

Hebron Messenger

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NO.18

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST? —6

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON THEM

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1: 8).

(i) **"...ye shall receive power..."** Having received the Holy Spirit, Who had come to dwell within them, making their bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor.6: 19) and the temple of God (1Cor.3: 16), and having been united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and been brought into a new relationship with Christ, and made members of one another in the Body of Christ of which Christ Himself is the Head, the next essential thing, which was already provided for the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, was enduement with power from on high. The Lord Jesus referred to this enduement in Luke 24:49. From the Day of Pentecost they were to be His mighty witnesses. Very soon people would be saying of them, "These... have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Christ working in them, that is in the Church, would be like the stone cut without hands, which reduced to powder the great image of Nebuchadnezzar and then filled the whole earth (Dan.2: 34,35). That is why it was essential for the Lord to endue the disciples with power from on high for their Herculean task.

This enduement with power is provided in Christ for all believers, and it can be appropriated and enjoyed by them from the day they are born again (Isa.41: 15; Eph.1: 3). If they wait upon the Lord and claim these promises by faith, they can enjoy them in their daily lives (Isa.40: 31).

(ii) **"...after the Holy Spirit is come upon you..."** Please note the words, "upon you"; they indicate the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon them. The Holy Spirit came to be in the disciples on the Day of Pentecost by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, like the oil in the cakes of the meat offering made of fine flour mingled with oil; and besides this, the anointing of the Holy Spirit would also be upon them, like the oil in the unleavened wafers anointed with oil (Lev.2: 4). By virtue of this anointing upon them, the disciples were able to preach the Gospel boldly and clearly, beginning from Jerusalem and reaching to the uttermost parts of the world.

This is true for us also. On the day of our new birth we have been anointed by the Holy Spirit. "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God" (2 Cor. 1: 21). Let us look at Aaron's anointing. Only Aaron's head was anointed. By remaining under his head, his whole body, including his beard, received the benefit of the anointing. "It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments" (Psa.133: 2). We would not say that Aaron's head was anointed, but rather, Aaron was anointed. Our Head is Christ. He is the Anointed One. The very word "Messiah" in Hebrew, or "Christos" in Greek means, "the anointed One". When Christ the Head of the Body is anointed, that means the whole body is anointed; and by virtue of being members in His Body we also come under His anointing. However we should not accept it passively, but strive to remain under His Headship in all things, in our every day life and ministry. As we remain under Christ's Headship, like Aaron's beard, we shall enjoy the anointing oil running down all over us.

Evidently, Aaron was not anointed with a teaspoonful of oil, but rather with a large bucketful of oil, poured on his head and drenching his whole body, thus representing the Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, Who is anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows (Heb.1 :9). "...for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him" (John 3:34).

How we should long to remain under His Lordship, and enjoy His anointing in our personal experience! "But the anointing, which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (1 John 2:27). Obey Him, abide in Him, learn from Him, and be used by Him as His anointed messenger.

Thirdly, we see that ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST THE DISCIPLES WERE ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE HIS WITNESSES.

(To be contd.) C.E.D

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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26-8-2002

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath begotten us to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. May our God of hope, make us to abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost, that we might become heirs of God, even joint-heirs with Christ (1 Pet.1: 3; Rom.15: 13; Rom.4: 18; Rom.8:17).

From the above Scriptures and many more we see that the death, resurrection of Christ and lively hope, and the Holy Ghost are linked together in the believer's experience and enjoyment of Christ. Our Christian life is not self -improving, but it is wholly supernatural and divine. Now the resurrection cannot come until there has been death. This is presupposed, and just as real as the death has been, will be the measure of resurrection life and power. Let us not fear therefore to die, and to die to all that we would leave behind us, and detach ourselves from, nay, even to die to ourselves and really cease to be. We lose nothing by letting go, and we cannot enter in till we come out. If we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him.

Colossians 3: 1 expresses the fact that we have already died and risen, and that we are now to take the attitude of those for whom this is an accomplished fact. Paul does not tell them here to die with Christ, and rise with Him, but rather he calls upon Christians to take their place as having died and risen with Christ', and to live accordingly. He tells them later in verse 3, "For YE are DEAD, and your life is HID with CHRIST in GOD". The only way you can ever die is by surrendering yourself to Christ and then reckoning yourself dead with Him. You surrender yourself to Christ to be crucified with Him, and to have all your old life pass out, and henceforth to live as one BORN from HEAVEN and animated by Him alone.

Even so, as you take this stand, suddenly some of your old traits of evil reappear, old thoughts and evil tendencies assert themselves, and say loudly and clamorously, "We are not dead". Now if you recognise these things, fear them and obey them you are sure to give them life and they will begin to control you and drag you back into the former state. But if you refuse to recognise them and say, "These are Satan's lies. I am dead indeed unto sin; these do not belong to me. but are of the children of the devil. I therefore repudiate them and rise above them". God will detach you from them and make them utterly dead. You will find that they are no part of you. but simply temptations which Satan tried to throw over you. and weave around you that which seemed part of yourself.

This is the true remedy for all the workings of temptations and sin. It is an awful fact that when one counts himself wicked. he will become wicked. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. " Our reckonings reflect themselves in our realities. Therefore God hath made this principle of faith to be the main spring of personal righteousness and holiness. and the subtle yet sublime power that can lead us OUT of OURSELVES into the very LIFE of GOD.

Let the Lord teach us not so much to rise as to remember we are RISEN; that we have been raised with Christ from the dead. resurrected from the grave of our NOTHINGNESS and worse than nothingness. and that we are sitting with Him, in heavenly places. recognised by the Father and permitted to RECKON ourselves as being "even as He". Our attitude will influence our goal. People live according to their standing. The highborn child of nobility carries in his bearing and behaviour the consciousness of his noble descent. As those who have their title on high and conscious of their high and heavenly rank. because we have risen with Christ let us live and walk as the children of the Great King. We have ceased to be paupers and become princes; therefore we are to put off the rags of the beggar and put on the princely garments.

We have to put on the new man. therefore let us put on kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering, and above all charity which is a perfect girdle that binds all the garments together (Coi.3: 10-14). The best of all our robes is Christ Himself; and we are to put on Christ (Rom.13:14). The resurrection life is intensely practical. The Apostle brings it into touch with the nearest relationship of life, with the family circle with the position of masters and servants and with all secular obligations of life. It is to affect our whole conduct and aims and lead us to walk wherever we are called. The Lord writes this upon our hearts.

Thank the Lord for the dedication and thanksgiving service of the new Prayer House, Mizpeh, at Nakrekal, Nalgonda Dt, held on the 23rd of August, when Bro. G. T. Benjamin with other God's servants shared the ministry.

Kindly pray for the dedication and thanks giving meetings, God willing to be held at Zion Prayer House (N.G.O.'s Colony, Nellore) -from 6th to 8th September. Bro.R.S.Kuruvilla of Coimbatore with others will be sharing the ministry.

Pray for the dedication of the newly constructed Prayer House at Jawramunda, about 70 kms. from Rourkela on the morning of 19th September followed by the Youth Camp at Bethany, Rourkela, from the same evening till 22nd Sunday, when Bro.Paul Sudhakar with others would minister the Word.

Sis. Mahlah Nissi (daughter of Bro. Sudarsana Rao of Carmel, Nellore) was united in marriage with Bro.John Timothy at Carmel, Nellore on 24th August, by Bro.G.T.Benjamin. Pray for the Lord's blessing on their union.

Pray for the Youth Reunion God willing to be held at Hermon, Hyderabad on the 10th of September.

Though belated we would mention that Dr. Kinnear (of London, U.K.) was called Home to Glory on the 21st of August. Saints in Dohnavur, Vellore and Chennai would remember with gratitude and praise unto

the Lord, his labours in South India not only as a Medical Missionary, but also as a minister of the Word for the furtherance of the Lord's Testimony in the South, especially in Chennai, in association with His servant late Bro. Bakht Singh and the early elders of the church at Jehovah -Shammah, nearly six decades ago. His book "Monsoon Daybreak", read and appreciated by many has been an inspired timely writing of the Lord's movement in Madras and around. He rests from his labours (Rev.14: 13)

Let us remember in prayer his family members and saints who would miss him. Do pray that the Lord may be pleased to favour us through the judiciary, for all connected matters of the Hebron administration, ministry and responsibilities.

Praying that the God of hope may make us enter into all that He hath prepared for us, as those raised and seated with Him in Christ,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP

Rom. 4:17,18,20,21; Psalm 20:1,4,7,8; Col. 3: 1- 4

SECRET OF A HAPPY HOME-2

BAKHT SINGH

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5: 22,28; 6:17 1 Pet. 3: 1-7

The first secret of a happy married life is given in Eph. 5:17. "...be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is". That is a simple Scripture verse, which can be remembered or learned by experience. If you want success in your home, job, business, or any other activity, that verse should be remembered; understand what God's will is. If anyone questions you, "Do you know how to find God's will?", what will you say? Can you prove that you have found God's will? Just saying, "Let Thy will be done" is not sufficient. God's Word says, you have to understand what God's will is. That is why we should have the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us to find God's will, otherwise, we will be wasting our money and energy on things of nought.

In 1932 many times I wasted my time, energy and money on shameful things. But thank God, one day He taught me that I am not my own and He taught me also to find His perfect will in every matter. We are told in Rom. 8:14, how we can find God's will. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God". We must be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. To be indwelt by the Holy Spirit we must be pure and holy. God is holy. He says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy"(1 Pet.1: 16). That is why we have to have our sins forgiven before we can receive into us the Holy Spirit. To those who come to us and ask us to help them in arranging their marriages, our first question is, "Are your sins forgiven"? We are not concerned about their family, wealth, property or education. We are only concerned about their experience of new birth and whether they have received the gift of eternal life. Then we ask them, "Do you know how to find God's will? Did you pray to find God's will before consenting to this marriage?" That is the first foundational condition to be fulfilled for a happy home. We thank God, He is willing to forgive any sinner and give him the gift of eternal life.

The second condition for a happy home is given in Eph.5: 18, "...be filled with the Spirit". For a happy home, you should be willing to be led by the Spirit not only for the marriage but also for every step of your life. In all things you should be led by the Spirit. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way"(Psa.37: 23). Every step you take before going anywhere, taking up

any business or making any plan for building a house, you should find God's will, and do all things in accordance with God's will. That is the result of being filled with the Spirit. As believers we have the privilege of going to the Lord Jesus to find everything from Him. He is the living God Who rose again and we as believers in Him have the right to go to Him, to be led by Him every day for every matter. We have the great joy of going to Him because He is our Creator.

Thirdly, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"(Eph.5:19). The third condition for a happy home is to express your thanksgiving by songs. But some people are filled with murmurings and complaints. If you are really happy, there will be a song in your heart throughout the day; whether you are walking, sitting, or working, your heart will be filled with songs of praise and songs of thanksgiving. According to Psa.40:3 we have a new song of thanks giving which enables us to thank God for all that we receive from Him. Some people thank God for lunch but not for breakfast or tea. Some thank Him only for good things but not for all things. If you know God by experience, you will praise Him for everything, for His love, mercy, kindness, favour, gifts and guidance. Thank Him for the way He sought you and saved you. Thank Him for every thing. Usually we say "Thank you" to people for every thing. In one hour we say "Thank you" forty five times. For everything we say, "Thank you, thank you". Some parents before giving anything to their children tell them to say, "Thank you" and if they do not say "Thank you", they are beaten. Such a "Thank you" has no value. It is not from the heart. Those who have received God's grace will have a song of praise in their hearts all the time. We can thank God even for every trial and temptation. It is only the song of praise and thanksgiving, which will give you heavenly joy. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"(Eph.5:20). Note the words, "always for all things". Begin the day with thanksgiving. Before you have your tea or coffee or anything else, spend some time in thanksgiving, and end your day with thanksgiving. Remember what you have received from God's loving hands in so many ways and thank Him from the very depth of your heart.

(To be contd.)

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NO.19

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST? -7

7. THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

(i) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 2:4). It is inconceivable that God will require us to give Him three -fourths of our lives and leave one -fourth to other gods. He has redeemed us with the precious blood of the cross and He is worthy that we give Him all. He gave all for our sakes, and He demands all from us. It is a normal Christian life to be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time we are born again.

This means that we should never compromise with the old nature and never allow any room for it in our daily activities, like giving in to a little grumbling, a little quarrelling, a little bad temper, a little unclean friendship, a little defiling thought, and so on. We should resist the old nature at every step. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). We should pray fervently with the longing to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be filled with Christ, to be filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit, with joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Gal. 5:22,23).

On the Day of Pentecost Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, but when he went to Antioch (Gal. 2:11), he withdrew from eating with believers who were once Gentiles. He feared the Jews and dissembled (Gal.2: 12, 13). There is no doubt that at that moment he was not filled with the Holy Spirit. Once filled does not mean always filled. So we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit again and again, and also endeavour to be like Stephen who was always filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5).

(ii). **"...by their fruits ye shall know them"** (Matt.7:20). Please remember that the shaking of the body, feeling an electric shock passing through your body, and your lips moving in an uncontrollable way, are not called the fruit of the Spirit. When you are filled with the Spirit, you will be filled with Christ and with the fruit of the Spirit. When you are born again, as a vessel your capacity will be small. Yet you must be filled with the Spirit. When you grow spiritually your capacity will increase, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit will have a greater meaning for you, and implies greater obedience in proportion to what you have received from the Lord.

(8) THE PROPHECY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET JOEL WAS FULFILLED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your son's and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:16-18).

Here we have a prophecy that the Holy Spirit will be poured out, not just sprinkled; and this word

"poured out" signifies generous giving to all, sons and daughters, young and old, even men servants and women -servants. This has been fulfilled from Pentecost onwards, and will continue till the Rapture. Note the words, "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"(v.21). This is the subject of many Old Testament prophecies. This prophecy in Joel is only an example.

Conclusion:

The door of salvation was opened wide to all nations on the Day of Pentecost.

Thus we have seen what happened on the Day of Pentecost. Firstly, certain features accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit which are of symbolic significance; happened on that day, as on other important occasions, like the giving of the laws to Moses and the children of Israel, the birth of Christ, His baptism, His death upon the cross, and His Resurrection. These features do not have to be repeated in our experience today; however, their spiritual significance is true for us also.

Secondly, on the Day of Pentecost (1) the disciples received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, (2) were anointed and endued with power from on high, and (3) were baptized of the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the Church. All this happens to us also when we repent and believe and are born again.

On that Day the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, but they had to be filled again and again. We also need to be exercised in the spirit to be filled. Whereas there is no exhortation to the believers to wait in prayer to receive the Holy Spirit, or the Baptism or the Anointing of the Holy Spirit, there is an exhortation to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph.5: 18). However, we have to remember that to be filled with the Holy Spirit is not a physical experience on some particular day, but it means to be filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5: 22). It means revealing the nature of Christ even during times of great temptation or spiritual strain.

Thirdly, all Scriptural prophecies concerning this great salvation, which God has prepared for us through His Beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and are continuing to be fulfilled in our experience also.

We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Eph.1: 3). May the Lord help us to appropriate all these blessings by faith, and thus enjoy our spiritual inheritance to bring glory and honour to His Name. Amen.

(Concluded)

C.E.D.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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11-9-2002

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus,

"...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from

the dead", "...the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence". By His resurrection power working in us may we be those who give Him the preeminence in all things and be brought into His fulness, as the Father has planned (Rom.1: 4; Col.1: 18, 19).

In continuation of our meditation on our position in being raised with Christ, and putting on Christ as noted in our previous issue, we may further consider our resources to live unto Him, as those raised up together with Him.

In the first place, resurrection has power to confirm our hope and assurance of salvation, because the resurrection of Jesus was the finished work, guaranteeing to men and angels that the ransom was paid, and the work of atonement complete. When Jesus came forth triumphant from the tomb, it was evident to the universe that the purpose for which He went there was fulfilled. Also the work He undertook was satisfactorily done, and the Father satisfied with His finished atonement. Therefore faith can rest upon His resurrection as an everlasting foundation, and say, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again" (Rom.8: 34).

Again the resurrection of Christ is the power that sanctifies us. It enables us to count our old life, our former self, rendered inoperative so that we are no longer the same persons in the eyes of God or of ourselves; and we may with confidence repudiate ourselves and refuse either to obey, or fear our former evil nature. Indeed it is the risen Christ Himself Who comes to dwell within us, and becomes in us the power of this new life and victorious obedience. It is not merely the fact of His resurrection, but the fellowship with the Risen One that brings us victory and power. We learn the meaning of the sublime paradox, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal.2: 20). This is the only true and LASTING SANCTIFICATION, the indwelling life of Christ, the Risen One, in the believing and obedient soul.

Again there is power in the resurrection to quicken and strengthen our mortal frame (Rom.8: 11). He that came forth from the tomb on that Easter morning was the physical Christ, and that body of His is the Head of our bodies, and the foundation of our physical strength as well as our spiritual life. If we will receive and trust Him, He will do as much for our physical bodies as our spirits, and we shall find a new supernatural strength in our mortal frame, and the pulses of the future resurrection in our physical being.

Christ's resurrection has also the mighty power to energize our FAITH and encourage us to claim God's answers to our prayers, and ask difficult things from God. What can be too difficult or impossible after the open grave and the stone rolled away? God is trying to teach us "...the exceeding greatness of his power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand" (Eph.1: 19,20). This is the measure of what God is able and willing to do in the Name of Jesus under this dispensation of the Spirit. Christ's resurrection is a pledge of all that we can ask for, and if we fully believe in the power of resurrection we would take much more than we have ever done. The Lord helps us all to appropriate this power of resurrection in our day-to-day living and service.

10th September being a holiday, it was a unique opportunity for holding a Youth Reunion gathering at Hebron, in Hermon Compound, when more than 2000 young brothers and sisters participated. Bro.Paul Sudhakar was enabled to minister the Word effectively based on the theme "Glorious Appearing" (Titus 2:13). Ninety-four made profession of their faith while many recommitted their lives. Thank the Lord for the prayers and participation of many.

God willing, the saints in Berachah, Gangtok, Sikkim, are planning for a Holy Convocation from 12th to 20th October. Pray that the Lord may help the elders, saints and servants for all the preparatory work, and that His chosen servants be sent for the ministry based on the theme taken from Heb.13: 5 of those days. Bro. Lingdong and co-workers covet our prayers.

Saints of the Horeb International Christian Fellowship (including Bro. N. Jabez and other family members) covet our prayers for the Holy Convocation to be held God willing, from 19th to 22nd September, at the Shalimar Hotel, Middlesex U.K. when Bro. T.E, Koshy and others would be ministering the Word based on the theme Col.1: 18.

Though belated we mention the Home call of Bro. S. Daniel on 30th August after a period of hospitalisation due to old age infirmities. He helped us in the Lord's work even from the early years when late Bro. Bakht Singh held meetings in Ongole. Though an employee in the Municipal Office he was of immense help to us when we had the first Prayer House in Kabadipalem, next to his residence, more than four decades ago, and later in getting the sanction for our Eschol Prayer House. He came to his grave "in a full age" of 85 and now rests from his labours (Job 5:26; Rev.14: 13). Pray for the comfort of his family members.

Praying that our Lord, "Who reigneth" may do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, in all matters touching our personal, family and fellowship life, according to the working of His mighty power -the power of resurrection through faith in Him, and preserve us in His heavenly calling,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP

Eph. 3: 20, 21; Phil. 3:10, 11; Rev. 20:6

SECRET OF A HAPPY HOME-3

BAKHT SINGH

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5: 22,28; 6:17 1 Pet. 3: 1-7

The fourth Condition for a happy home is given in Eph.5:21. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God". Maintain divine order in your home. Those who should be respected must be respected. Those who should be honoured must be honoured. Elders must be honoured. That is God's order. If you do not respect elders, you will not enjoy divine favour. Wife should be in subjection to her husband. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Eph.5: 22). It is a simple thing but many wives find it hard to obey their husbands. We cannot change God's order. Your husband may be P.U.C. failed or B.A. failed, yet he is your husband. You must obey him, whether he is rich or poor, educated or illiterate, you must obey him in the Lord. You cannot go against the Word of God. But if the husband asks you to go with him to cinema you should not obey him. Obedience is only in the Lord. This is a simple lesson to learn. We cannot twist the Word of God. Some wives change God's order and His Word. That is why, they are unhappy in their married lives. "Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing"(Eph.5:24). Wives, be in subjection. Divine order must be maintained. In some homes wives earn As.700/- while the husband earns only As.120/-. So the wife may say, "You have to obey me, because you are earning only As.120/-. You wash the baby's napkins and I will go to the office". That is not divine order. Husband must be given the right place. He is responsible for the family. He must bear the family burden as a man. In these days many young men marry workingwomen for the sake of money. They want to be in the house to wash vessels and napkins. That is not divine order, it is man's order. They change God's order. Husband must bear the burden of the family. Then, there will be subjection and divine order.

The fifth condition is, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph.5: 25). This is a very very important principle for a happy home. It is repeated four

times in these few verses (Eph.5:25,28,33). God knows beforehand that many husbands are selfish. They want good food, every comfort, every convenience and especially they want obedience from the wife but no love. They say, "You must obey, you must obey". That is all they want. They are hard-hearted husbands. They only demand certain things. Again and again Scripture says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church". How did He love us? Not because we deserved it. We had no virtue in us. We were totally ruined by sin and defilement, yet He loved us. By grace we are saved. As we came to Him, He loved us. When we humbled ourselves, He forgave all our sins and goes on loving us. His love will never change as it says in Jer.31: 3. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee". Many husbands regard lust as love. They call it love. Do not be deceived. Do not let your lustful desires deceive you. God wants pure love coming from heaven. It does not depend upon physical beauty or qualification or position or property. It is the gift of God. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave Himself for me. I can feel His presence. When I go to Him He receives me. Such a love is necessary. But I am sad to say; very few husbands have such a love. They regard lust as love. They live for lustful pleasures. That is why they do not know the meaning of companionship and friendship. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies"(Eph.5: 28). We take much care of our bodies, especially when we are sick or have some pain in the body. Also we spend much time and take much care to keep the body clean and healthy. Even so, husband must be equally concerned about his wife. Then there will be oneness.

The sixth condition is, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones" (Eph.5: 30). Do all things with one mind. True spiritual oneness must be maintained by the husband and wife to enjoy divine favour in married life. There is no need to argue about anything. By praying together, you can come to one mind for all family problems. No need to waste your time in arguments for hours together. Go upon your knees and find God's will for all your family matters and problems.

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church"(v.26). The Lord Jesus Christ sought us and saved us, to make us glorious like Himself. We were ruined by sin with no virtue in us. But by coming to Him and receiving Him, we receive His life for eternity. One day we shall be like Him, having glorious, immortal and heavenly bodies. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself transfers all His virtues into us. His glory and beauty will be given to us, in the same way; in married life you can transfer all your virtues to your life -partner. By such a fellowship you can come to one mind.

(To be contd.)

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