are *three feasts* that Israel was commanded to keep each year. They are called ***The Feast of Passover, The Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles.*** These feasts are God's way of showing us how He will grow us up and the various stages we will go through in our spiritual growth.

It sounds to me like only the men and boys will be allowed to be a part of these feasts. But God says He is no respecter of persons, so I don't think He would prefer men to ladies or girls. Actually, when He says 'males' here He is referring to those *in the spirit*. *A female represents the soul and the male represents the spirit*, in scripture. So the Lord is actually saying, in this picture: "All you spiritual ones--you are going to come before Me in three different experiences. They are called Feasts in the Old Testament, but ***today we enter into a spiritual experience at Passover and every one of the Feasts.*** And the Lord said, ***"And it's going to be in the place that I shall choose."***

We have talked about the place the Lord shall choose to put His Name (His nature) and it is in all those who receive Him as their Saviour and

accept the Blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. In New Testament times, the picture has turned *to reality*. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world has come, and we will never be the same! *We are now His temple in whom He chooses to dwell.*

But, don't we have to bring something or do something? Let's see what Deut. 16:16 says about that. **"....and they shall not appear before the Lord empty."** I asked the Lord what I could bring and He told me, "Just bring your open heart!" So I did, along with my love and thanks, and I'm sure you did too!

14. The Passover Age

We need to know what the word "age" means so that we can understand God's workings with us. I told you how very important the eating of the lamb and the deliverance from Egypt was. Now I will tell you that it opened up a new age. What is that? An age is a period in which God works in a certain manner. An age will last as long as it takes for God to accomplish what is needed for that period of time.

It's something like going to school. You remain in the lower grades until you have learned all the lessons there so that you are able to learn more difficult things. Then you are promoted, and promoted again until

you are ready to graduate. The children of Israel had walked in the Age of Innocence for 2500 years and now it was time to give them lessons about how they should be brought back to fellowship with God. For, be sure of this one thing: God was their Father and He had a plan to bring them back to Himself. It was a long-range plan, but a good one, for it would bring all people to know Him and to walk with Him—His family!

And, this was His plan from the beginning. He said it like this: ***"Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature--So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of the Earth. God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: 'Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."*** Genesis 2:26-28.

God had spoken through the prophets to the patriarchs like Noah, Abraham, David, and others, that He would send a Saviour and Redeemer to bring them back to Him and set them free from the lie of the serpent. Now, He gives them a picture that is not just in words, but in

actions: take a lamb, eat it all with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Put the blood over the doorpost! Get ready to leave, for I am setting you free from your bondage!

Here is a picture of a new dealing of God in the age that would last for 1500 years, until Jesus came. It would be known as ***the Passover Age***. In it, God would teach them that the Lamb of God would come and not only *cover* their sin, but *set them free from sin*. During this age, on the day they celebrated their deliverance, the Lord told each family to take a lamb and hold a feast just like they did the first time. There was a certain flock of lambs raised just for this purpose. In addition to this, the High Priest would slay a lamb on behalf of all the people and take its blood into the Holy Place on the Day of Atonement. It would be offered for the sins of the people and for their forgiveness.

This was an important day for the people. When this offering was made, every person was forgiven; their sins were covered for a whole year. If they should die within that year, they could expect to go to heaven (which they called 'Abraham's bosom.')

When you think of Passover, think of the ***Blood of Jesus*** that would be shed for our sins, for the little lamb spoke of Him.

They did this faithfully for around 1500 years until it was time for

Jesus to come on the scene. Would you like to open the *Picture Book* and see what it was like the day the *real Lamb of God came*? Yes, I thought you would.

The little lamb, that was to be offered for all the people, was without spot or blemish. It entered Jerusalem by the Mount of Olives. A great procession of priests and people followed it, waving palm branches and singing Psalm 18: (Here's a part of it):

*"Thank God because He's good,
because His love never quits.*

Tell the world, Israel,

`His love never quits.

'And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world,

`His love never quits.'

And you who fear God, join in,

`His love never quits."

The little lamb was escorted to the temple grounds where a place had been prepared for him in a public place. People could come for four days and inspect him to see if he was truly without any defect. He had to be perfect because he was a type and shadow, a picture of the *real Lamb of God who should come to take away the sin of the world!*

If the little lamb had any blemish he could not be a fit sacrifice for the sins of the people and their sins would not be covered for that year. So, this was important!

On the day appointed by the Father, shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus was walking into Jerusalem on this day. He was led to follow the trail of the little lamb who would be sacrificed on the Day of Atonement.

"...the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered. Hosannah! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel!"

"The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him. (the Picture-Book was true!) The crowd that had been with him when He called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-sign that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. The Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands: 'It's out of control. The world's in a stampede after Him.'"

While the crowds were examining the little lamb, the priests were

examining Jesus—asking Him difficult questions, trying to 'trip Him up' if they could. Just as the little lamb was open to the public to examine for four days, the Lamb of God was also examined by the Pharisees for the same period of time. Then, He was arrested and hauled away to be tried. The priests and soldiers did this at night, even though it was against the law to try anyone during the night! (When no one could help or speak for that person).

Finally, Pilate said, "Let us examine Him by scourging and let Him go." They beat Him but He kept silent. Though He was reviled and spoken against, He didn't do anything nasty back to them. He, too, was found to be without spot or blemish, for Pilate said, ***"I find no fault in him."***

The Picture that God drew was perfect even to the least detail. Whatever the little lamb did, the real Lamb did also. After they held court all night and condemned Jesus to die, at the third hour (9 a.m.) the little lamb down in the temple was bound to an altar of sacrifice. At the same hour, Jesus was both tied and nailed to the cross.

For six hours both little lamb and the Lamb of God (Jesus) awaited death. At the sixth hour, which was noon, a strange thing happened. ***"The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a***

total blackout." Luke 23:44 Someone suggested that this happened so that the little lamb would not be killed first, for it was time for the ***real Lamb*** to be offered! They could not slay any of the lambs in the darkness. Before the darkness lifted, at the 9th hour (3 p.m.), Jesus died, saying, "***It is finished.***"

Over in the temple, after the darkness lifted, the High Priest took a knife and killed the little lamb, saying: "***It is finished.***" It was not possible that, on this year, the little lamb should be slain for the sins of the people! The ***real Lamb*** had come as we are told in I Corinthians 5:7 "***For even Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.***"

The sins of the people would no longer be just covered over from year to year. The Lord gave His very life that those who received Him might receive of His life-giving spirit. His spirit had power to cleanse them from sin, and to begin to deliver them from the lie in which they had walked!

Forty years after the death of Jesus, the temple was completely destroyed. That was a loud, clear statement from the Lord saying that animal sacrifices and worship in a temple building were over for good! The *real temple* was now in the heart of a believer where the spirit of Jesus dwelt! If anyone suggests that we should go back to Jerusalem to build another temple, do not believe them. ***The Passover Age*** is finished! It has

been fulfilled and we are graduating to the next level in the Lord.

15. Why the Wilderness?

Before I tell you what the next classroom is that we are to pass into, I have to open up the Picture Book once again and see what the Lord showed about it long before it happened. The Lord drew the picture of the Age of Passover 1500 years before it actually happened in a *spiritual experience when Jesus came*. The Feast of Passover was a spiritual experience. And, if you have received Jesus as your Saviour, you know that is true. At *Passover your **spirit** was quickened and made alive*.

Where does that leave us? It's graduation time! We can now anticipate passing into the next lessons (or Age) that the Lord has for us that will bring us closer to Him and grow us up some more! The Picture Book will tell us all about it. It is called the ***Feast of Pentecost***, or the Feast of Weeks because it is 7 weeks and a day following Passover. "Penta" means ***"fifty."*** (I'm not going to give you a lot of numbers to remember, but you should remember "fifty" is connected to the Feast of Pentecost.) I will tell you where it fits in the picture when we come to it. You will be surprised how the Lord does everything in perfect order and right on time! If He didn't have everything in perfect order, all the stars and planets in the

heavens would be bumping into each other, wouldn't they?

The children of Israel were really excited that God had 'come down' to deliver them, and the Egyptians were now *begging* them to leave. They had worked for 430 years as slaves without wages. Now, their God was setting them free! But freedom is not without its problems. First of all, "Where are we going? What are we going to do for money?"

The elders of the tribes knew well the promises made to their fathers of a 'land flowing with milk and honey' that the Lord had covenanted to give them. If they took the direct route, they could be there in several week's time!

As for the money part, the Lord told them, through Moses, to lean over the fence and say to their Egyptian neighbors, "I'll take all of your gold, please."

The people threw their gold and jewellery at them saying, "Take it! Take it!" The fear of God was upon them. So, God's children got paid for 430 years of free labor all at one time! There were over two million "happy campers" ready to leave Egypt.

But this was no small move. They couldn't call for a moving van or a U-Haul truck. They just had to move their feet one step at a time. And there would be no fast-food places along the way where they could eat, and

no motels in which to rest. So, although they were happy to be set free from slavery, they had certain fears as to how they would live while walking to the Promised Land.

I want to stretch your minds a little here because it is hard for us to imagine what it must have been like. A Quartermaster General in the Army of our day figured how much food that number of people would need each day. You need to know this to get a glimpse of how big our God is. When He says, "I will meet your every need," He is quite able to do it!

According to his report, Moses would have needed **1500 tons of food each day**. To bring that much food, two freight trains, each at least a mile long, would be needed. And, it would take 11,000,000 gallons of water (just to drink and wash a few dishes). And then, how would they get across the Red Sea at night? If they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and take 35 days and nights to get through. So, there had to be a space in the Red Sea, three miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast to get over in one night. And for camping—they needed a space of 750 square miles!

In our day, the place where they crossed has been found. And, in the sea there they found chariot wheels from the Egyptians who chased after them to bring them back. The Egyptians all drowned in the water

which closed in after the Israelites walked safely across. This is a *true* picture!

Their route would take them across a barren desert that the Bible calls 'the wilderness'. In the daytime, the sun beat down upon their heads, and at night it was cold. They had no air conditioning to help them to stand these harsh conditions, so the Lord sent a Cloud in which His Spirit dwelt. It became like an enormous mushroom covering the whole camp and protecting them from the heat and the cold. Better yet, the Lord had come to be their Guide. He said to Moses, "Follow the Cloud. I will lead you. When it moves, you move. When it stays still, you should also stay still."

There are many stories I could tell you about how the Lord provided for their every need—daily food, and their clothes didn't wear out; they were free from sickness--but you can read about them all in the Book of Exodus. We need to go on to learn more about the wilderness journey.

If you know anything about their journey, one word would tell you the attitude of the people. That word is '***murmuring.***' This word means "to complain under the breath; grumble." Yes, they were going through a desert place full of cactus, snakes, and unbearable heat. But, the Lord was with them, taking care of their every need.

Sadly, many of them didn't see it that way. They began to long for

the flesh pots of Egypt, and the leeks and garlic that they loved. They began to accuse Moses and Aaron of bringing them into this wilderness to kill them with hunger. It seems they forgot what it was like to be a slave! Moses told them, "Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord."

They longed for meat, and the Lord sent flocks of quail to eat. When they needed water, the Lord brought it forth from a rock when Moses spoke to it at the Lord's command. Things were not always just how they wanted them, but the Lord was with them and met their needs to keep them alive and well. Because of their murmuring, the Lord led them the long way to the Promised Land. It took them 40 years to get to a place that was only two week's travel away!

Now, why would the Lord do that to them? He knew the shorter way—why didn't He lead them that way? Here is what the Lord says about that: ***"And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, and to prove your, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or no.***

"And he humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers

know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord does man live...You shall also consider in your heart, that, as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you."

Deuteronomy 8:2,3,5.

It sounds like the Lord had some rebellious teenage children to deal with so he disciplined them by the many trials they had to face in the wilderness. He didn't do that to punish them, but to teach them, to correct by punishment or suffering, to purify them. That is what 'chasten' means. If you have good parents, that is how they treat you. They let you learn your lessons the hard way so that you will not repeat them.

A young man in our family is gifted with more than his share of brains, so he thought he didn't have to work at school. When the end of Grade 11 came, he failed his grade and went into depression over it. I was glad to hear it because he could not continue on in life proudly thinking that he was so smart that he didn't need to work! That is what I call a chastening of the Lord—it was for his correction, his purifying. I've had my share of that kind of treatment to humble me, to prove me, and I am so glad the Lord did not let me continue in my own wayward ways.

This was the reason the Lord took them 'the long way round'. They

needed to grow up and learn some lessons!

In time, they found themselves at Mount Sinai, where Moses was given the Ten Commandments. I am not going to talk about them because you may read them all in the Book of Deuteronomy. Some people think, "If I can just keep all the commandments, God will accept me. I will be assured of going to heaven!" That sounds like a good plan, but it doesn't work. God never gave them as a 'magic entrance' to heaven! He showed us what His nature is like, and we found, try as we might, we couldn't keep them. They couldn't keep them back there, and we can't keep them today.

We can't even keep the first one, let alone all the rest! It says, ***"Thou shalt have none other gods before Me."*** We can't keep even this one until the Spirit of the Lord comes to live in our hearts and makes us a new person. He promised the day would come (and it is here!) when He would write His laws upon our hearts. They would no longer be words written upon a stone tablet. They would be words written in our heart. We would keep them because the nature of Christ is within us and He gives us the power to keep them!

Sadly, though, Israel did not keep God's holy laws for long. If they were living among people who worshipped idols, they soon started

worshipping them too. One idol god, named Moloch, was very evil. In their worship, they sacrificed their firstborn to the flames in the giant mouth of the idol. When the baby was burned up they believed that now all the rest of their family was safe, for the firstborn had been a sacrifice for the family. It looks like Satan was, once again, imitating what God planned to do. God would offer up His own Son, not just for one family, but for the world! But, the Israelites bought into Satan's lie and left themselves open for the judgment of God to come upon them.

Moses gave them God's word--warning them of watching their heart-attitudes when they entered this good land. ***"Make sure you don't forget God, your God, by not keeping his commandments, his rules and regulations that I command you today. Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget God, your God,***

.....the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery;

.....the God who led you through that huge and fearsome wilderness, those desolate, and badlands crawling with fiery

snakes and scorpions;

.....the God who gave you water gushing from hard rock,

.....the God who gave you manna to eat in the wilderness..

"If you start thinking to yourselves, `I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!'—well, think again. Remember that God, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.

"If you forget, forget God, your God, and start taking up with other gods, I'm on record right now as giving you firm warning: that will be the end of you: I mean it—destruction. You'll go to your doom—the same as the nations God is destroying before you; doom because you wouldn't obey the Voice of God, your God."

This Picture Book is getting pretty big and wide! What it says is not just for that day and that people back there, but it is for all of creation, everywhere. Look around you today and you will find that:

.....there are ***idols*** set up everywhere. They have different names today. There are ***SPORT IDOLS*** who make millions of dollars a year and are idolized by their fans who probably spend more time watching them than they spend thinking about the Lord!

.....there are **ENTERTAINMENT IDOLS** who also make millions of dollars a year. Their fans adore them and are anxious to hear every little detail about their lives, although their lives are not godly and do not provide a good example for young people to follow. Yet, they are worshipped!

.....there is the **IDOL OF WEALTH** where the goal in life seems to be making the most money possible—by fair means or by cheating. Success in life is measured by how much money and 'things' that you have! Israel made a golden calf to worship when they thought Moses was not coming back from meeting with God to receive the commandments. They are still worshipping gold in this day.

.....there is the **IDOL OF SEX** which has taken over in every area of our society. Sex is used to entice people to buy things, to dress a certain way because sex is affecting the fashion industry--almost everything is tainted with sex.

The Lord created us as sexual beings, to love and to fill the earth with our offspring and to bring them up to know Him and to love Him. What He gave us is holy and pure, but man has turned it into something evil until 'anything goes'. Homosexuality, which God says that He hates—is an abomination to Him, is now acceptable behaviour. We permit people to

parade through the streets, celebrating their freedom to 'do their own thing', when what they are doing is against the very nature of God!

Do you think that God is going to look the other way and pretend that everything is alright--that His children are being obedient to His Word? History will tell us if that is so. Both the ten tribes of Israel and the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin were taken into captivity for disobedience. The Lord gave them time to repent, after sending His prophets to warn them.

Now, we see the whole world trying to shut God out of their lives. They feel they can do quite well without Him! But, just take a look around and see that the idols are falling all over the place. The wicked people in high places who have stolen millions of the people's money are being exposed and sent to jail. The Lord is taking the covering off in many areas so that the truth of the evil is showing forth. And—be sure of this, God is going to judge all nations who have forgotten Him and have set up other gods in His place. He is going to bring them down and it's going to be hard times. But it is necessary, for He plans to birth ***a new day*** where He will be loved and honored. *His obedient people will bring in His kingdom and He will rule in their midst!*

So, if you're afraid and anxious when you see the economy fall, and

hard times come, take heart because the Lord is in it all. He is judging the evil that righteousness might come forth and reign in the earth. It is called the **KINGDOM OF GOD** and it is time for it to come forth. Wickedness has come to its full and it is judgment time. It is the Day of the Lord and the Lord is now going to have His way through a people who love Him and are obedient to Him! I hope you are one of those.

16. The Age of Pentecost

Exodus Ch. 19:4-8 tells us something that many people have missed. God is about to come down to talk to His people. Up until now He had talked to them through Moses, but not directly to them. First, Moses called for the elders of the people and laid before them all the words which the Lord had given him. ***"You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself. Now therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation....."***

"And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

I'll tell you what was happening here that we have missed. This is where God and Israel entered into **a marriage covenant** with the Lord! God said His part of the covenant and they agreed to it. They said, "We will" just like a bride and groom say to each other in the marriage ceremony. (Some people say that marriage is 'Just a piece of paper' but it is a holy covenant instituted by God.) Here, **God marries Israel! She becomes God's wife.**

(Sad to say, Jeremiah 3:8 tells us how God divorced Israel later on for her continual unfaithfulness to Him.)

After that covenant was made, God tells Moses that He is coming down in three days to talk to His people. He gives directions as to how they should cleanse themselves for this meeting. Exodus Ch. 19.

God didn't arrive quietly! **"On the third day at daybreak, there were loud claps of thunder, flashes of lightning, a thick cloud covering the mountain, and an ear-piercing trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp shuddered in fear. ...They stood at attention at the base of the mountain.**

"All the people, experiencing the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the smoking mountain, were afraid—they pulled back and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, 'You

“speak to us and we'll listen, but don't have God speak to us or we'll die.”

I used to think that was a funny reaction because I *wanted* God to speak to me! I didn't know for some time why they felt like that until it happened to me.

"What happened to you, Elaine?"

Well, it's like this: I was brought up as 'a proper child'—I was given the impression that our family did everything 'right' and as for other people, we weren't sure about them! That was Pride, with a capital P, but I didn't know that. I thought we were just 'good people.'

One night, as I was closing up my Candy Store, I saw the town drunk staggering home. Despising rose in my heart toward him and I wondered how he could be like that! Suddenly, the voice of the Spirit inside of me spoke, "Tomorrow when he awakes, he may repent of his life and wish he could do differently, but you—you have never repented of your pride!" Oh me, oh my! I was cut down like a tree that was blown down by a strong wind.

I never realized that I had any pride—in fact, I thought our family did everything 'right.' My heart was smitten! I didn't know it at the time, but I had come to the place where God had 'come down' to speak with me, just

like He did in the wilderness. I had recently received the baptism in the Spirit and that is when the ***Voice of God*** becomes alive within you. At Passover, my ***spirit*** was made alive, but now at Pentecost, the Lord was dealing with ***my soul***.

My soul means my mind, will, emotions, desires, and affections all the ways in which I express *self*. And yes, I saw that I would have to ***die to the ways of self*** when the Voice of God came into my life. He would speak the truth and bring to my attention things that I needed to bring to death. I couldn't do it in my own strength, but He would do it if I yielded those ways up to Him. (He dealt with my pride for a long time.) And, that is what Pentecost is all about—and that's why they took *the long way* to the Promised Land—because the Lord was dealing with their self-life, which doesn't die easily!

When Israel drew back from hearing God's Voice, and asked Moses to speak for Him, it tells us what Pentecost is like. We have the Spirit who wants to talk to us, but if we listen to Him, He is going to bring the Adam-man (who likes to do things his own way), to death. We can't let that happen, so we will listen to some Moses (or some pastor over us who will tell us what God says.) That way, we can continue doing our 'own thing', even 'our own way.' We can let that fallen man live when the new

man, the spirit of Jesus, wants to speak to us and direct our lives!

This meeting at the foot of Mount Sinai on ***the Day of Pentecost*** was to be something that they were to remember at the same time every year. It was another feast day. So, what did they serve? Did they have turkey and all the trimmings? No. Once again, they had lamb and one cattle beast with a meal offering and drink offerings. Most Bibles say they had a new 'meat' offering, but that is not correct. It should be 'meal', for it was a cereal or grain offering along with the meat.

Why is this important? Because there is a truth hidden in this picture that the Lord wants us to see. When we find the clues we will find it is very easy to understand. The first clue is: it was not the same kind of bread that they ate at the Feast of Passover. What was different about it? Lev. 23:17 tells us that they were to offer up two loaves ***baked with leaven***. What? God just told us that leaven, which speaks of malice and sin, can never be put on His altar!

We need another clue because this doesn't fit! The bread at Passover had no leaven in it because it was a picture of Jesus who was the spotless Lamb. Pilate said: "I find no fault in Him."

This bread that is eaten at Pentecost is baked *with leaven* because it is a picture of the *Body of Christ*. It was the time the Holy Spirit came

down and anointed those who believed on Him. From that time, they had His power within to rise above the fallen nature of Adam in which they had been born. The Spirit would bring that old nature to death and teach them how to live in the new nature of Christ's Spirit! So, that bread spoke of His Church which still has uncleanness (leaven) in it. He knew all along what was in us!

How could He receive our love as an offering to Him if we are not without blemish, and are not clean enough to be put upon His altar? The Lord thinks of everything! He told the priests how this should be done. Instead of putting the bread and the animal sacrifices on the altar, he was to *wave them before the Lord*. The leavened bread was put on top of the slain animals and all was waved before the Lord. The bread (His unclean Body), could be accepted because it was presented along with the finished work that Jesus had done on the cross, as the Lamb of God. His Body was not clean in itself, but only in what Jesus had done for it in His sacrifice for them!

This may be hard for you to understand, but the Lord made it real to me in a personal way. One day He put His finger on something in my life that He wanted me to let Him cleanse from me. Oh, I was so embarrassed to know that was in me! The Lord saw that and told me, "I knew all along

that was there. You are the only one who didn't know!"

And then, He reminded me of the bread baked with leaven—He had drawn that picture such a long time ago because He knew what His church (or Body on earth) would be like. When they received His Spirit at Pentecost, that would be their condition. It would take the Holy Spirit a long time to clean them up so that He could fill *them* with a full measure of His Spirit. What He gave them at Pentecost was but a very small token of what He had for them when their self-life had been laid down!

So, Pentecost is known by the word **VOICE**; just like Passover is known by the word **BLOOD**. At Pentecost, we receive only a small portion of our inheritance. We are just like Israel, who spent a long time in the wilderness before they went into the Promised Land. This time is needful for the Lord to have time to deal with our self-life and to teach us how to yield to His Voice!

Sad to say, most Christians today do *not* hear the Voice of the Lord. They are so used to hearing words from God through their pastor when God wants to speak to His wife personally. If you share in a church setting what the Lord is saying to you, you may be invited to leave. Hearing from God is not considered acceptable in most churches. That is why the Lord is calling out a people to whom He might speak freely and deal with their self-

life. This is necessary, for there is another classroom, another age, to enter into and He must prepare a people for that.

Now that we have read in the Picture Book what the Feast of Pentecost would be like, let us look at Acts Ch. 2 to see what it was like when it actually happened. This is the *real* of what the picture showed us! First, we'll look at the time frame. Acts 1:2-5, ***"After His death, He presented Himself alive to them in many different settings in over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, He talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, He told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but 'must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from Me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon."***

The disciples waited in an upper room and they had no idea how long they would have to wait there for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Although it was all written in the Picture Book, they didn't understand it. Remember I told you that Pentecost means "fiftieth?" Let's do some math now. Can we do that?

Okay from Passover (when Jesus died on the cross), Jesus walked on earth for 40 days. Then He said, "Now, wait for the promise!" The next

word to look at is: Acts 2:1, where it says: ***"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."*** They didn't know they were waiting for the Feast of Pentecost to be fulfilled in the Spirit in them! 40 days + 10 = 50! They needed to wait 10 days! And, when the 50 days was fully come, ***"they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them."***

"There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, 'Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?.... They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

I told you that in this Feast, our self-life would be dealt with. Here we see the first thing that God takes control of—the tongue. He told us in

James Ch. 3 that **"the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."** The Lord took the part of us that is the most unruly—the part that wants to express *self* all the time, and put down others, and caused it to *yield* to let the Spirit speak through it of His wonderful works! How do you like that?

A yielded tongue—yielded will—these are the first stages of our dying to our self-life. The seed that was sown in us at Passover is now being watered in Pentecost.

There are many churches that teach that the in-filling of the Holy Spirit is 'of the devil', or 'it is not for us today.' Both of these are lies, for Peter said, in Acts 2:38, **"Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites."**

How shall we deal with our self-life without the Holy Spirit to deal with our hearts and put His finger on what He wants us to give to Him! If a man should tell us he doesn't like something about us, we are liable to be upset with that man. But, if the Holy Spirit tells you the same thing, it's altogether different. You feel His love and want to please Him and not keep any wrong attitude or habit because of your love for Him. He has such a way with us that we *want* Him to write His commandments upon the fleshly

tables of our hearts like He promised He would do!

17. The Sabbath Rest

I have a lovely young girl, Mary Sesay, who lives with her Mother and family right next to us. She comes once a week to do the heavy cleaning for me. After she is done, we have cookies and juice and some Bible study. She is 19 years old, and loves the Lord. When she 'gets' something, her face lights up like the sun!

Mary told me one day she is an orphan. She lived in Sierra Leone in Africa. When she was just a baby, there was an uprising in her country by rebels to destroy the government. The people had to run for their lives. The rebels were chasing them and shooting at them. Georgina, her present Mother, was running with her two children and two sisters. Her husband had been killed. As the shots were flying, she saw a woman who had been running beside her, fall down dead. She had, strapped on her back, baby Mary. Georgina didn't think twice—she reached down and picked up the baby and kept on running.

They all spent some time in a refugee camp until a group in Creston sponsored the family to come to Canada. They live next to us and we have offered ourselves to be their grandparents. Mary has graduated from high

school and is working to save up to take a course in Accounting. I try out some of my bible stories on her first before I tell you! I'm teaching her how to read ***"the picture book."***

I taught her about the first two feasts, Passover and Pentecost. But there are *three*, and the third one is to be fulfilled in our day. It is yet to happen! I asked the Lord, "How can I make this simple enough for her to understand? It is quite a deep spiritual lesson."

I was washing dishes when I asked that question, and He answered me while my hands were still in the dishwater. He said, "It's just like a family. Tell her about how My family grows!" That was so simple that I could hardly believe that I had missed it.

So, here is the lesson I gave her that day. I talked about being *born* at Passover. We all know that a woman can carry the seed of her child's life for nine months before it is actually born so that we may see it. Well, our spiritual birth is something like that. We are pregnant with the seed-life of God! But, it will take some time before it will actually come forth into full view! The seed of God has been planted within us at salvation. Our sins have been forgiven and we have passed from death unto life. At this stage we are called 'a babe in Christ' and we feed on the milk of the Word—things easy to understand.

Some time goes by and we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We enter into the first stages of our dying to our self-life. The seed that is in us is now being *watered*. I could also compare the seed to the life of a babe being planted within, and the later experience of receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit, as a person grown to be a teenager. The Bible calls that stage 'a young man.'

So, my question to Mary was: "We look around us and among God's family we see a large number of babies who are always crying to God to give them something. And there are some teenagers, with all their pimples and rebellion—wanting their own way. Is that all we have to offer to the Lord after all these years?"

Mary immediately said, "No!" Then she thought a minute and said, "There should be some adults—some mature ones in His family."

This answer was 'spot-on'! Yet, if you should say this to the 'baby Christians' they would deny being babies. They would protest that they are 'saved and ready to go to heaven, or to be raptured, whichever comes first.' They have no idea that God's plan for mankind was to make a family that would reproduce His image in the earth! They are quite satisfied to be on their way to heaven, as if that was why they were born—to go to heaven!

If you should talk to the 'teenager Christians' about there being something more in God than what they have experienced, they would go all silent, or raise an argument against you. The thought has never occurred to them that they do not have *all* that God has for them! They feel they surely have the *fullness of the Spirit!* They know the Lord in the power of healing and speaking in tongues and the gifts of the Spirit. They feel they `have it all!'

Yet, neither the babes or the teenagers in the Lord have come into the third feast, ***The Feast of Tabernacles***. For one thing, it requires a special preparation. They have to learn to be *taught of the Lord*. Hearing from some 'Moses' will not be enough for entering this next feast!

The scriptures say, ***"He brought them out to bring them in."*** This is *a picture* of the Lord bringing His people out of bondage in Egypt (where they were slaves) to enter into the liberty of the Promised Land. Some believers say that He brought us out of Egypt—all the things of the world, the flesh, and the devil—all of the bad things. I'd agree with that, but it is much more than that. But, what about the things that are in our soul life that we didn't know about? (Pride, covetousness, anger, rebellion, etc.) The Lord has to take these things out of us also!

Some years ago the Lord made it very real to me that He must do a

thorough cleansing of His people so that He could *trust them* with the measure of His anointing that He is sending with the next Feast. I guess that is why it is taking so long to get some people ready for the next Feast.

To prepare us for the Feast of Tabernacles, He must first teach us about the ***Sabbath Rest***, for entering into His Rest is a big part of what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. When we learn what this is, we come to a place of letting the Lord have His way in our lives. We let Him put on us a bit and a bridle like a man puts on a horse to turn it whichever way he wants it to go. The horse lets the Rider have complete control over him. If the horse rejects the man's authority and fights against it by rearing up and galloping away, a man will come who is expert at 'breaking' horses. He will cause him to be broken enough to be willing to let his Rider have His perfect way with him!

When the Lord taught me about the Sabbath Rest, I felt like He had put on me a bit and a bridle so that I no longer had a desire to go my own way and do my own thing. I had a strong determination to hear the Lord's Voice and learn His guidance in all of my ways. I soon found out that the Holy Spirit was quite able to break this proud spirit of mine!

Psalms 110:3 says, "***Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power.***" This didn't make sense to me—willing to do *what*? It was some

time before I understood that it meant to have a willing heart to do everything *God's way*—to put aside our own will and way and walk in the Spirit. It is where we yield to His Spirit in all things and delight to have it so—like a woman who loves to please her Husband!

Jesus painted a ***word picture*** in Luke 9:58: "***Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of hath not where to lay his head.***" Even though Jesus spoke His words in what we call the New Testament, He also spoke many times in pictures. The Chinese have a saying: "*One picture speaks a thousand words*" and I believe that must be true. Now, why was Jesus telling us He had no place to lay His Head? Does that mean He had no place to sleep at night, or He didn't have a pillow to sleep on?

I believe I know what the picture is telling us! It is speaking of finding a place where His mind would be welcome to rule! He said, "You make room in your mind for foxes--those sly, cunning thoughts of the soul. And the birds (or evil spirits) can find a place to build their nests in you. But where is My home? Where is the place where I can rest My Head? Where can I know that My mind will be honored and My children will delight to know My thoughts and to obey My will?" Do you hear the pleading in our Saviour's voice that His children would make a place for Him in their

lives? And I don't mean just on Sunday, but all the day long, every day!

And when you do make a place for His mind to rest in you and seek to know always His mind and His leading in your life, you enter into a peace you have not known before. It's like you have a taste of heaven! It is **called putting on the mind of Christ.**

The Lord spoke to me personally about this one day. I was standing, singing in a little country church, when the Lord dropped this word into my heart. I'm sure I had read it before, but I didn't know it was for me. He said, **"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."** I found it in Philippians 2:5. It sounded to me like I had some choice in the matter because of that little word *"let"* which means "to allow, or to permit." So, I knew it was something the Lord wanted me to allow—to let His Mind be in Me—to start looking to His Mind instead of my own all the time! That sounded good to me, for my own mind got me into all kinds of trouble.

But, how to do this was something else! I had no idea of how to let His Mind be in me! First, I gave Jesus my willingness to let His mind rule, and for my heart to be glad to have it so. And from there, He put on the bit and bridle like on a horse so that I would learn to stop and pray before I did something. If He didn't answer right away, I'd wait until He would. I

learned to *wait on the Lord*.

Did you know that if a doctrine is true that it will run like a silver cord or a scarlet cord all through the scriptures? It will at least be mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments. The Blood of Jesus runs like a crimson thread all through the Bible. And the Rest of the Lord does so also. In Numbers 10:33 as the children of Israel were going through the wilderness, they were told, "**....the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.**"

Before we leave this part, do you want to know if Jesus ever found a place to rest His Head? Did any of His children enter into His rest and stop doing their own thing? Did the Lord ever find that *resting place* that He was looking for? In order to answer this question, I need to give you a clue so you can understand the time-frame of a "*three days' journey.*"

Genesis tells us that the Lord made the earth in seven days and then He rested. Peter gives us the clue we need to know in II Peter 3:8, "**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**" So, the creation days were seven days, each 1000 years long!

There were 4000 years before the birth of Jesus. Then, since a new age

was beginning, we are now counting the days from His birth. It is now 2000 years (or two days) since the birth of Christ. Oh, but we've passed the 2000-year-mark! We are entering into the 3000 year term (or third day). The Lord said He would search out a resting place for His children. He would go **a three-day journey**. Today, we would call that the day in which we live, for we are living in the third day from the birth of Jesus.

And, His Spirit has come and He is now teaching His children about entering His rest and putting on His mind. That tells me that we are truly in the **third day!** Isn't that exciting! Something He promised so long ago is at last within our reach—so close that we can walk in it. *We can let the Lord rest His mind in us.* Doesn't that make you happy?

18. Show Me Thy Glory

I told you that the Feast of Passover can be described by one word: **THE BLOOD**. The Feast of Pentecost can be described by: **THE VOICE**. And, now the third feast can be known as **THE GLORY**. We now begin to know Jesus as the King of Glory! That sounds good, but what do we mean by the word *glory*? Moses asked the Lord once, **"...I beseech thee, show me thy glory."** So, he can surely tell us what 'glory' means.

The Lord answered him lovingly when He said, **"I will make all My**

goodness pass before you..." (Exodus 33:10). Look closely here. There's a hidden clue that we need to find! What was the question again? Moses asked to see His ***glory***. And God's answer was about showing His ***goodness***. Can you put that together and work out the puzzle here? It looks to me like God is telling Moses that ***His glory is His goodness!***

And God continued, saying, ***"I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee..."*** Another clue we need to know is what the Lord means when He talks about His name. 'Name' in the scripture represents ***'nature'***. He is telling Moses that He is going to reveal to him what His nature is—what He is really like. I don't think anyone had ever asked God that before, but it seems He was quite willing to tell him. In fact, it looks like He wanted him to know! So, God is going to tell Moses what He is like! But, there was a little problem here that needed to be taken care of first. God said, ***"But you may not see My face. No one can see Me and live."***

Does that sound cruel to you? If God is Love, would He not want us to see His Face?

Ah, but there is a good reason for Him to say that. He is a high and holy Being and we are sinful people. We can not lightly appear in His presence. But, He told us how we, as well as Moses, would be able to

behold His Face and live. He said, "**Behold, there is a place by Me, and thou shall stand upon a Rock: And it shall come to pass, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in a clift of the Rock, and I will cover you with My hand while I pass by: And I will take away Mine hand, and you shall see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen.**" Exodus 33:21-23.

One day the Lord let me understand what this meant. He was drawing another **picture!** The first clue was that Jesus, in both the Old and New Testaments, is often called **the Rock**. The O.T. says, "And the **Rock** that followed them was **Christ.**" And, the N.T. says our faith is built upon the solid **Rock**, Christ Jesus.

We know this Rock had His side pierced open on the cross, and blood and water poured out. We sing of His riven (clift, split) side! Now, we'll put all our clues together and see what we come up with. God is saying that we should stand upon the Rock Jesus and hide in His side. When we are in Him, God will cover our sin so that we may behold His glory! In our unclean state we could not bear the holiness of His nature. But, in Jesus, we are covered and God may reveal Himself to us!

What did God say about His goodness, even His glory? "**And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD**

God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

"Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

"And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped."

I loved all the things God said about Himself except one thing that left me puzzled. He talks about forgiving sins and then He says *"that will by no means clear the guilty."* It seems like a contradiction. So, I prayed and did some checking in the original language in which the Bible was written. I found the word "clear" meant "to be made clean." That didn't solve the puzzle! The Lord led me to a man who had searched this out to find that it meant: *The guilty would remain guilty until they are ready to meet God on the grounds of the mercy which He set up for their forgiveness.*

Have you got all the pieces put together yet? I was so thrilled to see that, yes, God would forgive sins but only when a person is ready to accept the mercy He gave us when He came to earth in a body called Jesus, to

die for our sins! If we thought we would be accepted because of our goodness, or our success in life, or being a good church-goer, or any other reason than that Jesus died for our sins, the Lord could not make us clean! Some men claim that "there are many paths to God", but God didn't say that. He said He could only make us clean if we came through the Blood that Jesus shed for us on the cross.

Through Jesus we will learn the nature of our Father. We will be able to see Him face-to-face when we let the Holy Spirit bring our self-life to death. There is going to be a face-to-face at Tabernacles!

19. Why Can't I See God?

I don't want to leave you with the idea that God is a wrathful deity who holds you at arm's length because you are not good enough. You need to understand something about the power and holiness of God. I will tell you an account that Sadhu Sundar Singh, a wonderful Christian from India, tells about. He loved the Lord dearly and was, at times, caught up in the spirit to see things in the heavenly realms.

In a vision he saw the spirit of an idolater on reaching the world of spirits (after he died). He began at once to search for his god. The saints told him, "There is no god here except the one true God, and Christ,

who is His manifestation." At this, the man was greatly astonished, but being a sincere seeker after truth, admitted that he had been in error. He eagerly wanted to know the correct view of truth. He asked if he might see the Christ.

Shortly after this, Christ showed Himself in *a dim light* to him, and to others who had newly arrived in the world of spirits. At this stage they could not have endured a full showing of His glory (nature!) His glory is so surpassing that even the angels look on Him with difficulty, and cover their faces with their wings (Isaiah 6:9).

When He does reveal Himself to anyone, He takes into account the particular stage of progress to which that soul has come, so He appears dimly, or in the fuller light of His glory, that *the sight of Him may be endured*. Our nature and condition is so far from His holiness that we could not bear the sight of His glory. When these spirits saw Christ in this dim but attractive light, they were filled with a joy and peace which is beyond our power to describe. Bathed in the rays of His life-giving light, and with the waves of His love, which constantly flow out from Him, all their error was washed away. How they thanked and praised Him, bowing in lowly adoration before Him.

If we want to know Jesus in a personal face-to-face way, we need to

die to the ways of our self-life, and learn to live from His Spirit within us. As we put on more of His nature, we find we can see Him ever more closely. That's what God meant when He said to Moses: "No man can see My Face and live!" He meant, "If you see Me, you can never be the same—you can never live your own life again. You will want to live *Mine!*" The New Testament calls it: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

This Indian brother told of seeing a man newly come to the other side. He was being attended by two angels. Their job was to help him to admit what his heart was like. He did not want his evil heart exposed, so he kept shooing them away. They told him, "In the world, men can hide what is in their hearts, but here, what is inside must show on the outside." This man was not going to admit to any faults. The angels would go away and come back again to entreat him to face himself as he really was.

Finally, he became angry and called in a loud voice, "God, you're not treating me fairly! I've been here for some time and others are going on ahead of me and You are keeping me here for nothing. You're a respecter of persons—playing favorites!"

A Voice came from the higher heavens saying: "Let no accusation stand against God. Let this one come up into My throne room."

Well, this fellow felt he had done the right thing to get these angels

off his back, and get promoted from this "sorting-out" place. So, they escorted him to the higher heaven and took him to the open doorway of the place of God's presence. All he had to do was to step in and he would be in the very presence of the holy God!

But, a strange thing happened! The man couldn't take that step. He was glued to the spot and couldn't enter. (I wonder why that was? I think he finally was feeling what his nature was like in comparison to the nature of God, even though he had refused to admit it to the angels.)

He looked about him for a place to escape. Suddenly, he turned and ran away from that holy place, and found a hole where he could plunge down into a place where he felt at home—with others of like proud natures. God did not cast him out! His nature was so unlike the Lord's, he couldn't stand to be in His presence. What do you think of that?

20. How Nutty Can You Get?

I wish you could be at my house when I am teaching my friend Mary about the things of the Lord. We have a lot of fun! I'll have to tell you what happened today. I didn't have any lesson on my heart to share, so I asked Mary if she had any questions about what I had taught her, or if there was something she wanted to talk about.

Without hesitating, she answered, "Tabernacles! I want to know more about Tabernacles!"

That suited me just fine, but I still didn't know where to start with that subject. It's a big one! And, I wasn't sure she was ready for it yet. Perhaps she didn't even really understand about the first two feasts, so I might be rushing her to teach her more about the third one.

My Teacher is always so faithful! He dropped Ephesians 1:13-14 into my heart. I found myself saying, "I want to teach you the Lord's plan and purpose for His people in a nutshell. I want to make it so simple that you will really understand it." Did you know that these two verses tell, in a nutshell, the whole plan of God—the stages He has planned that we should walk?

The look on her face told me that she thought that was a great idea. Truth in a nutshell she could handle! Before I found this verse in the Bible, the Lord reminded me that I had just bought some walnuts in their shells. I got three walnuts and gave them to Mary and said, "Now, we will have a hands-on picture lesson."

And, here is what I said: "Verse 12 tells of `We who first trusted in Christ," (we can tell it is talking about us as believers, so I am going to make it personal and put "I" in there.) "I who first trusted in Christ. In

whom I also trusted, after that I heard the word of truth, ***the gospel of my salvation:....***"

We are a three-part being: spirit, soul, and body. I think we will agree on that. So I said, "Mary, hold up one of your nuts and that will represent the first feast. What was that?"

"Oh, that was the Feast of Passover. That was when I heard the gospel of salvation and got saved."

"What part of you was affected by receiving salvation?"

"It was my *spirit*. My spirit was made *alive*."

There is a bit of a puzzle that we need to solve here. A lot of people don't understand it and it is important to know the truth of this matter. Have you ever heard someone say, "All the people in the world belong to God. They are all God's children."

Clue number one: Every person born on the earth has a spirit. But we also know ***"The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse."*** The spirit returns to God Who gave it. Can you agree with that? That is our human spirit which gives us life to live on this earth.

Clue number two: Does having a spirit make us a child of God? Does having a spirit put us in God's Family so that all our sins are forgiven?

Mary: "I thought Adam and Eve died to the things of God when they chose to go their own way. Did the spirit of God leave them or did it die? Whatever happened to them has also happened to us, don't you think?"

Mary, that is a good thought. Once again, Ephesians has a "nutshell" for that! Chapter 2:1-6 says it very clearly. "And you *hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins***"....Well, it seems quite clear that the Lord counted us as *dead* even though we had a spirit. When we received Him, He gave us a measure of His Spirit that gave us His Life. It brought our spirit to life so that it could once again have contact with God and walk with Him.

Clue number three: Ephesians 2:1-2 has the answer to this whole nutshell about the spirit. The Amplified Bible tells us: "***And you [He made alive], when you were dead [slain] by [your] trespasses and sins in which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world—were under the sway of the tendency of this present age—following the prince of the power of the air. (You were obedient to him and were under his control,) the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience—the careless, the rebellious and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God.***"

I believe we could declare the puzzle to be solved. The scriptures call those who have a spirit yet walk in their own ways, "sons of disobedience." The Lord does not claim them as His family. New Age teaches that every person is in God's family, but it is not so. Every man has a spirit that is dead and he needs to have it made alive by receiving the life of Jesus. This is what happens at the Feast of Passover—a person's sins are forgiven and their spirit is made alive by the life of God. I could say that His Spirit is joined unto your spirit!

"Now, Mary, hold up one of your nuts and tell me what that stands for."

With a bright face, Mary said, with confidence, "This stands for my spirit which was made alive when I received Jesus as my Saviour." We both laughed and rejoiced together.

"Before you drop the first nut, Mary, I want you to tell me about the time when the first believers received the life-giving Spirit of God."

"Oh, I know! It was after Jesus was resurrected. He had talked to the women at the tomb and then He went to visit His disciples. The doors of the room where they were meeting were all shut because they were afraid of what the Jews might do unto them as the followers of Jesus.

"Jesus suddenly appeared in the room and He didn't have to open any doors to get in! His new body could go through walls with no problem.

He greeted them with a word of peace because they must have thought they were seeing a ghost. Then Jesus ***"breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost."*** That was it, Elaine! The Passover Feast was fulfilled—His Blood was applied to the door of their hearts, and the death angel passed them by. Now, their dead spirits were made alive and made one with His Spirit. Oh, I like that! That is what happened to me but I didn't really understand it."

21. What Happens Next?

We're still playing that "nutty" game! "Now, Mary, you have two more nuts to crack. Let's find out what the second nut is. But, before we do, I want you to know that there are many large denominations that believe there is only *one nut, not three!* Would you say they were nutty, or what? Anyway, the churches that preach only salvation from sin, call themselves evangelicals and they believe that is all there is for our day. They said that the second nut (which is the Feast of Pentecost) is not necessary for us today. So, just get saved and stay out of mischief, and wait to be raptured out of this evil world, or go to heaven, whichever comes first.

The gospel is so-o-o-o much bigger than that! Let's look again at

Ephesians 1:13-14 to see what the next step is in the "nutshell" of the plan of God for His children. We saw where the first stage of His plan was hearing the gospel of your salvation. Then, it tells us about something that is to happen **"after that ye believed."** Oh, so there *is* something else besides salvation, having the God-life breathed into us! I wonder what it is!

"...ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,...."

"Oh, I like that word `sealed' Mary said. "What does it really mean?"

"It means that something is confirmed, firmly established, proven."

"But, Elaine, you just told me that I received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed His breath of life into me. I thought there was just one Holy Spirit. Am I receiving Him twice or is this something different?"

"Let's talk about that. When we received salvation we were placed into the Body of Christ and our spirit was made alive so that it now could receive spiritual truths from the realm of the Spirit. But, the Lord has to do a clean-up job on us because we have spent our whole lives serving self, and going the ways of the world. The Lord does not only want to forgive us for that life of sin, but He wants to cleanse those old ways from our heart. He wants to bring to death those ways of living for self so that we would learn to live for Him.

"To do that, Mary, we need a greater measure of His Spirit than we had when we believed for our salvation. This greater measure is called the anointing of the Holy Spirit and it was given on The Feast of Pentecost fifty days after Jesus was crucified.

"Did you know, Mary, that Jesus was seen by His apostles for forty days after His passion? During this time, He spoke to them about the things of the kingdom of God. He didn't tell them how to organize and run a church. He taught them that they were the church! He knew the Jews' temple would be destroyed and He wanted them to know that His believers were now the temple in which God would dwell!

"For years the Israelites had celebrated three feasts, but they had no idea that they spoke of spiritual experiences that were to be fulfilled after Jesus came. So, before He ascended, Jesus told His followers to wait for the promise of the Father. He said, "**...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**" There is a confirmation from the lips of Jesus that there is *another measure* of the Spirit to be had!

"Peter confirms this thought that this experience of Pentecost was not just for the early church. "**Repent, and he baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to**

your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38,39.

"Mary, do you know why this extra measure of the Spirit was given to us?"

"I've heard evangelists say it was given for *power*, as in power to heal the sick and cast out devils. Is that right?"

"I'd say that is not the main reason. After living all these years and walking in the Spirit half of my life, I have come to believe that this second measure of the Spirit was given to cleanse us from our self-life, our carnal nature. I have both healed the sick and cast our devils, but I found that most of the time the Holy Spirit is teaching me how to hear ***His Voice*** and letting Him bring to death that old life that I used to live for self. He gives me His power all the time to do that! I can't do it without Him.

"I thought He gave us power to win souls to Him," Mary added.

"Yes, that's true. But there is something about winning souls that we need to know. Acts 1:8 says, ***"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me."***

The evangelists will emphasize that you should go—give out tracts on the street, go to the mission field, go out and win souls. They call this the 'Great Commission.'

"Yet, one of the meanings of the word 'witness' is to be a 'martyr'—one who gives up his life for a cause! This tells me that our 'witnessing' should not only be words from a piece of paper or even words that we say to try to convince a person that he is a sinner and needs to be saved. The Lord has given us an extra measure of His Spirit so that we might die to our self-life, that we could present a different lifestyle to others, and a different attitude toward them. If they do not see anything different in what we present, they will not want what we have.

"I have recently read that the reasons why few missionaries return to their mission fields for a second term is the treatment they have received from other missionaries. Well, they didn't know the Holy Spirit wanted to cleanse them. They thought they were God's gift to these people when they needed to let Him bring them to a death to the ways of old Adam. They needed to be a martyr—to give their life—not just *talk* about salvation, but to *live* it!"

"Mary, I feel to give you an example of this from real life. I have a friend, Faith Williams, who certainly lives the life of a martyr. Her pleasure is always in doing the will of her heavenly Father. One year her husband was transferred to a town in northern B.C. It wasn't long before she realized she didn't have anything in common with her neighbors who were all

young mothers while her children were teen-agers.

"She asked the Lord how she could 'fit in' with her neighbors as she was doubtful of having any spiritual fellowship with any of them. Would you believe what the Lord said? He said: *"Just be a good neighbor. Don't preach at them."* Well, she certainly knew how to do that! She spent that year being a friend who was always there when they needed one.

"At the end of the year the neighbors started coming to her, one at a time, asking her: 'Faith, what makes you tick? I really want to know where you are coming from!' Their hearts were so open that she led them to the Lord, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and taught them about Tabernacles, the last feast. They were so ready to hear because they had seen the true gospel walked out before them and they wanted the reality of that.

"Shortly thereafter, her husband was transferred again, but the Lord had shown her that a true "martyr" can win souls without words. Her life was her witness!"

Mary said, "I would like to be able to live like that!"

22. The Earnest of our Inheritance

"I don't want to wander too far away from this second nut that we

have to crack! Remember—after you believed, you were ***sealed*** (confirmed as God's own). ***'You were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until.....'*** ***Ephesians 1:13-14.*** I apologize for stopping in the middle of sentences, but I want to crack this nut a little at a time. I don't want to break it all at once—I want you to 'get it!'

So, we were sealed, or confirmed as God's own, for a purpose. The purpose has to do with our inheritance. It is the 'earnest' of our inheritance.

This word is not commonly used—it's kind of old-fashioned. But, I'll explain how it is still used today. If you were looking to buy a house, and found one for \$100,000, you would sign an offer to purchase that house. The realtor would take your offer to the owners of the house and present it to them.

You couldn't send the offer without sending some amount of money along with it to prove that you were sincere about wanting to buy this home. Often it would be \$100 that you would give. Now, that is not very much, is it, compared to the price of the house: \$100,000? That small amount is called "*earnest money*" that declares that we are in earnest, or serious, about buying their house. If they agree to accept our offer, the realtor will come back to us and tell us we will now have to put down ten percent of the value as a down payment on the house.

Now, what on earth does all this have to do with the Spirit of the Lord? I don't know if you will like the answer: but here is the truth of the matter. The seal of the Holy Spirit is the earnest of your inheritance. The measure of the Spirit that you have now received can be compared as \$100 is to \$100,000! Wow! That isn't very much, is it? The 'earnest' is very small compared to the fullness of the Spirit (which is our inheritance!)

Some believers feel that when they receive the baptism of the Spirit, they have received the 'fullness' of the Spirit. Not so! They have received the full measure of all that the Feast of Pentecost has to give, but it really isn't very much when it is compared to the third feast, the Feast of Tabernacles.

What can we do with such a small portion of His Spirit? I hate to tell you this, but I have to. I found out the hard way and so will you. It is given primarily, to deal with our **soul**. It is to deal with our soul-life until the soul is willing to let the Spirit rule! Our soul is the way in which we express ourselves—our mind, will, emotions, affections, and desires. The Holy Spirit will bring the soul to a place of yieldedness to the Spirit. The Lord made it real to me early in my Christian life that He was going to remove me from the throne of my heart because He wanted to rule in my life. It hasn't always been easy, but oh how I love it now to be in a place where I can hear the Lord's Voice and know His will!

He said if He didn't cleanse our soul, He could not trust us with the measure of the Spirit that we would receive in the next feast! That made a lot of sense to me so I have been working on yielding my way to His for some years! I want to walk in the fullness of the Spirit.

23. Until the Redemption

"Where we left off, the last 'snatches' of scripture spoke of being sealed with 'the earnest of our inheritance' ***until*** something else happened! Have you any idea, Mary, what this ***until*** could mean? Do you know what is going to happen? Now I'll add the rest of the verse: "***...until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.***" Before we can understand this, we need to know what is meant by the words 'purchased possession.' I think I'll tell you a true story so you will understand.

"I know a brother who is a carpenter who also ministers the Word. He took some sickness and the doctors, for all their testing, could not tell what it was. All they could say, finally, was, 'You are dying. Go home and get your affairs in order.'"

"He was a praying man and one day the Lord spoke to him and gave him a choice of whether he would like to be healed and remain on this earth or go home to be with Him. His reaction was: 'I refuse to choose! I am not my

own! You have purchased me and I belong to You. Am I going to tell You what to do with Your possession?'

"The Lord answered him not a word. A few days went by and his mother called to see how he was. When she found that he was still in a dying condition, she started to cry and to have a real 'pity party' over the phone. He said, 'Mother, stop it! I belong to the Lord and He is in charge of my life. Whether I am sick or well, I am in His hands.'

"As soon as he said those words, the Spirit moved upon his body and made him instantly well! He felt so good he went to work the very next morning.

"Do you know now what it means to be His purchased possession? He purchased us with His precious Blood that He shed on the cross to buy us back from our fallen state. We belong to Him. He paid a high price for us!

"So, this verse (Eph. 1:14), tells us we will walk in the second feast, The Feast of Pentecost, in the small measure of anointing that it gives, ***until*** something happens to this 'purchased possession' that we are!"

"Oh, I wonder what that will be?" Mary asked.

"Again, it could be a mystery if the Lord doesn't give us some clues. Let's see what clues we can find. First of all, we need to know that we are a three-part being: spirit, soul, and body. If we think about it, salvation

(Passover) was when our **spirit** was redeemed. Then, at the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), our **soul** was dealt with until it became yielded to the Spirit. What is there left to deal with?

"Mary's face lit up. "Oh, the **body!** The body will be redeemed bought back by the Lord. But I don't know what that means."

"You're right on! That is what is meant by the third feast—the **Feast of Tabernacles**. In this feast, the Spirit of the Lord will come to us in **fullness**. Think of it this way: John 3:34 tells us, "**For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him**"

"The same verse in the Amplified Bible says, **For since He Whom God has sent speaks the words of God—proclaims God's own message—God does not give Him His Spirit sparingly or by measure, but boundless is the gift God makes of His Spirit!**"

"It seems quite clear that we have the Spirit by measure—when we receive the Lord, we have a measure of His Spirit. When we receive the baptism of the Spirit, we receive another measure of the Spirit. But, somehow, we still long for more, for there is more for us to have! Jesus is our example and He had the Spirit *without measure*, which seems to me is

the fullness of the Spirit. If this measure were not for His children, He would not have told us of another feast in which the Spirit of the Lord would dwell in His Own in a full measure!

"Through the years as the Lord has dealt with my self-life, He made it very real to me that this was necessary. He had a full measure of His Spirit to impart unto me but I must first make room for more of Him. And, too, our temples needed to be `clean' enough to hold a full measure of Himself. So, the full measure of the Spirit is going to have something to do with our bodies. I wonder what that shall be!"

By this time, Mary's eyes were getting wider. She asked, "Do you have any idea of what this will be like? What is the Lord going to do?"

"Mary, I can't say exactly, but I do know that the Spirit has been speaking to His children whom He has called out unto Himself. He is giving us words and foretastes to help us to have faith for what He will do in this next feast."

24. The Holy Ghost Told A Secret

I've told you in detail how the Lord brought His people into the spiritual experience of the first two feasts. They were no longer a *shadow* to them. They were *real!* No one could tell you that your salvation and baptism of

the Spirit are not real experiences from the Lord. Okay then, if the first two feasts are real, when do we have the third feast, called **The Feast of Tabernacles?** Has it happened yet or is it yet going to happen to some generation of believers?

Before I answer that, I need to give you some background on what the **picture or shadow** of Tabernacles looked like in the Old Testament. It will give us an idea of what the *real thing* will look like. It's quite different from Passover when they put **the blood** upon the doorposts. It's different from Pentecost when a sudden rushing wind came from heaven and all began to **speak** in other tongues. The Lord never does the same thing twice. This time, He told them to make little tents (called booths) and to live in them for seven days. They were to make them out of branches of different trees. (Read Nehemiah Ch. 8).

If they were rich, they might worry that someone would steal something while they were away. The Lord promised that He would safeguard their property. They had to forsake everything to live in this little booth. Today, we know it means to forsake our thoughts, our own ways, everything of the soul life so that all that He is will be our portion.

These little booths were a great 'balancer' among the people. There was no way to tell if a man was rich or poor. They were all on the same

basis. This shows us that in Tabernacles we come to a place where we know no one after the flesh. He is going to balance every aspect of place, race, and face. If we had any prejudice or looking up to men or looking down on others, the Lord is going to completely wipe that out. That is what the shadow shows us!

The names of the boughs tell us a story also, but I can't go into detail here. If you want to know, ask me for my tapes, CD's or writings on Tabernacles.

What I am about to share with you is a secret from the Lord. The ministers of the organized church do not know what I am about to tell you. The only ones who know this secret are those whom the Lord has called out unto Himself so that He could teach them and prepare them for this next great feast. No, it has not yet happened—but we are walking on the very edges of it, learning what it is all about.

It seems that whenever God has an important announcement to make He does *not* send His angel to City Hall to tell some important official about it! He will tell humble shepherds who are out in the fields watching their sheep. He will tell some Gideon who is hiding to grind a little grain that he is a mighty brave man and he can have victory over the enemy. In a few words, He tells some humble, seemingly unimportant people! But,

people would prefer to believe some "big name" rather than an "unknown." Watch how this plays out in the big secret the Lord has to tell His people!

Before I tell you the secret, I want you to know that the timing of the message is very important. From the birth of Christ until the year 2000 was known as the Church Age when the Holy Spirit was given and made available unto His people. The next age, which we are now entering, is the Tabernacle Age. The Lord had to find a small number of His children and prepare them to enter into this third feast.

So, about 50 years before the end of the Church Age, in 1948, the Lord poured out His Spirit in a mighty way. Would you believe it happened in a small town in Saskatchewan, Canada? Times were hard but the pastor had a desire to build a Bible School where the young farm people could learn the scriptures. All the people pitched in and worked to bring this to pass.

When the young people came to school after the harvest was taken off, they enjoyed their Bible lessons. But, one day the teachers called them to come for lunch and no one came. They were all praising the Lord and speaking in other tongues and prophesying and were not the least bit interested in eating. Who could think of food when the Lord was moving so mightily! I understand the revival lasted for four years. I didn't know

the Lord at that time but I know people who were there.

Could you guess what the Spirit was saying through these young people (the Lord's angel-messengers?) He was telling them that the Feast of Tabernacles was coming and He wanted to prepare His people to receive this anointing of fullness. He also taught them about the gifts of the Spirit that were being restored to the church. This revival spread all over the world.

You would think that the churches would all rejoice that the Lord was moving so mightily on these young people and giving them revelation of His plan to bring the next feast to His believers. Wrong! They were jealous because it happened to these "nobodies" in an unimportant place. (I don't know all the reasons but I do know that their own denomination of Pentecost refused the revival. They called it "wildfire.")

It began to look like you needed to leave the denomination to be able to enter into this new truth that the Holy Spirit was introducing to His Own. That is one reason why so few churches know anything about it today. Perhaps five years ago I heard of three churches in Saskatchewan who were so dry they decided they would pray for revival. They were not expecting the answer they each received separately from the Lord! He told them, ***"Before I can send revival, you need to repent of refusing My***

last move!"

25. Only A Few Grapes

I am going to quote a few paragraphs from a book by George Warnock called ***The Feast of Tabernacles***. He was in that mighty revival that happened to the young people. He heard the Lordspeak of His coming in 'the manifestation of the sons of God' and many wonderful things!

He shares: "The old generation who disbelieved God perished in the wilderness. But God sustained the new generation for forty years, humbled them, proved them and prepared them for the conquest of Canaan (the Promised Land). And so it is that a new generation under new leadership arises out of the wilderness of modern evangelical circles, to succeed a dying generation. 'Now after the death of Moses, the Lord spoke unto Joshua... Moses' minister, saying, ***'Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them.'*** Joshua Chapter One. Moses must give way to Joshua.

Joshua is the Hebrew word for Jesus. His generation is to be a conquering, delivering generation. The former generation said it was all right to go in and spy out the land—no doubt they enjoyed the grapes and

figs—but they did not want to go in and **possess** the land.

It is all right, they would tell us today, to speak in tongues, or to receive gifts of the Spirit, or heal the sick, or prophesy. These things are all right. But they do not want to hear any of this talk about *Christ appearing in His saints, and being formed within you* (like the Holy Spirit had told the young farm people in the revival).

And as for *the 'manifestation of the sons of God'*, that is definitely not for our day and age!

"True, they will admit, God has it for us; it is part of our heritage; but not for **now**. That, they say, will take place at the rapture or the resurrection. We cannot possess the land; there are too many obstacles. It is all right to have the Spirit and to enjoy the blessing of His presence occasionally, but it is impossible to really *enter the realm of the spirit to such an extent that you live there constantly!*

"You can take some grapes from the Valley of Eschol, but you must not attempt to **dwell** in Eschol (in the Promised Land.) See Numbers 32:9.

"You can receive an anointing on your mind and receive thoughts from God that are holy, and speak His words occasionally; *but you cannot have the **mind of Christ** in any degree of fullness so that you can actually think His thoughts, and say His words, and perform His works, and live His very*

own life!

"It is all right to be healed, but *not to enjoy real Divine health or Divine life to such an extent that your days will be greatly extended, without pain or feebleness or any lessening of your natural faculties.*

"It is all right to get free from this habit or that, or to conquer your temper, *but not to be so free from the sin nature that 'Sin hath no more dominion over you.'* That would be perfection, and you can't have perfection until you get to Heaven.

"It's all right to talk in tongues in a language that no man understands, *but not to go out to the nations speaking their language, with their accent, and understanding exactly what you say, and what they say.*

"It is all right if you preach the Gospel with signs and wonders and see certain miracles once in a while, *but we cannot be caught away in the Spirit like Philip or Elijah in this day of modern travel.*

"It is all right to fight Satan here on the earth and cast out a few devils, *but you cannot ascend up in the Spirit into 'the heavenlies' and literally topple Satan from his throne, and enter into the realm of power and authority 'in the heavenlies' in Christ Jesus.*

"We don't mind tasting the grapes of Eschol from the Promised Land—the figs and the pomegranates which the spies have brought back, **but**

we refuse to make any attempt at conquering the whole land!

"These are some of the things that the Spirit has taught concerning what will be in the fullness of the Spirit, called Tabernacles. For all who resist the Lord in this new moving, we have one question: 'Are you going to remain in the condition of those who have been saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit? Or are you going to arise from the dusty sands of this great wilderness and follow our Joshua across Jordan into real, triumphant, overcoming power in the Spirit of God?'"

"Thank God there ariseth a new generation that has caught the vision. A few Calebs and Joshuas have survived the wilderness, and are leading the saints in the power of the Spirit into realms of glorious victory."

(Unquote)

26. A Full Redemption

Paul the Apostle knew that in some generation the fullness would come and those who were ready to receive it would have their bodies changed and enter into the resurrection of the first fruits. This is what he had to say about it: ***"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the***

resurrection of the dead." Philippians 3: 10-11.

The same verse in the Amplified reads, **"That if possible I may attain to the resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body.]** He was hoping to enter into a change, or resurrection of his body like Tabernacles promises, but it was not for his day. I believe it is for *our day!*

Men are still asking, **"How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"** I Cor. 15;35. When we look to Jesus as our pattern, we see that He had a **bodily resurrection**. But, on the other hand, He had a *new kind of body* that was both spiritual and physical. He could be talking to his disciples and suddenly disappear, or leave through the wall. It looks like He was changed in the atoms. He told His frightened followers to **"handle Me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see Me have."**

Those who know nothing of the promise of restoring our bodies and coming into the first resurrection, will maintain, "Don't you know it is appointed once to die, and after that the judgment?" That is as far as they can see. But, Paul saw farther than that, and those who have been taught how to enter into Tabernacles know that there is a time frame when conditions will be different. When the Lord has completed His preparation in

His people, and the time has come for this feast to be fulfilled, that word shall not apply to these prepared ones! They will be ready for the change in their bodies that the Lord has promised in this third feast!

I have talked to these all over Canada and America and they have been taught of the renewing of their bodies that shall come in the first resurrection. (You can read about it in my booklet called "Resurrection"). I'll share some of the things the Lord has told them.

He has told many that it will be like the lowly caterpillar who crawls on the earth until one day he emerges from his cocoon a beautiful butterfly that is able to soar in the heavenlies.

As for myself, He told three others and myself to pray for three nights without a wink of sleep. At the end of that time we felt just as strong as when we had started. He said we had received a taste of His resurrection life!

Another time He dropped this word into my heart, "***..and all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.***" I found it in Job 14:13,14. I would say that I Corinthians 15:15, 52 has the same thought.

A friend of mine was told by the Lord to go for a blood test. He wanted to give him a *sign* of the change that was going to come in our bodies. He

had the test and the doctor and nurses were amazed to find that the blood in the test tube was a beautiful golden color with light in it! The next day he had it redone, and it was red again.

One day the Lord asked me, "What is your inheritance?" I could have guessed at several things but I've found that when the Lord asks me a question it's because He wants to answer it. So, I said, "Lord, I don't know. What is it?"

He answered, "Even the *sure mercies of David.*" Now, I didn't understand the answer at all, so I looked it up in the Bible and found it in the Old Testament, Isaiah 55:3: ***"Incline your ear and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."***

I still didn't know what that meant, but in the New Testament, in Acts 13:34, it tells plainly what it means. ***"And as concerning that He raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David."***

He was telling me that our inheritance was the redemption of the body. It would be changed so that it would no longer know death. If we are still living when the time comes for this to happen, our bodies will not rot in the grave—they shall be changed and receive the resurrection life of the Lord.

And, if we should die before this time, we will come back and be in the first resurrection and minister with those who have been changed on the earth.

Have you ever heard such good news as this before? I received great encouragement from the Lord when He spoke this word to me, "*Am I not even now bringing forth signs in the earthly realm to confirm to those that their heavenly inheritance is nigh?*"

This subject is so deep and wide that I cannot deal with it as fully as I would like. I just promised you the "**The A, B, C's**"—remember? I just want to whet your appetite so that you will open your heart to the Lord and believe on what He is now doing in the earth. He is not taking His people out—they would miss out on the greatest part of His plan. He plans to fill them with a full measure of His Spirit so that they will be able to do a great work in the earth and no man can stop them!

Now, are you ready, as Mary was, to take that third walnut in your hand and say, "Yes, I believe in the third feast—the Feast of Tabernacles when I shall have the spirit without measure and my body shall be redeemed. It will not go through death!" If you can say that, throw the nut in the air and jump up and down for joy, for that's what we would do if we were together.

A dear friend of mine (whose husband had his blood changed) had a

dream from the Lord. It explained, in pictures, the difference between the feasts. And, the fourth one was rather surprising, but I believe it was inspired. So, in conclusion, I will share Deanna Paulat's anointed dream.

27. The Four Restaurants

I dreamed we went to a restaurant with long banquet tables. It was full of many people who were enjoying the food and having a good time. There were large windows surrounding the building which made the restaurant light. As we partook of the food, I commented that this was the best restaurant I had ever been at. Someone told us that this man had four restaurants, so I was eager to try the other ones also.

The second restaurant had small tables that were lit by candlelight, The tables were separated by partitions that were decorative. The atmosphere was warm and the food was delicious.

The third restaurant was on a tropical island. Each couple was led up a ladder to a hut made of branches and set in a tree, where the meal was served. The food had already been prepared and brought up the ladder by waiters who served us and let us alone in private. This was a honeymoon restaurant where two people could be left alone and yet be served. The couple could stay as long as they wished in these booths and

be intimate with the one they loved.

I woke up from my dream as I was standing in front of the two large doors of the fourth restaurant. I tried to go back to sleep to see the fourth restaurant, but to no avail. I sought the Lord diligently seeking to know the fourth.

One late night while in worship, I had an experience; out of the body or in the body, only God knows. I felt I was being raised and traveling up to a far, far away place or realm. I knew all things. I knew this was God and I was experiencing knowing Him as Spirit. The place where I was seemed so much higher than the natural realm. I felt I was being born into some realm so large that I could hardly fathom it. I felt like a newborn in a much larger abode than on the earth. I did not understand, but I knew that this was a real experience in the Spirit.

The greatest surprise I felt was that I knew Him, and I knew I was a small part of Him, but nevertheless, *one with Him*. We were together. It was a realm without time. It could have been a thousand years, or a second--there was no difference.

It was such a satisfying experience that I had a strong desire to stay in that realm and not leave. As I descended back to the earth, I thought to myself that there was no way this could ever be told, or brought to

others. It was not in the realm of thinking; it was far more real than thoughts.

I told the Lord I would not tell anyone about this. He said, "**Tell everyone**". As I looked up into the expanse of the sky, I felt, "How small." Anything in this natural realm is small.

Though I remember being there united with Him, I know when I put it into my mind, I feel I spoil it, so it is hard to describe. I have a longing to go to that place again, but somehow I feel we are there now—we're just not able to sense it except when we get into the Spirit and feel the Presence of God closely. Our fleshly bodies keep us from sensing fully our place in Him.

In the Tabernacle I can see the three realms as outer court, inner court and holy of holies. The fourth realm is *the cloud and is manifested in the shekinah glory*; a cloud by day and a fire by night.

(Elaine: I'd like to make a few comments on things to notice in these dreams. I would say that the first dream speaks of the Feast of Passover.

There were large windows—the light they had came from the sun—it was natural light. There were a large number of people there. It is in this realm that most people walk—knowing only salvation through the Blood of the Lamb.)

(The second restaurant speaks to me of Pentecost. Notice that the tables were smaller and had partitions around them which speaks of more intimacy. Candles lit the room instead of the light from the sun. The atmosphere was warm, which speaks of the warmth and love of the Holy Spirit.)

(The third restaurant must stand for the Feast of Tabernacles. What do you think of it being up in a tree? And, you have to climb up a ladder to get to it? If that doesn't mean *higher in the Spirit* than any of the others, I'd be surprised! It was a honeymoon place where there was privacy and where they were waited upon. It tells me that the Lord is appearing this time in the *marriage*, in a very intimate relationship. We shall be made one in Him!)

28. I Want You to be Like Coffee!

A dear friend told me that for some time she had found the word ***fusion*** in front of her in the most unexpected places. She looked up Bro. Eby's paper where he had written on "Union by Fusion" but it was too technical for her to understand what the Lord was saying. One day she invited a friend over for dinner and her guest brought her a bottle of wine called—***Fusion!***

She finally had to see that the Lord was talking to her about intimacy with Him where there was no separation between them, like Tabernacles shows us. Her life would be just the Lord walking—He doing it, not she!

About the same time, a confirmation came from another person. The Spirit spoke to her, **"I want you to be like coffee."**

She thought, "That couldn't be from God!" As she kept praying in the spirit, He spoke it two more times. The third time, she thought she had better listen.

"He showed me in the Spirit that when you make coffee, you put the water in one container and the coffee in another. But, after the coffee is made, you can't tell which is coffee and which is water!"

He said, **"I want your spirit joined to My Spirit so completely that when they are joined, you can't tell your spirit from My spirit."** (It sounds like **fusion** to me! What an awesome God we serve!)

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