

Truth and Spirit Ministries

The Lords Supper - Part V

Removing the Hindrances to Receiving the Substance

So far in this series, we have been learning of the powerful substance behind the symbols of the Lord's Supper. Jesus said that the truth will set us free. Free from what? Free from sin, the law, death, sickness, disease, sorrow, addictions and the devil just for starters. The truth can even set us free from *ourselves*. In all of this liberation business it is important to know this: Our great Liberator has not only freed us *from* these things, but he has also freed us *to* some things. We have been freed from all of those things that produce death in our lives so that we may now go on to live a powerful life in Christ.

Although there is great substance behind the symbols of the Lord's Supper for us as believers, we can be hindered from receiving the manifestation of these things in our lives. How? We can be hindered through lack of knowledge, doubt, fear, unbelief, false teaching, legalism or the teachings of men. Each one of these may tell you something different, but all of them will hinder your faith and ability to receive the substance of Christ. Lack of knowledge will hide the truth from you. Doubt will tell you that maybe it's for you or maybe it's not. Unbelief will tell you that it's not true. False teaching will tell you that it is not for you today. Legalism will tell you that you can't receive what you seek after due to some sin in your life. The teachings of men will cause the word of God to not be effectual in your life. (Matthew 15:8-9)

Take heart though. Even if you find that one or more of these things are hindering you, there is a way that these hindrances can be removed out of the way entirely. When they are, you are well on your way to receiving the substance of Christ as a reality in your life. When we look to Christ and his word, we will find a different message altogether. We will find that not only will these hindrances be exposed and removed; we will also be able to learn and understand the truths that he has given us and this in turn will build up our faith and release it in a highly effective way, causing the substance to come forth.

The Lord's Table

The Lord has loads of benefits stored up for us just waiting for us to receive. He has already paid for them through the Cross, *prepared them* and made them accessible to us by laying them all out on his table. Do you know what his table is called? It is called the Lord's Table. This is the table that has been laid out for the Lord's Supper. Many believers have a wrong mindset due to erroneous teaching that we can only eat and drink at the Lord's Table in "the sweet bye and bye." Did you know however that in reality we can and do truly eat and drink from the Lord's Table now? The Word of God says so. (1 Corinthians 10:21)

Since the law was a shadow of the good things to come, we will find that even the Tabernacle in the Wilderness had a table within it. (Hebrews 10:1, 9:2) This was just but a shadow of the real table that would come in the New Covenant, called the Lord's Table. Found on the table in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness was the consecrated bread. Found at the Lord's Table is the true Bread that came down from heaven, Jesus Christ. The former was simply an earthly replica and

temporary substitute of the true heavenly one. God wants us to receive the reality and substance that Christ has given us through his sacrificial atonement. We can't rightly do that if we have reduced the Lord's Supper down to a meaningless religious ritual however. Many today partake of the bread and wine (or juice) without truly grasping that there is true substance behind the symbolism.

Many believers have not yet received the reality that the Table has already been prepared and we can now come to freely eat and drink. So many today are not conscience of or do not have the knowledge that they may freely come to this table to receive whatever they need. Why? False teaching has promoted the lie that we can't eat at the Lord's Table until we get to heaven. The reality that's in Christ, however, says that we can do so now.

How is this possible? It has been made possible because when you and I received Christ and were born again by the Spirit, we entered the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5-8) Now that we have become citizens of heaven and true sons of God, we now have the right to eat at the King's Table. (Hebrews 12:22-24, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 3:26-29, 4:4-7) The sad truth is that many come to the Lord's Supper, not knowing who they really are or that they are coming to a divine table that is loaded with a feast of benefits and walk away without being *filled* with the substance of Christ.

Imagine if you will, that you came to a divine table loaded with everything you could ever need or desire and on top of that, everything on that table was good for you and free for the taking. Would you eat and drink until you were full or would you look at all of it and walk away empty? I'm sure that like me, you would want to walk away full instead of empty. Yet, because we have not been rightly taught the truth of the reality or substance of the Lord's Table (Supper) in our lives as believers, we are not able to receive what the Lord so freely gives. (Grace) This is the substance behind the symbolism of the Lord Supper and we can receive all the good things that God has provided for us there by faith in Christ.

Instead of relying on others to know what God wants you to have, you can come to know what he wants you to have personally by receiving revelation knowledge through the Spirit who dwells in you. Not only will you receive knowledge of what God wants to give you, but the understanding of how to receive it as well. Check this out:

“However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived *what God has prepared for those who love him*” but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may *understand what God has freely given us.*” (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)

God has already prepared his table for those who love him and he wants us to understand what he has freely given us. Do you love God? Of course you do! Since God loves you and you love him, nothing can prevent us from receiving all those good things that he wants to load us down with. King David wrote under divine inspiration of this marvelous truth.

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.” (Psalm 68:19)

Wow! We can receive from God on a daily basis, twenty-four seven. The Lord's Table is always made available to us whenever we need to come to it. We can come and dine with the Lord as often as we like.

Tearing Down Strongholds of the Mind

We are taught in the book of Hebrews to **“Throw off everything that hinders us”** so that we can **“run with perseverance the race marked out for us”**. (Hebrews 12:1) We are also taught that we should **“Demolish arguments or strongholds and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** (II Corinthians 10:4-5)

All scripture has been divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. God has given us instructions as to how hindrances can be removed from our lives, torn down and demolished. As we begin to obey God and learn how to apply his word to our lives, we will find that what he has given us is powerfully effective. In order to “throw off” what hinders us and “demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” we must be able to differentiate between what is truth and what is false. How can we know? First, we must seek God in prayer and then study his word. (Proverbs 3:5-6, Acts 17:11, II Timothy 2:15) We can only receive truth by sincerely seeking God, studying his word and relying on the Holy Spirit to give us understanding personally or through others as well.

When we are listening to or reading the teachings of others through CD's, TV, radio, books, the Internet or public speaking, we must find out whether their teaching is in line with what the Bible teaches us. If what we hear or read can be fully supported or substantiated in the word, receive it, but if not we must reject it. We must let God and his divine word settle the matter. Should we find out that there is something that we have previously believed that is not from God, we must be willing to change and conform to his truth. When we cast off those things that hinder us from running our spiritual race and start receiving the realities of the atonement, this will make room for God to begin to impart his divine truth and understanding to us.

Does What We Believe Agree With What God's Word Says?

What we believe makes a difference. That's why it's so important to guard our hearts and minds by proving the validity of the teachings of others before we receive it. It's also important to examine our own beliefs and thoughts to know if they are truly in line with God's Word or not. What we believe in our hearts will be spoken from our lips. Below you will find specific examples of the thoughts and beliefs that many Christians have had. At the end of each thought I will show you where that thought or belief originated from. It is a very interesting exercise that teaches us a lot as believers.

- “God must be withholding all of these blessings and benefits from me for some unexplainable reason”. (Confusion and lack of knowledge)
- “I must be doing something wrong”. (Guilt, blaming self)
- “I am not worthy to receive because I have sin in my life”. (Legalism/Condemnation)
- “If I take the Lord's Supper while I have some unconfessed sin in my life, I will incur the judgment or anger of God.” (Fear/legalism)
- “If it is the Lord's will to heal me, he will, but if not, he won't” (Doubt/double mindedness)
- “God does not heal or deliver people today.” (Unbelief/teachings of men)
- “God has put this sickness on me to teach me a lesson. (False teaching/legalism)

Do you see anything wrong with this picture? None of these statements agree with what God actually says in his word!

Let's take a look at the first one. **"God must be withholding all of these blessings and benefits from me for some unexplainable reason"**. This belief is based on a lack of knowledge of God's very nature and character. God is love and has demonstrated his love for us by sending his Son to pay the ultimate price so that we could actually receive his blessings. (Galatians 3:14) Since this is the case, why would he withhold the very blessings that he desires us to have? Psalm 84:11 declares:

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Since believers are under the age of grace (undeserved, unmerited pardon) and walk uprightly, God will not withhold his blessings from them.

Let's go on to the next one. **"I must be doing something wrong"**. This is someone who is carrying around unnecessary guilt or condemnation. This is an individual that has been blaming his or her self for not being able to receive from God. Since Jesus Christ has removed all condemnation through the Cross from those who now trust in him, then this thinking does agree with the finished work of the Cross and what the Gospel of Christ declares. (Romans 8:1)

Now let's move on. **"I am not worthy to receive because I have sin in my life"**. We must realize that we do not have to feel worthy in ourselves because we are already counted worthy in Christ. (II Thessalonians 1:4-5) We do not even have to qualify ourselves because by the sacrifice of Christ, the Father has already qualified us to share in the inheritance of Christ and all the saints. (Colossians 1:12 NIV) Many try to earn the blessings of God and when they fall short, they feel that God will not bless them. We must not trust in ourselves to somehow "earn" these blessings but we must instead look to Christ and receive by faith what he has already paid for with his sacrifice. (Galatians 2:16-21)

Notice what the next one says. **"If I take the Lord's Supper while I have some unconfessed sin in my life, I will incur the judgment or anger of God."** We do not have to fear the judgment of God because we are now in Christ and the condemnation and wrath of God has been removed. Jesus already took our punishment and removed the curse (wrath) of the law on the Cross. (Isaiah 53:5, Galatians 3:13-14, Romans 8: 15-17) God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind. (II Timothy 1:7) When we focus on our lack and insufficiency, it makes it difficult for us to receive, when we keep our eyes fixed on Christ and his all sufficient sacrifice however, we can receive what we believe for! (Hebrews 10:12-14) The only kind we should have is a godly fear where we have an awesome reverence for God.

This next one is also a result of false teaching that comes from more traditional Churches. **"If it is the Lord's will to heal me, he will, but if not, he won't"** This statement is one of doubt and double-mindedness. Why? The doubt in this statement immediately begins with the word "if". There are no "ifs" with God when it comes to healing. He has clearly shown us in his word that it is certainly his divine will to heal people. (Luke 6:17-19, Matthew 8:1-3, Psalm 103:2-5, I Peter 2:24) Where does the double-mindedness come in to play? Well the Bible says that **"a double minded man is unstable in all his ways"** and **"the man that doubts won't receive anything from the Lord."** (James 1:6-8) Either the Lord heals or he doesn't. A double minded man is one whose faith

is like shifting sand. God is waiting for him to make up his mind. Until he does, he cannot really reward him for what he asks for. (Hebrews 11:6)

Look at the next one: **“God does not heal or deliver people today.”** This belief has come about through both false teaching and the tradition of men. Remember that Jesus condemned tradition without obedience to the commands of God. (Matthew 15:1-9) There are some that falsely believe and teach that God no longer heals or delivers today but this is in direct opposition to the Gospel of Christ. The Lord commanded the Church to go into the entire world to preach the Gospel, lay hands on the sick so they could recover and cast out demons in his name. When believers choose to receive and obey the traditions of men over the Gospel, this is sin in God’s sight. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16) Healing and deliverance go hand in hand with the Gospel message. It is divine *proof* that this message is truly from God. (Luke 4:16-21, Mark 16:15-20, Acts 8:4-8, 19:11-12, I Peter 2:24)

And the last one mentioned above is **“God has put this sickness on me to teach me a lesson.** This is false teaching that is rooted in the curse of the law. Christ has redeemed all men from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us on the Cross. (Galatians 3:13-14) What does God say about this? The Gospel teaches us that God is no longer counting our sins against us but instead is forgiving us of them and we now have justification by faith in Christ. (Romans 3:21-24, 5:1-11, 4:6-8) Since this is true, God would never use sickness to teach us anything.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Many of God’s children have unnecessarily blamed themselves for not being able to obtain the benefits that they seek after. If you have been doing this, please know that God wants you to come out from under any and all condemnation and live in the power of his grace. He has no condemnation for you period. He simply wants you to believe his promises and receive them. In reality, our faulty mindsets do not change the surety of all the blessings and benefits of the Lord’s Supper and the power of his atonement. They simply render the faith of the believer powerless to release the blessings. To understand the truth of this statement, make sure to read the following scriptures. *(Galatians 5:2, James 1:6-8, I John 4:18, Matthew 15:6, I Corinthians 11:29-30)

Although there may be many things that can render our faith powerless for a time, realize that God has **a remedy** for all of these things and they are contained in his word. There is actually a light at the end of the tunnel of this teaching for all believers who have been struggling to obtain the blessings of God. Please know that although some of the things that have been covered in this article can hinder your faith, *they cannot stop your faith*. You can reject the lies of the devil, you can reject the false teaching of men, you can come out from under legalism and condemnation, and you can overcome fear, doubt, unbelief and *all things* by the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 4:13)

It is written in the word of God that all of God’s promises are “yes” and “amen”. This means that they are absolute and certain. God is a God of his word and he faithfully performs all that he says. It’s not that God is withholding anything from us; it’s our lack of revelation about what Christ has actually done for us. Don’t be put off by that last statement, this is actually good news! This means that we can quit wasting our time by blaming ourselves, living a life of fear and doubt and now start asking God to give us the insight, understanding and knowledge that we need to receive the substance behind the symbolism so that these things will become a living reality in our lives!

It may be true that many people have had their faith rendered powerless by those things that I have shared in this teaching but can I now share with you what I believe to be the major reason that many are not receiving what they so earnestly pray for? Could it be that many believers are not

seeing the results that they are seeking after simply because they need a greater revelation of the sacrifice of Christ? After all, *you can't receive what you do not yet have knowledge of*. Many times it's what we *don't know* that hurts us. God has already spoken of this problem in his word. He said, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."** In order for us to be able to receive what God wants us to have then we need *knowledge* and not just any knowledge per se, but revelation knowledge and understanding that can only come from God as given to us by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 2: 9-12)

We are admonished in God's word to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord". When those things are removed that attack our faith, we can now begin to look to God for help to obtain the reality or substance behind the symbols of the Lord's Supper. We can obtain what we so earnestly seek God for when we simply receive God's grace (unmerited, undeserved favor) and the knowledge of his truth.

Instead of being in fear, doubt or unbelief (that is, being in our fallen nature instead of living in the Spirit), we can come over into the realm of faith or belief where there is restoration in Christ. We must walk in the Spirit instead of our sinful nature. When we look to the guidance and direction of our Helper, the Holy Spirit, he will take us where we need to go. (John 16:12-15) Faith releases the presence, power and healing of God. Whatever we need we can find by looking to Jesus. He is our Savior, Healer and Deliverer. God wants to remove every excuse out of the way so that his people can receive all the good things that he has provided through his Son. He wants us to come to the Lord's Table and receive all of his goodness, all of his love and all of his blessings. The truth will set us free to receive them.

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