

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Nine: The Feasts (2) the Feast of Firstfruits, the Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles

I. Overview:

The Feast of Firstfruits signifies the resurrected Christ as the firstfruits for our enjoyment as a feast in His resurrection. Christ's resurrection was the fulfillment of the Feast of Firstfruits and is the reality of that feast. The firstfruits of the Feast of Firstfruits, after being offered to God for His enjoyment, were to be eaten by the people of Israel. The Feast of Pentecost came fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits, indicating that the New Testament believers' enjoyment of the outpoured Spirit as the aggregate of the rich produce of the resurrected Christ. The Feast of Tabernacles signifies Israel's full enjoyment of the restored old creation in the millennium; this feast will usher in the new heaven and new earth. The Feast of Tabernacles was the Feast of Ingathering, the feast when the full harvest was brought in; this feast signifies the rich, full, and ultimate enjoyment of all that Christ is.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 –

A. What is the spiritual significance of the three aspects of Christ in 1 Corinthians 15?

First Corinthians 15 presents Christ as the firstfruits, the second man, and the last Adam. It is significant that these three aspects of Christ are mentioned in one chapter. When we put together these three aspects of Christ, we see that Christ is the first, the second, and the last; as such, Christ is everything. Christ is the firstfruits of resurrection to be the beginning of God's new creation and to be the Head of the Body, the church.

B. What a kind of revelation and experience do we see according to Leviticus 23:14?

This signifies that the resurrected Christ ascended to the heavens and was offered to God with all the fruit in His resurrection as God's food for God's satisfaction first. Then He became man's supply of man's satisfaction. The resurrected Christ, the fresh Christ in His resurrection, was first to be enjoyed by God. This is the firstfruits, and the firstfruits are for God's enjoyment. Then the resurrected Christ becomes our enjoyment with God and with one another.

Day 2 –

A. How was Christ as the firstfruits of the harvest brought first to God for Father's enjoyment?

On the day of His resurrection the Lord ascended to the Father. This was a secret ascension, which occurred forty days prior to His public ascension, and took place before the eyes of the disciples. On the day of resurrection, early in the morning He ascended to satisfy the Father, and late in the evening He returned to the disciples. The freshness of His resurrection must be first for the Father's enjoyment, as in the type the firstfruits of the harvest were brought first to God.

B. Why is the resurrection of Christ the proof of our justification by God?

Christ is not in the tomb; God raised Him up from the dead. This is a strong proof that God has accepted His death for us, that His death satisfied God's requirements and fulfilled whatever God wanted Him to do for us. Therefore, the resurrection of Christ is the proof of our justification by God. In Christ, the resurrected One, we are justified.

Day 3 –

A. Why would the Israelite eat the firstfruits of the Feast of Firstfruits after being offered to God?

This signifies that the resurrected Christ, after being presented to God in His freshness, is to be dispensed, with all the riches of His resurrection, into us for our enjoyment. This is unveiled in John 20. On the morning of the resurrection the Lord told Mary, "do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father." Christ became our portion only after His freshness in resurrection had first been offered to the Father.

B. Why is whatever Christ as our portion to be eaten being related to His resurrection?

Whatever Christ is as our portion to be eaten is related to His resurrection. The blood of the passover lamb signifies the crucified Christ, but the meat of the lamb signifies the resurrected Christ. If Christ were not the Spirit in resurrection, we could not take Him in. Only Christ in resurrection can be our life supply.

Day 4 –

A. What are the items of the aggregate of the rich produce of the resurrected Christ?

The rich produce of Christ's resurrection includes the firstborn Son of God, the life-giving Spirit, the many sons of God, and the new creation of God. Christ was not the firstborn Son of God until He was resurrected. In resurrection He became the firstborn Son of God. Through Christ's resurrection we were all begotten of God to be His many sons for constituting His Body.

B. What is the significance of the first four festivals forming a group?

The first four festivals, the Feast of Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Pentecost, form a group that bears a great significance. This significance includes the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the ascension of Christ, and the outpouring of the consummated Spirit of the processed Triune God to produce the Body of Christ as the enlargement, the increase, the extension, the expansion, of the unlimited, individual Christ into a universal, corporate Christ.

Day 5 –

A Explain the producing and the formation of the church.

Although the producing of the church began with Christ's resurrection, the formation of the church did not take place until Pentecost, fifty days after the Lord's resurrection. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit as the all-inclusive Spirit of the processed and dispensing Triune God was poured out for the formation of the church. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out upon the members of Christ; the church was formed.

B. Expound the meaning and the fulfillment from the Feast of Passover to Pentecost.

The Feast of the Passover was fulfilled on the day of Christ's death. In the Passover we were saved, justified, and regenerated. Following this, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is for us to live a life without sin. This means that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is being fulfilled in the church age. The Feast of Firstfruits was fulfilled on the day of Christ's resurrection. The Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled fifty days after Christ's resurrection, on the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Day 6 –

A. What is God's main purpose doing much in these four dispensations?

After the creation of the earth, God will go through four main dispensations. The first is the dispensation of the fathers. The second is the dispensation of law. The third is the dispensation of the church. The fourth is the dispensation of the millennium. In these four dispensations, God has been doing much for His new creation. In His old creation God created the universe. In His eternal plan God has a purpose with man, and this purpose is to produce a people for His expression.

B. How do we experience the reality of the Feast of Tabernacles today?

The Feast of Tabernacles was the time when the full harvest was brought in. This feast signifies the rich, full, and ultimate enjoyment of all that Christ is. After the full harvest of their crops, the Jewish people observed the Feast of Tabernacles to worship God and enjoy what they had reaped. The Feast of Tabernacles, therefore, was held at the time of the reaping of the harvest of the good land given by God. For us today, the reality of this good land is the Spirit.

III. Conclusion:

The Feast of Tabernacles, which is also the Feast of Ingathering, was the time when the full harvest was brought in. This feast signifies the rich, full, and ultimate enjoyment of all that Christ is. We begin the enjoyment of Christ from the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we continue by enjoying the riches of the resurrected Christ, and eventually we come to the ultimate enjoyment of Christ as the Feast of Tabernacles. The physical aspect of the blessing that God promised to Abraham was the good land as the Feast of Tabernacles, which is for their enjoyment of the rich produce of the good land at its harvest time for their satisfaction. Christ as the reality of the Feast of Tabernacles is such a feast for our experience and enjoyment today.

