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From the Depth of My Heart...



My dear precious partners in Christ,

Greetings from Germany!


It's a great joy to meet you every month through this magazine. Thank you for standing with us faithfully all these years praying and partnering. God who keeps the accurate record of even a cup of cold water will increase your account and richly supply all your needs.

Berachah Prophetic Ministry will complete 30 years of ministry in 2018. When I look back, with eyes full of tears, I thank God for His unfailing grace and everlasting faithfulness. Supernatural miracles, transformation of millions of lives, raising up of ministers and ministries and restoring the remnants are some of our achievements. It is undeniable that God has been using this ministry to bring forth many profound truths to the Body of Christ in India. I give all glory to God alone.

Beloved, we are in the last minute of the last days. At present, both our nation and the Body of Christ are going through the most difficult of times. We are also facing many attacks all around us. It is time we understand our responsibility and rise up like Esther. There is no substitute for our prayers during a time such as this. With this burden, we have decided to fast one meal a day and pray for 21 days. We have already started our fasting and prayer from June 15th. If you want to join us you can even start now.

After being in the training ministry for more than 45 years, my heart is now moving towards the leaders and the five-fold ministers like never before. We are continuously praying and planning towards conducting seminars for the leaders and five-fold ministers. We need your prayers, especially for this God given mandate.

Never forget to pray for 40th batch of Short Term Intensive Course that starts from August 8th to 18th. God has raised mighty servants of God through this



*Fasting is to listen God; talk to Him; connect with Him;
search our Hearts and maintain that*

- Prophet Ezekiah Francis

course over the years. Heaven knows how many churches are built and how many miracle workers are raised through this ten days course. Your prayers will release many mighty servants of God. What a privilege for you and me to be a part of God given vision. Pray for the right candidates to come and participate and for the greater manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

The next six months of this year is going to be extremely busy in our Poondi campsite. We will have our School of the Holy Spirit for Men and Couples for three months from July 10th to October 10th, then our School of the Holy Spirit for Women in the month of November and Prayer Conference in December. Pray for the strength and the mighty work of the Holy Spirit for all of us. For details, visit our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org and the advertisement in this magazine.

Perilous times are coming in these last days and the Church must be ready to face persecutions (2.Tim.3:1). False religions will rise up like Goliath to challenge the Church of God. It is not the time to limp or to sit in your comfort zone. It is the time to arm yourself with the mind to suffer like Christ and to boldly declare the Gospel to every creature (1.Pe.4:1). Every believer is commissioned by God to preach the Gospel. Please lift up your eyes and see the harvest field around you. Don't allow the devil to magnify your own problems by closing your eyes to see God's need. You are sent to this world to do God's will on this earth. When you act as God's ambassador the whole heaven will back you and take care of all your personal and family problems. Don't be swallowed by your own grieves and needs. Seek God's kingdom first and experience God's miracle provision in all the areas of your life.

Pray for my wife, our families and staff from Poondi and head quarters. Pray for all our programs and our leaders.

May the Lord use you mightily in this end time harvest and empower you to face all the challenges victoriously. The one who begun a good work in you will complete it.

Yours brother in Christ



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Pinnacle of Tongues

Dr. Ezekiah Francis



So far, we have meditated upon the importance of speaking in tongues, but we have not fully searched out everything yet. We can never estimate all the blessings the saints received through tongues throughout the centuries. I could share only what I have gained through my limited experience. I hope this is enough to challenge you to plunge into it.

Now we will see how to speak in tongues effectively. How can you reach the pinnacle of tongues? What are the hindrances, and how can you overcome them?

Take these practical tips and practice them. All the laws of prayer also apply to tongue-talking, but what I share here is an addition. If you follow these steps, tongues will become the most exciting language for you, and you will swiftly progress in these miracle tongues.

1. Speak out of a deep fellowship with the Holy Spirit

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, tongues come along with it. The most important thing is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The first tongue-talkers, the 120, show it to us: ***“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*** (Ac.2:4). Yes! Only those who were filled began to speak. First of all, they were overshadowed and filled by the Holy Spirit. Prompted by Him, they began to speak in tongues. Every tongue-talker must keep this in mind.

The tongues received on the day you are

baptized with the Spirit gradually become your own indwelling language. That is why Paul says, ***“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays.”*** The Holy Spirit's language becomes your spirit's language. His property is transferred to your account.

Now you can speak and stop as you please. That is why Paul gives all the rules and regulations of controlling and releasing our tongues in appropriate times and ways.

There is a risk involved. After some time, you can speak in tongues mechanically without the leadership of the Holy Spirit. That explains why even backsliders can speak in tongues. Such mechanical language doesn't do any good. It's something like the difference between preaching by the power of the Holy Spirit and preaching in a back-slidden condition.

Ark of the Covenant

Many have made tongues into a mechanical language. Without any intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit, they speak as if reciting some mantra. We will see an allegorical example from the Old Testament. The Presence of God dwelt in the Ark of God. That Ark was carried ahead of the army and scattered the enemies. When carried around Jericho with a great shout, the walls tumbled down. The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had (1.Chr.13:14).

The Ark of God that led the people 40 years in the wilderness... the Ark of God that was filled with God's glory the Ark of God that won the battles for Israel the Ark of God that brought the revelations from heaven became powerless before the enemy one day. Let me refresh your memory on that incident.

Eli's sons were wicked and lost all reverential fear for God's Ark that was with them. They despised God's Presence and thereby opened the door for the enemies. As a result, 4000 Israelites were killed. The Israelites, looking for a quick solution, wanted to bring the Ark of God into the battle. ***"Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies"*** (1.Sa.4:3).

The Ark of God that was enthroned between the cherubim was brought to the battle camp. Eli's sons were with the Ark. The moment the Ark reached the camp, people thought they got the victory and shouted so loud it made the ground shake. The enemies panicked when they heard it. What happened? The Ark they trusted in didn't help them. The Israelites fled in defeat. 30,000 soldiers were killed. The Ark of God was captured. The glory of God left God's people. The priests who were with the Ark were killed. What a shame! What a tragedy!

We see a very important truth here: You should never separate any of God's gifts from Him. You should never make it a mechanical mantra. You should never enjoy the gifts grieving the Giver. Of course, God's Presence was in the Ark of God, but once the God of the Ark was despised and grieved, what good could the Ark of God do?

Similarly, it is an undeniable fact that tongues carry innumerable blessings. Yet If you grieve the Giver of tongues, the Holy Spirit, tongues lose their significance. This is the reason tongues are not a joy and pleasure to many people.

Dear friends, become intimate friends of the

Holy Spirit! The Early Church treasured Him as a very precious jewel. They fellowshiped with Him. They trembled to hurt the Comforter. The ministers pleaded with the Church not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph.4:30). The Church also was very careful not to grieve Him. Even when greeting one another, they said: May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you (2.Co.13:14).

The well-pleased Holy Spirit freely manifested to them. He commanded them tenderly, stood near them and strengthened them. He was with them in their decision-making. Whenever His friends stood before the multitude, He rushed to them and filled the multitude with His gifts. He pioneered their missionary journeys, and they enjoyed the gifts along with the Giver (Ac.5:32; 10:19-20; 10:44; 11:12; 13:2-3,52; 15:29; 16:6-7).

Dear tongue-talker, never forget the love of the Giver. Nobody in this world can love you like He does. He has all power to fill the entire universe, but He has made you, the feeble human, His own home. Grieve not your precious Guest! Practice His Presence in you. Talk to Him lovingly as you talk to your dearest friend.

It is impossible to develop friendship without communication. Start communicating with Him. Talk to Him as you talk to your Father God. Walk with Him as you walk with Jesus. As you see the Father and Son as persons with all the emotions, see the Holy Spirit also as a person. He is exactly like the Father and the Son. He has all the emotions and personalities of God the Father and God the Son.

The Holy Spirit has given His gift of tongues with the sole purpose of dwelling in you throughout the day jubilantly (Ps.68:18). Thank Him often for His indwelling presence. Don't trust your changing moods and emotions. Sometimes, you may not feel His presence in you. But that doesn't change the fact that He dwells in you forever and ever (John 14:16-17).

Throughout the day, practice His Presence. Say to the Holy Spirit, "Thank You, Holy Spirit, for dwelling in me." Obey implicitly whatever you hear from Him inside of you.

If you fail anywhere, don't think He will leave you. He never leaves you nor forsakes you. He is right within you, though at times, He is grieved. Ask for forgiveness quickly and get washed by the Blood of Jesus. When you constantly realize His Presence in you, tongues become the most pleasurable language to you.

Don't you enjoy an unusual pleasure when you talk to the dearly beloved of your heart? Don't you freely open your heart? Are you not excited to hear the dear voice? The same thing happens when you talk in tongues. Then you would gladly say like David, *I saw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad and began to speak in new tongues* (Ac.2:25-26). Out of the abundance of His Presence in your heart, your mouth shall speak in many new languages (Mt.12:34-35).

The early disciples were so filled with the Spirit, they acted like drunkards while speaking in tongues. You need to be filled to that measure. A.W. Tozer said, a Spirit-filled man is in a certain sense an intoxicated man. Long for this level of fullness.

While reading this book, you might feel discouraged and condemned in your heart saying, "I have fallen in sin and grieved the Holy Spirit. What's the use of speaking in tongues in this pathetic condition? I'm not even worthy to speak in tongues." This is the trick of the devil. Never think only perfect people can speak in tongues. All of us have our own shortcomings. We are like growing infants. We need tongues to grow spiritually.

The church in Corinth was a baby church, but they spoke in tongues to edify themselves. Tongues are also needed for the Spirit-filled life. What I emphasize here is to have a constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit and to make Him

glad as best you can.

Spirit-filled life and tongue-talking is like a cycle. The more you are Spirit-filled, the more you speak in tongues, and the more you speak in tongues, the more you become Spirit-filled. The more you fellowship with the Holy Spirit, the more you enjoy speaking in tongues. The more you practice this, the more you feel His Presence in you. Both are parallel.

This Spirit-consciousness and Spirit-fullness is the first step to reach the pinnacle of tongues. When you walk in this consciousness, all the fountains of the Holy Ghost within you shall be opened, and the Holy Spirit will pour upon you like the flood in Noah's time. The floodgates of heaven shall be opened, and your spirit man together with the Holy Spirit will rise up like a mighty torrent and bring healing to the nations. Desire it!

2. Speak out of the consciousness your spirit man

It is your spirit man who speaks in tongues. That's your real man. The revelation of this inner man is of paramount importance for the tongue-talkers. When you become spirit-man-conscious, you will stop magnifying the outer man. In fact, it is this outer man who hinders you from enjoying the blessings of tongues. The good news is that your spirit man can easily bring your outer man under his control.

Don't picture the spirit man as a small person somewhere deep inside, totally at the mercy of your big outer man. The spirit man is about the size of your outer man, with a similar image. This spirit man also has a body with all the emotions. That explains how the rich man who went to hell was tormented in the heat. He could clearly see Abraham and Lazarus, even the bosom of Abraham. He wanted Lazarus' finger to be dipped in water and cool off his tongue.

From this, we understand that the spirit man has eyes to see, fingers to dip in water, and a tongue

to cool. The spirit man also has a sharp memory power. That is why the rich man was asked to remember the good things he enjoyed on this earth. The spirit man has affectionate feelings, for he felt a deep affection for his five brothers who were still on earth. The spirit man also has taste, for Jesus said He will not taste the new wine until he reaches the Father's house (Mt.26:29). The spirit man has legs and can move from place to place, just as the resurrected Jesus walked into the closed room. In short, your spirit man is exactly like the resurrected Jesus who spoke, walked with His disciples, showed the nail marks on His hands and feet and side, and who lifted up His hands to bless His disciples when He went to heaven (Jn.20:21). The spirit man of Paul was even carried to the third heaven and heard inexpressible words.

It is this spirit man who speaks in tongues through you. This spirit-man-consciousness will enhance your tongue-talking time. Every time you speak in tongues, remember your spirit man

rises up to bring your soul and body under his total control. Your entire personality is swallowed up by this spirit man when you speak in tongues (2.Co.5:4). The spirit man uses your tongue to speak his language. When you allow the spirit man to speak through you, his eyes are enlightened and his emotions kindled. Then your spirit man can see visions. When you speak in tongues with this renewed consciousness, you can easily subdue your outer man. This makes your tongue-talking time pleasant and takes you another step towards the pinnacle.

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SCHOOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BETHUL, MADHYA PRADESH
TESTIMONIALS



I have been doing part time ministry for several years however I did not know my calling. When I came to the School of the Holy Spirit, God graciously touched all areas of my life. Many truths from the word of God were revealed to me and I am very happy that I found my calling. Now, that I am rest assured of my calling and I have decided to serve God as a full time minister. **Bro. Srinu Raphael, Khammam, Telungana.**

We have not heard this kind of teaching before coming to this School of the Holy Spirit. The revelation of truth from the word of God touched our life and as a result a fire is burning inside of us. Surely Prophet Ezekiah Francis and Rev. Benita Francis have poured their lives into us. We experienced the glory of God in this place. During our study here in this place, God has done two mighty miracles in our home. Now we are carrying the flame and burden that these revelations and anointing must bless our state Sikkim. **Bro. Paul and Sis. Mamta Paul, Sikkim.**

I came to the School of the Holy Spirit in an unexpected way but I thank God for bringing me here. God has opened my eyes to see who I am in Christ. I wanted to work for the world before coming here but now I understood God's calling over my life and preparing myself to bless the nations from here. I praise God for revealing me the purpose and calling upon my life when I am here. **Bro. Sachin, Chandrapur, Maharashtra.**

I came to this School of the Holy Spirit with a theological mind set as I am a Bible Scholar. But it is here that I have experienced God personally as never before. After the curse breaking session by Rev. Benita Francis I experienced new freedom in me and also started feeling the presence of God the more. My life has transformed and hearing God's voice has become very easy for me now. **Bro. Akash, Bathinda, Punjab.**

I came to the School of the Holy Spirit as my family especially my father forced me to come. Though I was actively doing ministry, I was in search for answers for many questions in my life and I was not satisfied with any answers and doubted if I should continue in ministry. But I thank God that this School of the Holy Spirit has answered all my questions, transformed me and has renewed God's vision in my life. I am going from here with new hopes to serve Him more and more. **Bro. Samuel Masih, Punjab**

We have been doing ministry but did not have peace in our family. Continuous quarrelling between us given me the thoughts of committing suicide. But after the curse breaking session by Rev. Benita Francis I was delivered and felt that something new is happening in my life. From then on I started experiencing undescrivable new joy and peace. God opened my eyes and I started seeing visions. We are going with fresh beginning in our personal, family and ministry life. **Bro. Dharamraj and Sis. Ashwini, Maharastra.**

I came to Berachah Prophetic Ministries as a broken vessel without hope of living any further. But as soon as the curse breaking session by Rev. Benita Francis was done I started seeing a visible change in me. I found my

new life in this School and felt like I found a new family too. I can say for sure that Prophet Ezekiah Francis and Rev. Benita Francis are like father and mother have poured their lives in me. I came as a dead person and going as a new man. **Bro. Balachandra Jaswar, Utter Pradesh**

When I came to this School of Holy Spirit I was bound by things of the world. But God delivered me and opened my eyes to see myself the way God sees me. The truth about the inner man gave me the key for a victorious life. After going from here I will fulfil God's plan for my life. **Bro. Sunny, Haryana.**

Though I was doing ministry, my prayer life was dry and empty. But in the School of the Holy Spirit God touched me and gave revelations of Christ in me. Also I found my calling in this very place. I am going with the faith that God will do great things through me. **Pastor Mulesh Meravi, Delhi.**

I was going through a tough time in my spiritual life. My personal relationship with God and Word was a mere struggle. But after coming here my fellowship with God is revived and rejuvenated. Also the entire struggle came to an end. I started enjoying speaking in tongues and it released my rivers. God did a great miracle in my family and finance during my stay here as well. **Bro Gourav, Chhattisgarh.**

Before coming to the School of the Holy Spirit I was going through many struggles in my life. But God touched me in this school. One day I saw a vision that a hand getting through my body and it plugged something out of my stomach. After that I started feeling healthy and happy. God has transformed me beyond my expectations. **Bro. Johnson, Madhya Pradesh**

NEWS

- The ruling BJP has announced Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind as its candidate for the forthcoming Presidential elections. The poll is slated to be held on 17th of July and votes to be counted on the 20th. All elected MPs and MLAs are eligible to vote. The term of President Pranab Mukherjee comes to an end on the 25th of July 2017.
- The Aadhaar number along with the PAN Card has been made mandatory for financial transactions of Rs 50000 and above. Aadhaar is also a must for opening new bank accounts. The new regulation comes into effect from June 1st. Those already having the accounts have been asked to submit their Aadhaar numbers to their banks by this December. Seeding the Aadhaar with the PAN Card has also been made mandatory.
- The South West Monsoon has set in this year two days in advance from its usual date of June 1. The Monsoon made its welcome mark simultaneously in Kerala coasts and the North East. The 50 years annual average of the rainfall during this principal rainy season across the nation is 99 centimetres. Meteorology Department officials have forecast 98 percent of the long time average rainfall this year. They believe that the weather phenomenon El Nino has mostly lost its steam. However, they are not sure the specific nature of its role in the monsoon this time.
- The Centre has issued a notification putting regulations on the sale of animals in cattle markets for the purpose of slaughtering for meat. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change order dated May 23rd makes it illegal for farmers and animal traders to sell cattle, which include cows, bulls, buffaloes and camels for the purpose without following a set of new regulations. It has triggered protests from many quarters.
- The national space agency ISRO successfully test-flighted the 4-ton class rocket GSLV Mk III carrying the modern communication satellite GSAT-19.
- A seven storied prominent textiles showroom 'The Chennai Silks' was gutted in a major fire accident at the commercial hub of T.Nagar in Chennai. Critics say that the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is not doing enough to check unauthorized structures in its area of jurisdiction.
- Terror killings peaked from 2010 to 2015. In 2010, the victims were 7720. 4 years later, it rose to 43550. 2016, it was 38,422. Mostly from Middle East and North Africa, followed by South Asia.
- A massive suicide truck bombing killed 90 people in the Afghanistan capital Kabul. 400 others were wounded in the attack that took place near Indian and other embassies.
- 19 year olds are found to be as sedentary as those in their 60s. (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). Rises only after 20, but then reduces from 35 onwards. Meanwhile, average life time increases, only to be burdened with life style diseases in many cases.
- Last May was the second hottest in the recorded history of 137 years, as revealed in a NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies findings. The two top May temperature anomalies were during the past two years. 2016 May was the hottest on record, 0.93C above the mean temperature.
- The modern architect of the reunified Germany and former Chancellor Helmut Kohl passed away. He was 87. He was the longest post-war serving Chancellor from 1982 to 1998. He is also credited to be a driving force behind the introduction of the common European Union currency Euro.
- The London Grenfell Tower apartment inferno of 14th June death toll has crossed 30, expected to touch 100. The BBC reports suggest 76 people are missing. 24 remain in hospitals



ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

Rev. Benita Francis



Continued from last month...



these things.

Staying Soil

Being rooted in God's Word is also an essential prerequisite to experiencing the Father-love of God. Only if you know His Word, you can keep it and live a life that makes the Holy Trinity feel welcome and comfortable in your life:

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (Jn. 14:23)

Do you sometimes struggle to feel God's Presence in your life? Are you haunted with condemning thoughts and feelings? Are you questioning whether God is angry at you? Do you doubt He might even have left you alone? The above Scripture is your answer. Keeping His Word shows Him that you truly love Him, and that attracts Him more than anything you could do.

How can you make sure you keep His Word? Of course, it can happen only by knowing His Word - not just some isolated Scriptures here and there, but the essence, the context, the totality of His Word.

Remember, even your Lord Jesus explained the constant and continuous Presence of His Father in His life with the words,

28 ...When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak

29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him (Jn. 8:28-29)

Again, how can you make sure you do only what pleases Him? Well, you do it by knowing Him, knowing His likes and dislikes, knowing His desires. Where can you find all this vital information about your God? You can find it nowhere else but in His written Word.

Some people try to find out God's will and ways only by prayer and listening to what they hear in the spirit, through some inner voice or vision. Let me warn you. The more we approach the last days of the End Times, the more people will be deceived. Actually, Jesus Himself warns us to take heed that we be not deceived, adding that even the elect are in danger of deception (Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22).

Rooting and grounding your life in God's staying soil, His powerful Word, will ensure the staying Presence of God in your life and protect you from deception and destruction (1.Jn. 2:20,27).

Satisfying Soil

God's Word is also the most satisfying thing you can find on this earth. It is vital and essential for your life, for your spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment and well-being. It is even critically important for your long life on this earth. See how your Lord Jesus puts it:

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Mt.4:4)

Have you noticed how much emphasis people put on food, health, fitness, vitality and longevity nowadays? Everybody suggests some new diet, everybody claims to have found the fountain of eternal youth... it can really become confusing and even dangerous.

I would suggest you always stick to the Creator’s manual, your Bible. If anything is suggested as food in the Bible, happily eat it with as little human tampering as possible. If anything is not suggested, you are free to eat it because your Lord Jesus has declared all foods pure (Mk.7:18-19). If you look at this Scripture more closely, though, you will find that Jesus is talking here about spiritual defilement, not about dietary habits. Even our Scripture about the dangers of the “latter times” seems to be spoken in a more spiritual than physical context:

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer (1.Ti.4:1-5)

So definitely, yes, every creature of God is good and sanctified if you receive it with thanksgiving, God's Word and prayer - and yet, WHY would

your loving Creator spend so much time explaining to His Old Testament-people what to eat and what not to eat?

As a Master of Biology, I fully agree with God’s counsel. Many of the “forbidden” animals are scavengers or easy prey to dangerous parasites, infections and different kinds of diseases. Others seem to be good for us according to our current scientific knowledge, but have you noticed how often scientists have to change their opinions and counsels? Don’t you think our Creator knows better than our limited human brain? I for one have decided to obey God’s Word even in such seemingly small matters.

Do you still need more proof to show you that only God’s Word can satisfy you? Well, then see here:

14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above (Pr.14:14)

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the Living Word Jesus... How? Through the written Word in the Bible that is a lamp and a light to keep you walking in God's ways instead of stumbling around in your own ways (Ps.119:105; Pr.6:23).

Root and ground your life in God's satisfying soil, His eternal Word, and you will be satisfied in time and eternity.

Satiating Soil

You probably already tried to find satisfaction and fulfillment in all kinds of places and were always left with a shale taste in your mouth. Let me tell you, nothing and nobody can fulfill your deepest longings like the One who created you for His delight and pleasure (Pr.8:30-31).

Let me remind you of the very first day in the life of humanity. Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day, right (Ge.1:24-31)? Well, do you remember the specialty of the seventh day - the day that had become their very first day? The seventh day was the day where God rested from all the labor He had done (Ge.2:1-3). It was a day of completion, fulfillment and celebration, and it was a day of rest!

Where could Adam and Eve enjoy that rest that marked the very beginning of human history? They celebrated it in the Garden of Eden, the Garden of pure delight, which is what the word "Eden" means in English (Ge.2:8,15). "The LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Ge.2:9). Oh yes, your God made very sure He would satiate not only your need for food, but even your need for beauty and pleasure!

So what is your best heart-healthy diet? Does God's Word have something to say about this subject also? Oh yes, of course it does:

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with

them (Heb.13:9)

Interesting, isn't it? I have heard of people, even precious born-again, Spirit-filled believers, who are so absorbed by the diets they have to observe and by preparing all the special meals required that they don't find time anymore to observe and obey God's Word! What a tragedy! Remember the parting command of our Lord Jesus who told us to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature..." to "Make disciples of all nations..." to "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons..." and so many other important tasks (Mk.16:17; Mt.28:18; Mt.10:8)!

Don't you think observing the last Words of the Savior of the world is more important than observing some diet?!? God's Word itself clearly says, the foods "have not profited those who have been occupied with them" (Heb.13:9). Make no mistake: natural things can never truly satisfy you. Why not? Well, simply because you are not a natural being, you are a SUPER-natural being! And as a supernatural being, you need supernatural food - VERY supernatural food! See here:

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 This is the bread which came down from heaven - not as your fathers ate the manna, and

are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever” (Jn.6:53-58)

Wow! Did you know that in ancient Rome, Christians were heavily persecuted because people spread the rumor that they were cannibals, killing and eating humans? What a total misunderstanding!

Of course, your Lord Jesus was talking about His eternal sacrifice, remembered each time you take Holy Communion. Remember, Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (Jn.1:1,14). So eating His flesh simply means eating Him, God’s eternal Word, God’s written Word.

16 Your Words were found, and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts (Jer.15:16)

Splitting Sword Soil

God’s Word satisfies not only your deepest inner needs, but also your secret longings. God’s Word pierces so deeply, it can divide between your soul and your spirit! What a tremendous blessing!

How easily could we go astray, following the dictates and fancies of our souls! The worst part is that we could even think we are walking in God’s will, if God’s Word would not inspect and correct us so faithfully! See God’s Word:

12 For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb.4:12)

The division between soul and spirit is not easy to make, even for mature believers. There are so many things that seem to be “good” ideas, but how can you make sure what you want to do for God is really a “God” idea? Did you know that the greatest enemy of your calling can be your desire to do God’s will? If you don’t allow God’s Word to point the searchlight into your innermost being, you may run off with some beautiful and very needed project

Your soul may command and demand, but praise God! His Word will always put you back on the right path and help you truly fulfill His will.

To be Continued...

BOOK OF THE MONTH



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