

## CHOLOMA DAY 2

### *Leaven is Life*

God wants something from the church. He has promised to do some things with the church. He is still a Spirit God. Men are still trying to understand what He wants with their carnal minds. Men are still interpreting the Bible with the intellect. It does not matter how intelligent a person is. We need the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Passover Lamb. God told us the day Jesus would die in the Book of Exodus. His flesh is our bread. In the Book of Exodus, chapter 12, God tells us how to eat the Bible. He tells us to take the blood of the lamb and apply it to the doorpost of our house. We know that means accepting the blood of Jesus for our salvation.

If the blood of Jesus covers you, the death angel cannot touch you. Jesus told Martha, "Your brother Lazarus will rise again." She said, "Yes Lord, in the last day." Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection. He that believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" And she said, "Yes Lord, I believe." So, the death angel must pass over us. He told us how to eat the Word of God.

Exodus 12:7-8 says:

*And they shall take of the blood, and strike [it] on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; [and] with bitter [herbs] they shall eat it.*

The Bible must be eaten after it has been prepared by fire. John said, "I baptize you with water, but there is One who comes after me, and He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." Jesus told His disciples, "I am going to give you the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Ghost, and He will lead you and guide you into all truth." We need the fire of the Holy Ghost to prepare the Word of God. The intelligence of our mind is not it. He said, "Prepare it with fire. Eat it with unleavened bread."

Leaven is life. I know that many people teach that leaven is sin, but we know what leaven is. Every woman in this place today knows that leaven is not sin, because when you put leaven in flour, it makes that flour come alive. If you set that flour with leaven in it in a warm place, it grows. Sin is death. Sin cannot make it grow. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like the woman who took leaven and hid it in her flour and all of it was leavened." Leaven is life. When you teach the Bible, life comes in the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, they didn't have the Holy Ghost. They didn't have the Teacher, so God said, "Don't add life to My words." But the religious leaders did what God told them not to do. They added their doctrines to the Word of God.

I've had pastors tell me that Jesus broke the Sabbath day, but He never broke the Sabbath day. He said, "I came to fulfill the law." He did not sin against the law. The Bible said

that you could go through the fields and pluck the corn and eat it on the Sabbath day, but you could not harvest your crop. There is a difference between having a field of corn and harvesting it on the Sabbath or going thorough the field and getting an ear to eat. God said, "Don't harvest, but you can eat on the Sabbath." When Jesus and His disciples went through the field of corn, they were accused, not by the Word of God, but by the doctrine of men. Men said, "You can't even pluck corn on the Sabbath day." It sounded like it was even better than what God said, but it wasn't what God said. Men could teach that as much as they wanted to, and you could feel like you were serving God even more, but the day Jesus came through the field and His disciples plucked the corn, your law judged God and said God was a sinner. On that day, Satan could deceive the people and say, "He broke the Sabbath. He cannot be from God." But, the leaders weren't talking about what God commanded. They were talking about their doctrine. They had added to the Bible.

God said, "Do not add leaven to the bread. If you have leaven in your house, I'll take you out of My kingdom." Now, this is the Old Testament. How could they not have sin in their house? We have the blood of the Better Sacrifice now, and we still have sin in our house; so, He's not talking about sin. The reason pastors do not get along as friends are because of doctrines. Men have added their own teaching to the Bible and it has caused us division. Yesterday, we read the passage where Jesus prayed for us to be in unity, to be one as He and the Father are one. But, He and the Father believe the same truth!

Let's go to Matthew 16:5-10 for just a moment. You know the Scriptures. You've read these things.

*And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, [It is] because we have taken no bread. 8 [Which] when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? 9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?*

"Do you not understand? Don't you understand? The five loaves and the 5,000 -- how many baskets did you take up?" They said, "Twelve." He said, "The seven loaves and the 4,000 -- don't you understand? How many baskets did you take up?" They said, "Seven."

Now, read verse 11:

*How is it that ye do not understand that I spake [it] not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?*

Then, the disciples understood: "Oh! He's talking about doctrine." That doesn't mean anything to us as Christians! We read those Scriptures and they don't mean anything to

us. We tell ourselves that we don't need to know about it, but God is talking to us about important things.

He wasn't talking about the bread. He was talking about the doctrine, the teachings. But, He said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." God uses numbers in His Bible. He used numbers so much, placed such importance on them, that He made one book of the Bible the Book of Numbers. It is all about numbers. Numbers mean something to God, and He revealed things in numbers.

Four is the number of revelation. In Genesis, the Bible begins with a single river. In Revelation, it ends with a single river. The Bible said that in the Garden of Eden there was a single river that came out of the garden where the Son of God lived, and it broke into four rivers. The Bible is the revelation of Jesus Christ. He appears in every book of the Bible. Those four rivers run through the Bible until you get to the Book of Revelation. When you get to Revelation, the Bible ends with a single river because the revelation of Jesus is finished. So, four is the number of revelation. Three is the number of God. So, three times four (3 x 4) is God revealed. Jesus said, "I am the bread of heaven."

Elijah asked the people of God, "How long do you halt between opinions? You don't know who is teaching the truth. He said, "If God is God, serve Him. If Baal is God, serve Him." We're like that today. We don't know who is telling the truth and we know we can't all be telling the truth because we don't agree; we don't all speak the same thing. So, Elijah said, "This is how you will always know the real God. It's how God deals with man. All religions can kill the sacrifice. All religions tell you what not to do. All religions tell you what you should do. But, the God of Abraham is the only God that can consume the flesh with fire and make him better. He doesn't die. He gets better. Our God is the God of fire and He burns out the dross. His fire can burn out what is wrong."

So, Elijah said, "Bring me four barrels of water. Bring me a man, bring me a sacrifice, bring me an ox. The ox is a picture of us. The Bible said, "Present yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is our reasonable service." We don't have the power to finish the work. Elijah's job is the job of every pastor. Elijah said, "Bring me four barrels of water." So, they brought him four barrels of water. In Ephesians, chapter 5, God said, "I am going to have a church without spot or wrinkle. He said, I am going to wash her with the washing of the water by the Word." So, the Word of God is the water. This is what Baal's prophets did not have. They had no God, they had no Word, and they had no fire. Elijah had God. *Our God is a consuming fire.* He began to reveal God with the Word and he washed that sacrifice with four barrels of water. He said, "Bring me four more," and they brought him four more. He said, "Bring me four more because I am revealing God, and the number of God is three". When he was finished, they could see the true God because the fire came from heaven and consumed the flesh. John the Baptist was a picture of Elijah. The spirit of Elijah was on John the Baptist. He went down to the river and he began to wash and then one day, while he was washing, the revelation of God came walking across the ground, and John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. I am baptizing you in water, I am washing you in water, but He will wash you with the Holy Ghost and fire,

and when He is finished the church will be washed with the Word and then cleaned by the fire.

On the day of Pentecost, God took 120 men and used His fire to burn out of Peter what preaching could never get out of Peter. He used fire to take out of John what preaching could not. He uses fire to take out of you what preaching cannot. The fire does what man cannot do. Those people came out different. This is God. I am a man of God, and when I preach to people in my church and I see someone struggling with sin, I don't just keep preaching. I have power. I call fire down on that sin. They are trying to get rid of it and they cannot get rid of it. But I know a God who can get it out!

The revelation of God...He said, "Don't just read your Bible. When you open that Book, you pray, 'Father, let the fire of the Holy Ghost prepare what I am reading. Prepare the Lamb. I don't want any teaching from man.'" You could not have leaven in the first three Jewish feasts. In fact, the first feast is Unleavened Bread and Passover went right with it. No leaven. Then, the next is the Feast of First Fruits. No leaven. No teaching. Do not add life to it. The next feast, the fourth feast, is Pentecost. On Pentecost, He said, "Make your bread with leaven." Why? We have the Teacher now. We have the Holy Ghost living inside of us. Now you can teach because the Teacher from God is in the house! Now you can have leaven.

Let's go back to Exodus 12. He said in verse 8:

*And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; [and] with bitter [herbs] they shall eat it.*

Eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Not everything in the Word of God does tastes sweet. Not everything that God has spoken to me has been sweet. I've had some bitter herbs to eat. You've had some bitter herbs to eat.

Verse 9: *Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast [with] fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.*

He said to eat the insides. Don't just eat the outside. He said, "There is an outside to My Word, but there is an inside, and I want you to eat the inside of the Passover Lamb as well." The inside is what is taught by the Spirit. It is where the carnal mind cannot go. You see, He repeated, "Do not eat it raw. Prepare it with fire." Then, He says this:

*And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*

When Jesus finished feeding the 5,000, what did He do? He gathered up the fragments. That's what they did on Passover. You see, that doesn't mean anything to us, but it did to them. He said those people had been three days without food, and then He said, "Let's feed them." Why didn't He let them put some of that bread in their pockets to eat on their way home? On the way home the bread would have tasted very good. Why would

He gather up 12 baskets of fragments and not let the people take some of it home? Because He was telling them, “I am the Passover Lamb and I am going to have My body broken and it will be able to feed the whole world. My body can feed the whole world. I am the Passover Lamb, and God owns the flesh and He wants it to be gathered back. Don’t just do with it what you want. This bread belongs to God.” So, they gathered up the fragments and they had 12 baskets.

Seven is perfection. Jesus said, “When I am revealed, I will bring you to perfection.” In Bible schools all over the world, right now, they are teaching pastors that no one is perfect. If that were true, it would mean that we’ve finally found something impossible with God! “He cannot bring us to perfection,” they teach. “God can’t do that on the earth.” Do you know why men teach that? Because they have tried to be their own potter, they have tried to make themselves what God wants them to be. They gave God their best but they knew they failed, so they say, “It is impossible.” But, what is impossible with men is possible with God. God said, “I am going to perfect My church.” You and I cannot perfect it, but the revelation of Jesus as the Potter, as the Creator, as the Great Workman, He can perfect the church.

*We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.* We have fire. Our God is a consuming fire. If you have something in your life, don’t promise God that you are going to get it out. Call the fire of God down on it. God knows how to remove the things we want out. He said, “You confess your sins and I will be faithful and just to forgive you your sins and I will cleanse you from all unrighteousness”. The church does not believe that. We believe we have to cleanse us. We teach that we have to confess and we have to cleanse. If you think that your mind will cleanse your flesh, you are wrong! It takes the power and fire of the Holy Ghost to cleanse you. I am glad that men are teaching that the church cannot be perfect because it shows who they are looking at as the Potter. In Matthew 5:48, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” He commanded us to do that. How could we do that? Come to Him and pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Pray that and believe it -- I want God’s will done in me exactly as it is in heaven. His will is done perfectly in heaven, have no doubt about that.

Now, this is what He said next in verse 11:

*And thus shall ye eat it; [with] your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it [is] the LORD’S passover.*

What do we gird our loins with? Truth. Paul said, “Put on the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteousness.” He said, “Have your loins girded about with truth”. What should we have our feet shod with? The preparation of the Gospel – prepared with fire. Then, He says, “And your staff in your hand.” The staff is the Word of God. Paul called it the sword.

Satan is a liar and he talks to us through our soul. God talks to us through our spirit. So, sometimes we don’t know if it’s our own mind or God talking, or Satan, but Paul said, “The Word of God is sharper then any two-edged sword. It is so sharp it can cut between

soul and spirit.” Are you getting the message from your soul or from the spirit? Is God talking or is your soul thinking it – or did Satan put the thought in your mind? The Word of God is the only thing sharp enough to cut between soul and spirit, and you will know from the Word of God, “Is this from the spirit or from the soul?” Only the Word of God is sharp enough to cut between your mind and the voice of God. You will know that God is talking by the written Word of God -- the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. When the devil was twisting the Word to Jesus on the mountain, Satan said, “It is written.” Ah. A message. But it was twisted. Jesus took the word and He cut right between what was said and what God meant. Jesus said, “It is written.” The devil said, “It is written.” And Jesus said, “It is written.” He could cut between the lies and the word of God’s truth. Only the sword of the Spirit can cut between soul and spirit and can discern the thoughts and the intents of the heart. The Bible is that sharp.

### ***Woe Unto Them That Are With Child...***

Matthew 24:19 quotes Jesus. *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*

Now, I want to ask you some questions, pastors. This is why these seminars are for pastors. We are talking about the inside of the Lamb. If no man knows the day of these events, when would we warn women not to have children? This is a warning. That’s my first question. My second question is why is the warning only for women? Only women can become pregnant and only a woman can breastfeed a child. My third question is why wouldn’t you just wean your baby since the warning is only to those who are breastfeeding? The warning ends when the baby is no longer breastfed. What good is a warning if you could never know when to give it? If I put a sign out here on the fence in front of the church, “Be careful, dangerous curves,” we would agree that it was a good sign, but it would not mean anything to you if you were walking into the church. It is only a good thing on the dangerous curves in the mountains because it warns you before you get there. So, a warning is only good if you have it *before* you need it. Let’s look at the Bible.

1 Cor 3:1-3 says:

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

He’s talking to the church, because the church is a woman. Jesus told Nicodemus, “You have to be born again.” When you are born again, you are a babe in Christ. Paul said to the church at Corinth, “I would like to talk spiritual things to you, but I cannot because you are carnal. I have to talk to you as carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” Are these people going to heaven? Yes. They are in Christ, but they are babes, so they cannot understand spiritual things. How important is that? His disciples were showing Him the

temple. Jesus said, "See this temple? Tear it down and in three days I will raise it back up." They were carnal and all they could see were the stones in that temple, but He was talking about the true temple. The stone temple was always just a shadow of the true temple. You and I are the temple of God, made without hands, eternal in the heavens. We are the temple.

So, Jesus said, "Tear down the temple and in three days, I'll raise it back up." They said, "You're crazy. It took our fathers 46 years to build this temple." The Bible said He spoke of Himself. They tore the temple down and in three days He raised that temple back up. When they tore God's temple down, God left the stone temple and He tore the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place from the top to the bottom. God said, "I am going home to the real temple. I do not dwell in temples of stone." The carnal mind can only see physical temples, but the spirit man understands what God is talking about.

Now, Paul says to the church at Corinth, "I would like to talk to you about spiritual things, but I cannot because you are carnal. You are babes in Christ." Every mother knows you cannot give meat to a baby. It will choke it and the baby can die. So, Paul says, "I can't give you the spiritual things. Because you are carnal there is division, envy and strife." Does that sound like what is in the church now? Division, strife and envy? That means we are babies. That's good. We know where to start. But we don't want to stay there.

Every battle that the priests fought Jesus with was the difference between flesh and spirit. He did spiritual things and they misunderstood. But, at the well, Jesus told the woman, "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Now, today, all over the world, men are teaching about the anti-Christ. They tell you he is going to enter a temple in Jerusalem -- a stone temple. Only man can teach something like that. Jesus said, "I am the temple. You are the temple." The devil does not want to enter a stone temple in Jerusalem. God left that temple. The devil wants to enter us as though he is God. How does God come into us? Through His word. That's right. That's what the devil used to talk to Eve. The devil used God's Word. He said to Eve, "Hath God said?" He used God's Word and he entered into Eve and she was cast out of the garden. Is that true? Yes. So, we are the temple.

Let's go to the Book of Hebrews 5:12-14:

*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Those who use milk are not experts in the Word of God. They are babes. You cannot give a baby a sword. Now, Satan has launched a war against the church. His war is

waged with lies, because he is a liar. He twists the Word of God into a lie. Today, men want the biggest church in the city – that is their goal. I had the biggest church in my city. I didn't brag to anyone. I had people who drove 200 miles to come to church, but I didn't brag. God is not interested in numbers.

If I were to keep everyone babies, and my goal is to bring in more people in order to have more babies so that I can brag to everyone, "I have 10,000 in my church", if I am not raising anyone up, Jesus said, "Woe unto the church who does such things." He told us that in the last days Satan would go around like a roaring lion. Who is the roaring lion? Jesus. "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah hath prevailed to open the book." But Satan was going to go around like a lion, seeking whom he might devour. If there was a huge lion at that door and no way out, and the church had 5,000 babies, that lion could come through the door and kill every baby in the church. If you had 10,000 babies, he'd kill 10,000 babies. But, if you have a man who is expert in the Word of God, he will draw the sword and say, "That is a lie. We don't need it. We don't want it. It's from hell. I don't care who is teaching it. I don't care if it's on TV or the radio or if I read it in books. It is a lie."

There are no experts, not even in Bible schools, or they would tell us what the truth is. We would not be divided. If the teachers in Bible schools are so smart, why don't they break the division? Why don't they tell us the truth? During the lunch break today, talk to the people around this community. They will say, "Well, I don't know which church to go to."

Now, let's read the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of chapter 6:

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

Let's what? Let's leave the principles. When you go to school, the teacher starts by teaching you ABCs and 123s. Then, they teach you to read. They put the letters together and you begin to read. So, in Christ, we need these basic principles. But, by your fourth-grade year of school, the teacher is not still teaching you 123s or ABCs. If, in the schools here, every year they taught you only the principles, but nothing more, you would know nothing more in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. You would know how to count to 100, but you would not know anything about addition or spelling. So, Paul said, "We have the principles of the doctrine. Let's go on to perfection." Where? Perfection. Let's go on to maturity.

Then, he says,

*...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works...*

If, in every church service, we are talking about nothing but repentance, we are feeding milk. When someone new comes in, God will teach about salvation in that service, but He won't do that every week. He's going to start feeding people something solid.



*...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God...*

He said, "We understand all of this."

*...Of the doctrine of baptisms...*

We've discussed this, we understand it, Let's go on.

*...and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment...*

*This will we do if God permit...*

Do you know that the church today does not understand these principles? We are still fighting about baptism and eternal judgment, about the resurrection of the dead.

We don't understand the laying on of hands. People in Paul's day understood something about the laying on of hands. This is a book to the Hebrews. The Hebrews understood the laying on of hands. When the priest put the sins of the people on the animal, he put his hand on it, so it was a putting on of the sins. When Jesus touched the lepers, He had to have the power of God as a priest because they were unclean. It was a picture of sin. So, the church does not know much about the laying on of hands. The Hebrews would not let you lay hands on them because they saw that as the passing of sin. So Paul said, "Let's go beyond these teachings. Jesus did not lay His hands on the leper to put sin on him, He touched him in the name of the Lord. This is a different priesthood." Paul said, "We've talked about that, and I am going to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. I am not putting sin on you. Let's go on to perfection."

In every church, we must have spiritual things. When men start teaching us that there is going to be a temple built in Jerusalem and the anti-Christ wants to enter it, we know that the Bible says that we are the temple and we know that they are talking only from the carnal mind and they do not understand the Spirit. This is where the war begins to turn on. You see, Jesus said, "Tear down the temple and in three days I will build it up," and those people who were thinking carnally got angry with Him. "He is talking about tearing down our temple!" They were angry. They were looking with carnal eyes. Paul said, "I'd like to talk spiritual things to you, but you are just babies."

Now, you and I are talking about spiritual things. God must know something. God must know that you can eat it, because He would not send me here to choke you. We are going in a better direction. We are going to look at the Bible from the spiritual view, not from the carnal view. That is why I ask for only pastors, evangelists, teachers, apostles, and prophets. I want to talk about things that will not choke you. But, I will challenge you about what you believe. Much of what is taught today has come out of the carnal mind. It is not spirit and we are going to talk spirit. That will shake the teachings of men. I expect you to go home and pray. I don't expect you to change today, but I expect you to pray. Satan knows that if he teaches lies and we love those lies, when the truth comes, we'll

call the truth a lie – and a lie the truth. It happened in the days of Jesus, more to the priests than to the people. The priests said that He was not God, but the woman at the well, who had five husbands and was living with a man she was not married to, believed Him. This was a woman who would not be allowed to teach Sunday school in our church, yet she was picked by Jesus to be the evangelist to a whole city. He did not even tell her to leave her boyfriend first. She believed Him. She said, “I know when the Messiah comes, He will teach us all things.” Jesus said, “I am He.” She ran to the city and said, “I have found the Messiah!” The whole city came to Jesus and they said, “We came because of her, now we believe because of what You said.” The church has made itself so self-righteous that it forgot that God is a Savior. He has always been a Savior. He changed her life, but she believed Him. She could believe that fast, but men full of doctrine could not believe Him.

Do you know that in the United States they teach in the Bible schools that the marriage supper is in heaven? In heaven! They teach that and men believe it. I have a question for them. How did the man get there without the wedding garment on if it's in heaven? Jesus asked him, “How did you get here without a wedding garment on?” We don't have answers and it doesn't bother us. It should bother us. In Isaiah, it says He would be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities and the chastisement of our peace will be on Him and by His stripes we are healed. The Hebrew priests read that. They said, “Who is that? I don't know who that is, but it's not our Messiah because He will live forever. No one would beat our Messiah. No one would crucify our Messiah, so it can't be Him. I don't know who that is.”

John the Baptist came preaching as it was foretold in the Bible, “I will send Elijah and He will forerun the Messiah.” So, they sent people to ask him “Are you Elijah?” He said, “No. I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the path of the Lord.” That is the spirit of Elijah and that was the prophesy in the Old Testament. He told them, “No, I am not Elijah,” because he was not Elijah. God does not reincarnate man. Elijah was in the spirit; John the Baptist had the spirit of Elijah on him, but his flesh was not Elijah. But the leaders came, with their carnal minds, and said, “Are you Elijah?” He said, “No.”

Coming down off of the mountain with Jesus, Peter asked, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah will come first?” Jesus said, “He shall,” because God prophesied that in the last days a ministry like Elijah's would come forth. But, then He said, “If you can receive it, he has already come and it is John.” The disciples could then say, “They asked if he was Elijah, and he said he was not but, in the spirit, he was. In the flesh he was not, and they were asking him in the flesh. The spirit did not need to ask.”

When God told Simeon, the prophet, “You will not die until you have seen the Lord's Christ,” all of Israel was waiting on the Messiah. In Deuteronomy 33, it says that He will come with 10,000 of His saints. In Isaiah, it said, “A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a child and you shall call Him Emmanuel which is interpreted, God with us.” The Holy Spirit said to Simeon, “Go to the temple now. The Messiah is coming.” Deuteronomy 33 says, “He is coming with 10,000 of His saints” and Isaiah says, “A virgin shall conceive.”

Through the door comes a woman with a baby, and the woman had her husband with her. Simeon's eyes would say, "Hmm. She is married. Isaiah said a virgin shall conceive..." But the Spirit said, "That this is Him." "Okay, what's the baby's name?" Simeon might have asked. "Jesus," they would have replied. "What? I thought it was Emmanuel. It must not be Him." That is not what he said. Simeon looked at that baby, in the arms of His dad, and the Spirit said, "That man is not the baby's father. I am the baby's father. The baby's name is Jesus because He is going to save man from his sins." The old man said, "Father, let your servant depart in peace for I have seen the salvation of Israel. I have seen it." There was salvation!

The country was a mess. The priesthood was a mess. The teaching was full of lies. Darkness had covered the land. The Roman Empire controlled them. Soldiers walked through their streets taking money from them. Simeon looked at that baby and said, "I don't care what the city looks like. I don't care what the people are saying. I don't care what the priests are doing. I don't care that darkness is in the land. My eyes have seen that Satan's kingdom is coming down. I have seen the salvation of Israel!" The Spirit told him that. I want to be that kind of man and so do you.

When you go home, you tell God, "I want Your Spirit to reveal to me Your Son. I want to know Him in the power of the resurrection. I want to be made conformable unto His death. I want to know Him in the fellowship of His suffering."

In the church today, the biggest message is "no suffering." Paul said, "I want to know Him in fellowship with His suffering. I don't want to escape. I want to walk through the fire. I want to walk with that power." I don't want Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be the only men with that testimony - not when God can deliver you and me out of the burning fiery furnace.

## Coffee break

## Q&A

**Question:** [Are children saved if their parents are not?](#)

**Answer:** 1 Cor 7:14 tells us, *For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.*

One believing parent in the house sanctifies the whole house. It also says that if neither believe, then the children are unclean. One believer in the house makes the difference.

Let's talk about abortion. We know that Satan is a murderer and, in the United States, more than 1,500,000 babies are murdered in abortion clinics every year. Since 1973 -- 30 years -- 45,000,000 babies have been killed. If those babies all go to heaven, then Satan is winning more souls than the church. If Satan knew that murdering a baby sent it straight to heaven, why would he do that? The church should be concerned. That's why we care. The information of the world tells people that it is okay to do this.

Many young women who are afraid because they have no job and no way to make money for themselves and a baby are trying to find a solution for the problem. If the church made them understand, "We'll make a place for you. Someone in our church will give you a home, not to work as a servant, but as we would do for Jesus." If Jesus needed a place to stay in this city, I don't think we'd say, "Yes, you can come home with me. I want you to clean the bathrooms every morning, wash the dishes after every meal, keep the house clean, and wash my car." I don't think we would do that. If we help a young girl, we should not see that as an opportunity to have her do our jobs. Yes, they should help, but we don't want to invite them in as a servant. God knows our hearts. The church should give opportunities to young women to stay in church.

Pastors, if a young girl in your church gets pregnant and is not married, is she afraid to come back to your church because of the things you will say to her? Does she know you will love her and that you will protect her? Does she know you will help her? Maybe she needs a father. Well, God is a Father, and He said that true religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their affliction and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. There are young girls who want to be part of the church but they have sinned. They know that in a few months everyone in the church will know. A young man in the church can sin the same sin, but four months later no one knows. He can sit in the church and no one knows. But the young woman knows that everyone will know of her sin. We are not condoning sin when we are protecting the mother and the baby. If escaping from the sin is another sin, the church has to draw the line. Jesus would rescue her and keep her from having to make those choices. It's the same way for women around you who don't have any help but who are going to have a baby. When the people in the church see how difficult it is to raise a baby, they see that it is not easy. Every hour of every day, when they see that woman working with that baby, they see how much responsibility she has.

So, the Bible says that the children in a home where the parents are not saved are not clean. We have a job. That's how serious our job is. If someone in Choloma discovered a cure for cancer but shared it only with their family, and then discovered the cure for AIDs but kept it only for their family, it would be a terrible shame. Sin is a killer. Sin is more dangerous than cancer or AIDs. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death -- not just to the flesh, but forever. If someone dies of cancer and goes to heaven, they don't remember the pain, but if a sinner dies in his sin, he will never know the joy of eternity with Christ. You know about the blood of Jesus -- the cure for sin. You know about it -- it's not just for the church, it is for everyone around you. If you have the cure for cancer and the woman next door had cancer, as soon as you heard it, you would run next door and tell her, "I have the cure!" But, if our neighbor does not know Jesus, they are dying, and we could run next door and tell them, "I am a tree of life." Proverbs 11:30 says, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that wins souls is wise.* It is a good idea to knock on your neighbor's door and tell him, "You know, Christ Jesus is life. Don't go into eternity without Him. When you are ready, come see me. I know about life forever and you will never die." *He that believeth on me shall never die.* The church should act like we know that, but we act ashamed. The neighbor might laugh at me. They might mock me.

I was born again in 1962, at the age of 12. Using 1962 as a starting point, let's say there were only 12 Christians in the world – 11 other believers and myself. If each of us won just one person to Christ that year, there would be 24 Christians in the world by 1963. An entire year to win one convert does not sound too hard. If every believer would win one person each year, our numbers would double. Surely, God could lead us to one hungry, hurting sinner in a year. Starting with 12 Christians in 1962, with each Christian winning one soul per year, and each convert then winning one per year, and so on, the whole world would have been won to Christ by 1991!

Jesus told us a parable. He said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who went into a far country and he gave talents to his servants." To one he gave one talent. Something valuable. One talent of silver is not much, but it is valuable. That is what salvation is. Every Christian gets salvation free. When the Master came back, He said to the servants, "How many did you win for me? The one who had one talent said, "I knew you were a hard Master, so I spent my whole life just trying to keep my own salvation. I buried my talent. I kept it, but I could not win anyone else to you. I was too busy keeping me ready to go to heaven."

You see, in Micah 6:8, God said, *He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

Do justly. If you have been given salvation, then you know it is true and you know it is free. Love mercy. If you love mercy for you, you must love mercy for your neighbor. You don't want to go to hell for eternity. Neither do they. You and I must teach the people in church, "Christ dwells in you. You know about the truth. You know about His blood. You know it is the cure for sin. Win someone to Christ Jesus. Go to the hospitals. Go to the streets. Go to the jails. Go to the market. Go to the bars. Win them to Christ. Tell them about Jesus."

It is not the job of the evangelist to win the lost. Sheep bear sheep. Shepherds do not produce sheep; sheep produce sheep. Shepherds lead the sheep. We want to make our churches know about salvation so that they rest in Christ Jesus as the Potter and have time and faith in His love. They will have joy in their life. Their neighbors will look at them and say, "I want what you have." Many Christians live under the weight of condemnation. There is a sadness that people feel underneath condemnation and their neighbors can see that. Romans 8 tells us, *[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and, they that are after the flesh walk after the flesh and they that are after the spirit, walk after the spirit.* There is no condemnation. We should have joy. He is the Potter and you are the clay. You should have joy.

Who had the party in the story of the prodigal son? The Father. He had a party for the son that came home. What did the brother say who was the picture of the church? "I served you all the time and you never threw a party for me." The father said, "We've been raising these calves. You can have a party anytime you want. I wondered why you never

had a party. I wondered why you were never happy.” It is time for the church to begin to have a party because Jesus loves us.

He loves me as a believer. He loves me! I am going to start having a party! There is such a joy in my life, and I want my neighbors to come over. You know when the neighbors are having a party. The kids come in and tell you and you want to go. You think, “I wasn’t invited. I wish I was invited.” That’s the way the church should be. With the Holy Ghost on us, that’s how we ought to be. The people in Jerusalem thought the disciples were drunk because they were having such a good time. They all came running to see. They said, “What’s going on with these guys? They’re drunk!” Peter said, “They’re not drunk. This is what was written. Yesterday, I did not have His Spirit in me. Today, when I got up, I did not have His Spirit in me. But just a little while ago, I heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind begin to blow through this place, and my feet began to dance and my hands began to praise, and something inside of me began to sing. I’m having a party! My God loves me and I am having a party! I am not going to hell – I’m headed for heaven and I have joy. I’ve been redeemed by love Divine!”

He said, “Faith will fail, but love will never fail.” He didn’t have faith in me; He loved me. He has faith in Himself. He made Himself the Potter and said, “You are just clay.” You don’t expect much from clay. I don’t care who you are. If you plant flowers in the dirt, you don’t tell that dirt to do anything. You don’t tell the dirt, “Move over, get on the sidewalk, I’m going to put flowers where you were.” You know that dirt does not obey. Clay can’t obey. But, if you put it in the hands of the Potter, His hands begin to shape it and that clay begins to change. It keeps changing until it is a beautiful vessel. Then, it says, “Oh yes, I am a beautiful vessel and I am very important and you are not as beautiful as me. I made myself like this. I am righteous. I don’t go around people who are not righteous. The woman at the well had five husbands, and I let the women at the church deal with her. But me, I am a vessel.”

Do you know what God remembers? God says, “I remember you. You were just a lump of clay and I loved you and I took you with My own hands, and I made you beautiful. It wasn’t for you to be more beautiful than other people. It was so that you could tell them, “You think I’m beautiful? You should see what He can do for you. You should see His plan for you. He can make you what you can never make yourself. He knows you are clay.”

When you tell the people in your church, “You are clay, but I know the Potter. I have been preaching to the clay, but now I am going to tell you to let your faith put you in the hands of the Potter and quit fixing yourself and tell Him to make you what He wants you to be. As your pastor, I am praying. I have power. God is going to finish in you what He started.”

You know that Christ came into them, so you tell them, “I know your Father. He raised the dead. One time, a terrible storm was coming and He saw His disciples on a ship going down and your Father stepped out in the water and He walked to those disciples. I have

met your Father, and you are going to be just like Him. He is inside of you. You are part of Him and you will be like Him. Wait until you see what your Father is.”

You will say, “My Father can do anything and I am His son. I am going to look like Him and talk like Him and I’m going to walk like He walked and I’ll hear His voice. Wait until you see you, when your Father grows up in you.”

When you tell that to your church, when you show them Christ in you, they will say, “I want to be like that. I see my Father in the preacher and now I want that. He has joy and he has power. God can change me!”

Tell them, like He told the Pharisees, “You know what church? You’re like old cloth. Every week, I’ve been preaching sermons with new cloth to patch the old cloth of your life, but not anymore. I have a word from heaven and Jesus said, ‘I’m going to make new cloth. I won’t put wine in old wineskins. I’ll make them new wineskins.’ You will be new wineskins, church. It won’t be because you are trying, but because the seed of Jesus Christ lives inside of you and He is going to change you into what He wants you to be. I have confidence in His power, in His love, in His Spirit, in His Word. I have confidence in Jesus Christ.”

Anthony Campolo, a minister in the U.S., had a friend who was Jewish when he was a boy. He said that when he was heading off to school, his mother would say, “Tony, don’t forget your lunch. Tony, you’re such a good boy.” He would go off and get his friend, and his friend’s mother would say, “Tony, my son is a genius.” She’d say, “Son, you’re a genius. Don’t forget your books.” Tony said that one day it dawned on him that his mother said, don’t forget your lunch and that he was a good boy, but that his friend believed he was a genius. He believed that because his mother told him that and she told him that he could do anything. She didn’t say, “Take your lunch.” She said, “Take your books,” and he did great in school. He realized that his friend believed what his mother was telling him.

You see, we have to start telling our church, “You are going to succeed because the seed of Jesus Christ is in you. He lived in the flesh without sin and at the cross He died and God harvested the seed of the Champion. You have been born inside with the seed of the Champion. He overcame His flesh and He will overcome yours. Your flesh is no worse than His flesh. He lives in you to overcome your flesh.”

**Question:** [How long does it take a person to pass from a baby Christian to a minister? How long does it take for a new convert to grow spiritually? We have people with years of serving Christ who have not changed.](#)

**Answer:** How long does it take? All of our life Jesus works on us. Peter told Jesus, “I will die for you.” Jesus said, “You will deny me.” In John 21, Jesus finds Peter and He said, “Peter, you’re going to die for Me.” Peter said, “I can’t.” See how that went? Peter said first, “I can,” then he found out that he couldn’t. Then, Jesus said he could -- now He says Peter can. Jesus said, “When you were young, you girded yourself and you went where you could go, but when you are old, someone else will gird you and take you

where you cannot go.” And, so it is with you. When you were young, you tried to serve Him in your own strength and you failed. But, in Him, He will gird you and take you where you cannot take yourself. Your success is His success.

When you get to heaven and you have lived perfect on the earth, you’ll have grown up in Him and will have done mighty works of God. You’ll have seen God’s hand do tremendous things through your life. When those doors open up to Glory, this is what you are going to do: You are going to get down at the feet of Jesus and you are going to tell Him, “Thank you for getting me to heaven! Nothing I could have done would have opened these doors. Nothing I have said, nothing I am. I lived in You in a fullness, but it was Your blood, Your mercy. It was You who got me here. It was not me.

Perfection above sin is never competition with God. It is becoming a spontaneous reflex to the mind of God. The church perfected is a spontaneous reflex to the mind of God.

Sampson was in a battle and the Bible said he used the jawbone of an ass to slay 1,000 of the enemy. Now which is bigger, the ass or just its jawbone? The whole ass. If he would have grabbed an ass to fight the enemy, he would have had to fight with the ass first, because it would have been kicking and fighting him. But, because it does not have a mind of its own, the jawbone became an extension of his arm. That’s why the Bible says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” The Bible says, “Who has the mind of the Lord that we may instruct Him? But, we have the mind of Christ.” So, when we have His mind, then we die to our self. Paul said, “I die daily, nevertheless I live, yet it is not I that live, but Christ that dwells in me and the life that I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God. It’s not even my own faith. I am living by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Sampson showed us what the church should be -- dead to self and an extension of the hand of God. That is the perfect church.

How long does it take to grow up? To minister? On the night that Jesus saved me, I went and found my friend at a neighbor’s house watching their children and, in less than 30 minutes, he was down on his knees with tears running down his cheeks. I went to tell him what had happened to me and he could see it. He could feel that God was moving. Within the hour I had become a minister. I wasn’t a pastor, but I was an evangelist. I told everyone! I took my Bible and got on the school bus and started talking about Jesus. In my reading class, I had to give a report. I stood up and began to talk about Jesus and the anointing of the Lord came down in that room. Thirty students sat spellbound in the presence of God. They did not know what to do or what to say, but they could feel the presence of God. So, I told them, “I know what you need to do. Confess your sins. He will be faithful and just to forgive your sins and He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness.” I told people everywhere I went about Jesus. Within just a few weeks, I had 11 friends going to church with me in a 1953 Chevy. There were people everywhere inside that car – going to church to hear about Jesus. It doesn’t take very long to begin telling the story. Now, growing up is a different thing.

I am still growing up. I am still learning from Him. He is still teaching me and working with me. I still make Him laugh, a lot. I still make Him cry. But, He loves me. We are still having a party. He said, “How would you like to go to Honduras where the gentle



tropical breezes blow? Where the moon shines through the palm trees and fruit drops to the ground? Where the people love the Lord and where they play the sweetest music?" I said, "That sounds like a party to me," and it has been a party.

My daughter loves horses and she thinks that Honduras is filled with handsome cowboys. She loves Honduras. She wants a horse and she wants to meet a cowboy. I tell her, "You are just two. When you are older, I'm sure you will meet a cowboy and he will risk his life to come see you."

So, we grow up in Christ. Some of us grow up quickly. Some of us did not know about growing up so we drank milk all the time, but we were praying, "God, I'm still hungry. Thanks for the milk, but I want more." God has heard that prayer all over Honduras. Pastors have been praying. "God, something is wrong with the division and the fighting. We ought to love one another. We don't have the power of the Book of Acts. We want You to teach us and lead us and challenge us, but don't leave the church like it is." I don't believe God will leave it like it was. I believe He is looking for men and woman who want the Holy Ghost to teach them and to prepare their Bible.

**Question:** [According to Matthew 23:9, the Bible says that no one should call someone on earth 'Father'. Why, then, do some people call apostles fathers?](#)

**Answer:** We don't have much wisdom, but we are getting it. God said, "Pray for wisdom. With all your getting, get wisdom." The ministries of God need wisdom. God gave apostles, and they are men who saw the revelation of Christ. Because they saw that revelation, they knew absolute truth. So, what the apostles did was keep lies out of the church. God is a wise Creator. He gave us eyes that can see colors with very subtle differences. He gave us ears to hear with and we can hear different sounds, but what we need the most He did not give us. We cannot tell if someone is telling the truth! How easy would life be if, when someone lied, a little bell would ring? Your children do something naughty and you ask, "Did you do that?" When your child says, "No..." Ring. You'd say, "Come with me." If you're in court and the judge says, "Did you steal this from their house?" "Oh no, your honor." Ring. "Put him in jail."

Ananias and Sapphira came to the apostles of God and said, "This is how much we sold our house for." Ring. Am I right? Peter said, "You didn't lie to me. You lied to the Holy Ghost and you are going to die." If we ever needed apostles in the church who could hear the bell, we need them now. "You have to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. You have to baptize in the name of Jesus." Where are the apostles when the bell should ring? You see, men say they are apostles. If you have felt that God has called you to be an apostle, I am not trying to offend you, but I am telling you that it is not the high office. Jesus said, "If you want to be the most important, be the best servant." If washing toilets was a sign of being an apostle, we'd have less of them. If doing all the dishes after a church dinner was the job of an apostle, we'd have less of them. When God taught the Apostle Paul the revelation of Jesus Christ, he said, "God birthed me that He might show Himself through me." That is why He birthed you. Paul received revelation knowledge from God, but he went back to the Apostles to have them judge it...God used him to confront Peter.

The man who had been killing Christians said, "Peter, I have heard the bell. You are not doing right." Peter did not say, "I am the great apostle Peter and you are the persecutor of the church. You dare to rebuke me in front of all these people?" Do you know what Peter said in front of everyone? "You are right. You are correct. Thank you for washing my feet. I wasn't going to let Jesus wash my feet, but He taught me that if I didn't let Him wash my feet that I had no part in Him. Today, in front of all this host, you took off your garment, Paul, and you washed my feet." I would rather have God send someone to wash my feet and get me back on that narrow road than to miss God, and so would you. Most apostles won't tell you they are an apostle, because you don't need to know. They are a protector of the truth and they have a job. You don't need to know they are there. If you will not hear the voice of God through them, it would not matter if they said they were an apostle. You want to bow to the voice of God. If He uses a young person in your church, you want to be able to surrender to the washing of your feet through whomever God uses.

I was talking to man in jail once. He was the prisoner and I was the preacher. He and I were laughing and kidding back and forth. I said, "Oh you fool." He said, "You should not call me that. The Bible says you should call no man a fool." And I repented. I did not tell him that he was not an apostle. I didn't tell him that he wasn't a pastor. I heard the voice of God and I didn't care whom God spoke through. I heard His voice.

Sometimes we know the voice of God and sometimes we don't. I met a man and a woman under the tent. They came to a group of people who said that all Christians had to live together. They said that if Christians did not live together, your life is too easy. But, if you all move in together, you have to submit to the pastor and to the elders and they tell you what to do. They said "No one likes that." I said, "That doesn't sound like God. Jesus will tell you what to do. That is why He came to live in you."

They adopted a little boy and they were mean to that little boy. He was 12 years old and he wet the bed. He had terrible turmoil inside from being an orphan. So, they took an old mattress and they put it in the basement of their house without sheets or blankets. They said, "You sleep down there. You stink."

I was riding in a car with the man. I said, "You have missed the point. God sent you a little boy to see if you would treat him like you would Jesus. You see, you're telling me that you want to join this group because they teach that you have to treat the other Christians like the Lord. God knew that you saw them as important, so to find out what was in your heart, He sent you an orphan kid. He wanted to know how you would treat Him if He wet the bed in your house." I said, "What you are doing is wrong. The way you treat that child is how you treat Christ Jesus. When you see important people and you know in your mind you should be nice, you are nice even if your heart is angry. But, if you have an orphan child and you don't see that you have to treat him right, you'll treat him the way your heart would treat him. That is what God wants to know." We want the mind of Christ.

## Lunch break

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We are talking about what God wants. We ask questions about end-time things, but we want to remember what God has promised. He said, "I am going to have a church without spot or wrinkle." He said that on the revelation of who He is He would build His church and the gates of hell would not be able to prevail against it. He prayed that His church would be one and it will happen.

Ephesians 4 is where the Lord tells us what His desire is for what we do as the ministry. "He gave some, apostles." When the Bible says we should call no man 'Father', I believe we should call no man 'Father.' It does not matter what men say. Stay with the Word of God. Men can say anything they want, but stay with the Word of God.

In Ephesians 4, He is talking about the ministry and he says in verse 1-10:

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 [There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

Paul called himself the prisoner of Christ. Prisoner. As though his ministry has chains that have locked him to Christ, and indeed, they have. The Apostle Paul became a prisoner that he might do the things that God called him to do. He tells us to walk worthy of the vocation with which we are called, *with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.* That is what we want in the church.

Someone asked me a question about the evidence of the Holy Ghost. I told them that the evidence of Holy Ghost is the fruit of the Spirit. If you have an orange tree, you are going to have oranges. When I came here, I rented a house for a year. Then, I felt like I needed to buy a house. The house I brought had a big orange tree in the back yard. So, I told all my friends in the U.S., "The house is very nice and it has a beautiful orange tree in the back yard." When I came back here a month ago, my oranges were very big and they were turning yellow. I picked one off the tree and I cut it in half and I found out that my orange tree was a grapefruit tree! You can call it anything you want. You can call it an orange tree, but if it is a grapefruit tree it will bring forth grapefruit. It will be true to what it is. We talk much about the gifts of the Spirit, but we don't talk much about the fruit. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is that you will bear its fruit, and one of the fruits of the

Holy Spirit is love. You know what the fruits are. You can read about them in Galatians. We fight over the gifts and Jesus said that He is the Teacher. When was the last time you heard someone fighting about the Holy Spirit being the Teacher?

Paul said, *“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, one Spirit even as you are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.*

In verse 11, Jesus gave some *apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;* Why? Why did He give us? We are pastors. We are evangelists, teachers, prophets, and apostles. This tells us why He sent us. What does it say? *For the perfecting of the holy ones.* God sent us for the perfecting of the holy ones. He calls His church saints. He calls you holy now. If God is in you, you're holy. Why? Because God is in you. Moses built a little temple made out of linen and skin, and God Himself entered into it and it became holy. Because the linen was holy? Because the skins were holy? No. Because God is holy and wherever He is is Holy. When He enters into you, He makes you holy. He will not live where it is not holy, because He is holy. When Moses saw the burning bush, did God say, “Take off your shoes because the ground where you are standing has been to Sunday School, it pays tithes, it fasts twice a week, it has kept the law, it has been in church 20 years and now it is holy?” Or maybe it was just holy because God was there. If dirt is holy because God is there, then where God is is holy. So, He said, I have sent the ministries for the perfecting of the holy ones. We don't believe that we are holy.

When God killed the sacrifice for Adam and Eve, He shed the blood and then He covered Adam with the skin of the sacrifice. Is that true? You see, we don't understand our salvation. We read this and each one of us says, “I don't know who the saints are, but I am not a saint yet. I am not holy yet.” But you see, God says that you are holy. When He came to live in you, He made you holy. You are His temple. He came in and made it holy. If He can make dirt holy, if he can make stones holy, He can make you holy. The Holiest of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem was just made of stones, but God was there and that made it holy.

God said that we are given for the perfecting of the saints. How do you perfect the holy ones? You feed them and they will grow. You let the Word of God wash them and you let the Holy Ghost fill them. The new man cannot sin. We talked about that yesterday. 1<sup>st</sup> John said, “He that is born of God cannot sin for His seed abides in him and he cannot sin.” If you are born again and your new man cannot sin and it is from God Himself, then inside the temple is holy ground.

Then, Paul says, *for the work of the ministry.* You and I are perfecting the holy ones for the work of the ministry. We think we are going to do the ministry, but we are ministering to the ministry.

In the seven churches in the book of Revelation, (2:6) in one of the early churches, God said, *“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

‘Nico’ means “to rule over”. ‘Laicus’ is how we get the word laity. We call the church people the laity. God told this first church, “You have something good in you. You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans -- those men who want to rule over My people as though they are important and the people are not important.” In 2:15, He said, *“So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”* In the first church, they had the deeds. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> church, it was a doctrine. Now, men are taught today that the ministry is over the people. The people in your church are the laity. We don’t expect much from them. They pay tithes and do work around the church. They teach Sunday School, but the minister is the ruler, the important one. God said, “I hate this doctrine.” Jesus said, “That is not how I treated My people. I washed My disciples feet. I came not to be ministered to, but to minister.”

Paul said the five-fold ministry is for the perfecting of the holy ones. These are the saints and they are going to do what God wants them to do. In the Book of Acts, the people were angry because the Hebrews were not taking care of the widows. What did Peter say? “I’m not going to leave prayer to wait tables. Give me seven men.”

Stephen preached a message that the religious leaders could not stand. He had such power that they stoned him to death to shut him up. He died saying, “I see Jesus standing at the Father’s right hand.” Philip joined himself to a chariot in the wilderness, and the Ethiopian he saw was reading from Isaiah. He asked, “Is the prophet talking about himself?” Philip told him about Jesus. They saw water. The man asked, “Can I be baptized?” The Bible says that the Ethiopian went down into the water and the Spirit caught Philip away to Samaria, leaving the Ethiopian is all alone! These are the people Paul was talking about -- the holy ones. That is how your church should be living. We teach that the preacher should live like that. People expect the pastor to do that. God said, “Sure, the pastor will do that, to show the people how to do it.” Wouldn’t you like to be in Philip’s church? The Ethiopian thought an angel had baptized him because he came out of the water and Philip was gone! That was a man of God!

*...for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...*

We’ve read that. You have it memorized. I want to think about it. The church is the body of Christ. So, where is Christ? He must be where His body is. The Bible said that we are His body. We read that, but we don’t think about it. The five-fold ministry is for the edifying of the people of God because they are His body -- His hands, His feet, His mouth. When He wants to touch someone in the market, whose hands does He use? He uses His body’s hands -- the church. We are His hands on the earth. We are His hands, His feet, and His mouth on the earth because He is in us.

If He calls us His body, and when He lived on the earth He did not sin. Would God call a church full of sin His body? The body of His sinless Son? No. That is why we have been born of the Spirit. The new man inside of you does not sin. The new man has never

sinned. It cannot sin. You see why we are talking to pastors? This is meat. Your carnal mind doesn't get this. I am not talking to your intellect. I am not that kind of a teacher. I am sowing a seed into your heart, but you have to receive it by faith. That is why we feel the presence of God in this place. God is reminding us, "I am in this place. Receive my Word by faith. Trust Me." He wants us to trust Him. He said, "If you are asking for bread, I will not give you a stone. If you are asking for fish I will not give you a serpent." We are asking God to give us truth.

*...Till we all come in the unity of the faith...*

He gave us ministers so that we would all come into the unity of the faith. There is only one faith. That is what He gave us for. We have to look at this and go to God. "God, we're not doing this. Your body is not in unity." Satan wants the church divided because, until His body comes together, the world can't see Him. God is going to put His body together, into unity.

In Ezekiel 37, God set the prophet down in a pile of dry bones. He said, "Can these bones live?" That is the way the church is now. We are just bones scattered everywhere. God asked the prophet, "Can these bones live?" The prophet said, "You know, Lord." That's the church of the valley. What did God tell him? "Tell them they didn't do right? They need to do better? Gather them up and get a sack and put them all in the same sack. Rent an auditorium, put them all there and we'll say we're in unity?" That is not what God said. God said, "Prophesy. I have the power." He said, "I prophesied as I was told, and I heard a shake and it came together, bone to His bone. Then flesh came on it and it stood up a mighty army." That is the church! If you are prophesying with the Spirit of God, the people will come to what God says of them. God has a plan.

*...and of the knowledge of the Son of God...*

This is the knowledge that He is the Potter. It's the knowledge that my flesh died at Calvary with Him. It's knowing that I am dead and my life is hid with Christ in God. You are dead. We read that in Romans 8 yesterday. He tells us that we are going to come to the revelation knowledge of the Son of God.

*...unto a perfect man...*

What does that mean? What Paul said next tells us what He means...*Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.* The full stature of the man Christ Jesus -- that has not happened yet, but God said that it will happen. I don't care what man says, there is no reason to perfect the church in heaven. Heaven does not need to have souls saved! There is no reason to perfect the church in heaven. No one is lost in heaven. God is going to perfect the church on earth because Satan says He can't. Satan says, "I am going to divide them. I will make war between them. They won't come into unity. You can't do this." God said, "Oh yes, I can do it. I can do anything I want, and I want this."

*That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

We are not going to be blown by doctrines. The church is blown by doctrines. He said, "I am going to make you grow up, so you are no more children." Paul said, "When you are a baby Christian and you need milk, you cannot understand spiritual things." What we need is faith. Every mother knows that the first time you put solid food in a baby's mouth, the baby spits it out. He uses his tongue to get it out. "I'm used to milk – what is this?" Then you give him another bite and he spits it out. Then you mash up some banana, he tastes it, and finds it good. A mother is wise. As a pastor, you must be wise.

When you start talking spiritual things, the people in your church are not going to like it. The first thing that you need to do after this conference is to have a meeting with your elders and deacons. Tell them that they are not going to be elders and deacons anymore. Tell them that Christ is your head. Tell them, "You can't hire me and you can't fire me. If God sent me here, you are going to have to listen and you are going to have to pray. You are not going to vote against me and you are not going to get a bunch of people angry with me. My Bible tells me that the head of the woman is the man and the church is the woman. She is the Bride of Christ. The five-fold ministry is the man. The head of the man is Christ."

If your head is not Jesus Christ, you cannot pray or prophesy. If your head is Jesus Christ, but the elders can fire you, they are above your head. If Christ is your head and He tells you to do something, but they say, "No," they are above your head. We have trouble in the church because there are people who are 'power people' in the church. They are not led by the Spirit of God, and they become elders.

Now, if you are an elder in the church and you are here today, you don't want to stand before God and have God tell you, "I sent My man, but you voted him out. The blood of the people who suffered is on your head." Is that what you want? We don't tell elders what happens, but when you stop a man from doing what God wants him to do, the blood is on your head.

If people take a man make him a watchman, and he sees evil come and he does not warn the man who is in sin, that man will die in his sin, but his blood God will require at the hand of the watchman. But, if the watchman warns him and he does not repent and dies in his sin, the blood is on his own head and the watchman is free. So, if the elders fire a pastor because he warns someone who is doing wrong, his blood is on their head. They don't even believe that. We have a lot of power stuff that goes on behind the pastor, but it is not God. The head of the man is Christ and the head of Christ is God. That's the way God set it up. We say a woman can't be a head over a man, but elders are part of the church, so they are part of the woman. If they are part of the woman, how can they fire the man? How can they boss the man? How can the deacons who are part of the woman be over the man? The Bible says a woman cannot usurp authority over the man. I know

the elders are not going to like this, but the church has to get into order. God has to be the head.

Some of you pastors know that if you go home and dismiss your elders, they will fire you. That's wrong. In the Bible, an elder is just someone who has been in the church long enough to help – an older Christian. It is not an office or a place of authority. You are just mature enough to help.

If you have four or five children and one of them is three years old and one is 16, you won't put the 3-year-old in charge if you have to go somewhere. You'll put the 16-year-old in charge because she or he is the elder. See? That does not give him power. If you come home and your 16-year-old and your 14-year-old say, "Dad, we voted and you're not going to correct us anymore." "Oh?"

When my brother was 11 years old, he told my mother, "When I am 12 you won't spank me anymore." I still remember that! My eyes were big, like saucers, and I was learning a very important lesson. My mother said, "Okay, then I will give you an extra whipping today." And she whipped him. When she got finished, he didn't tell her that anymore. She said, "Now, you want to tell me that again?" He said, "No, no." I made up my mind not to tell her anything like that. So, you leave your oldest in charge and you come home and they say, "I'm the elder child, and things are going to change around here." You're going to say, "Yes they are. I'm going to change you right now."

So, Paul said, "We're not going to be blown around by every wind of doctrine." In verse 15, he said,

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ...*

Christ is the head of the church.

*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth...*

Now it's not a church, it's a body. Do you see what happened? When we grow up into the head, the body edifies itself by that which every joint supplies. Why does it say joint? A joint is what makes two bones work together in unity. If you could not bend your arm, you could not work. Every joint should work together. All these bones can work together only because of the joints. They have liquid inside of them so there is no pain when you bend. The joints are inside, lubricating, so that we can work together without friction. Now it's a body.

*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*



It starts out as ministries ministering to the people, but it ends up a body – a living body. God’s plan is to have the church on the earth, growing up into Him, so that the world can see Christ.

That is what He is going to do, and you and I are part of that. The world needs to see Christ. You and I are going to see the revelation in His Word. We are going to see more of what He does and we are going to grow up into the head. We need to receive it by faith.

In Matthew 13, Jesus gives a parable. The Bible says, in verse 3, that He spoke many things to them in parables.

*And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some [seeds] fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Jesus is the sower and He went to sow the truth. He told us that out of every four seeds, three will not make it. Let’s read what He said next in verses 10-12:

*And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*

He was speaking in parables because it was not for them to hear. They asked him about the parable. In verse 18-19, he began to explain it.

*Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

Jesus explained that if I sow truth and they don’t understand what I am saying, Satan will come and take it away from them. The wicked one will come and catch it away. Did the disciples understand? No. When He was crucified, He said, “In three days I’ll rise again.” Were they at the tomb waiting? No. Did they understand the parables? No. But they had faith in Him. Do you see? When the devil came and said that He was a liar, they said, “He is not a liar. I don’t understand what He is saying, but you can’t take out of my heart what He planted in me.” In the Book of Acts, it says that after He was crucified, they understood many things He had said. The Bible said, “And then understood the disciples. He said that when He was among us.” They did not understand Him when He said it, but

they were not angry with Him. The priests did not understand what He said, but they were angry because He said it.

Read me verses 22 and 23:

*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth [it]; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches...Riches can be deceitful. The heart of man thinks, "If I was just rich, I'd be happy." The most unhappy people I have ever met are rich. Riches don't make you happy. Trusting in God makes you happy. Rich people trust in their riches, that's what they rest in. So do we.

It does not matter if you have \$500 in your pocket or \$5,000. We still feel good when we have a little bit of money in our pocket. Even if you don't have much money, you can rest. You can rest a little better when you have a job, when you have money for the things you have to have. Jesus said, "I am your Sabbath. I am your rest." When you can rest with no money just as well as you can rest with money, you are truly resting in Him. I've been in places where I had to rest in Him. There is a deceitfulness in riches. Riches beckon us: "Trust in me." No. I trust in Christ Jesus. Sometimes you need a miracle concerning your money. You lean on Him, trust in Him.

That's one of the things you learn as a pastor. When you start serving God, sometimes you have no money. When I started working in the jail ministry, I had no money. I was upset. I was in a turmoil. God just kept making it go on and on and on. One day, I started leaning on Him, trusting Him. I did it all day long. The next day, I did it all day long. I began resting in Him. Money was not my thing. I wanted to serve Him, with or without money. God wants to solve that in your heart.

Several years ago, I was holding a seminar in Africa. At that time, I owned an airplane and I was talking about flying in the airplane. When it was question time, one of the pastors asked me, "If you have enough money to own an airplane, why are you in the ministry?" I said, "Because it is what I breathe. I am not in the ministry for money – to get money. I am in the ministry because He rescued me. I was 12 years old and tormented out of my mind. This God who created the whole universe knew me by name. He knows you by name. He spoke peace to my heart and He filled me with His spirit, and since that day I've wanted to find every tormented person I can, and share with them the power of God's deliverance.

Then, I saw that the church did not have delivering power anymore, not like the church should have. God said, "I will not put my power where there are lies." The church is not acting like the Book of Acts. That's how it started. Faith should increase, not decrease. Power should increase, not decrease. Miracles should increase, not decrease. Jesus said, "Greater things shall you do because I go to the Father." We are settling for less and we

don't know why. God said, "You're divided. A divided house will not stand." When a building is broken open by an earthquake, they don't come in and build a bunch of floors on the top of it. You don't build on top of a building that's been torn open by an earthquake. You take it down, you put in a new foundation and you build it up. That's where we are. I want it. You must want it or God would not bring me here. That's the truth.

Tomorrow we are going to talk about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the end times.