

Leavened With Christ

Jeff L Mills

During the Days of Unleavened Bread, for the entire seven days we are to remain unleavened. We are to remove the leaven from our homes and from our dwelling places and no leaven is to be found among us in all our habitations for the entire seven days. We are required to eat the Passover with unleavened bread. We are to cleanse ourselves and abstain from all things that are leavened. During the seven days of the feast we must be watchful and we have to be vigilant; we must take care to prevent ourselves from being, or becoming leavened. We are to set ourselves apart from this world and for those seven days we are reminded physically, every day that we are very different from everyone else around us.

But, when the seven days are completed, we are free to eat leavened products again. We can go right back to the way things were before the Days of Unleavened Bread began and we can begin to enjoy all of those things that we had given up for the entire seven days, or can we? At the end of the feast, the prohibition on leavened goods is rescinded; but those things that we had abstained from are physical things that we take into our bodies, what about the spiritual things? What about those things that leaven us spiritually?

As the children of Israel were preparing to go out of Egypt, they had already begun eating unleavened bread. They had begun eating unleavened bread with the Passover meal, as God had told them through Moses. As they left Egypt, they had already become unleavened and the bread that they took with them out of Egypt was unleavened bread.

Exodus 12:37-39

³⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds – a great deal of livestock. ³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

So the only bread that they had to eat, until they ran out of the food that they had brought out with them, was unleavened bread. God was preparing them and the unleavened bread was to serve as a reminder to them that they came out of Egypt in haste. He wanted them to firmly fix that day in their minds and they were told to remember that day for all of their lives.

We go through that same process, we are rescued out of our life of sin, our Egypt, and we are freed from the control and influence of Satan, just as Israel was freed from Pharaoh. Israel had been away from Egypt for a month when they ran out of food, and they began to complain against Moses. They accused him of bringing them out into the wilderness to die. Remember, all of this time the only bread that they had to eat was the unleavened bread that God had commanded them to eat.

Exodus 16:4

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not."

God told Moses that He was going to provide bread for them and God did literally provide bread for them, but notice that He is also going to test them to see if they are going to obey His law. Without this bread that God provided for them, they would have perished there in the wilderness with nothing to sustain them. They had to rely on God; there was no place for them to gather any food for themselves. God gave them the bread of life, but that sustenance and life that He was providing for them was dependent upon them keeping His law. We have to obey God's law if we are going to receive the bread of life, our sustenance.

Up until this time, Israel only had the unleavened bread that they had brought out with them to eat, they had become cleansed and purged and completely de-leavened from sin physically, but symbolically, it was actually pointing towards the spiritual aspect of becoming de-leavened. God provided bread for them from heaven...after being de-leavened, they were becoming leavened with the bread that came from God and at the same time God was teaching them to be obedient to His law. They had a responsibility too; they had to follow what God told them in order to receive the bread.

Exodus 16:5

⁵And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

At this point, God had to teach Israel about the Sabbath. They had been in Egypt so long and had been oppressed by Pharaoh for so long, that they had lost the knowledge of the Sabbath. Pharaoh did not allow them any time off and there was no day of rest, they were slaves. Israel had lost their identity and the sign that identified them as belonging to God, the Sabbath Day.

Exodus 16:14-16

¹⁴ And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, *as fine as frost on the ground*. ¹⁵ So when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it *was*.

And Moses said to them, "This *is* the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, *according to the* number of persons; let every man take for *those who are* in his tent.'"

The Israelites went out in the morning and they found this substance on the ground and they had no idea what it was. So Moses explained to them, that this was the bread that God was giving them, the bread from heaven and they went out to gather it.

Exodus 16:22-30

²² And so it was, on the sixth day, *that* they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. ²³ Then he said to them, "This *is what* the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow *is* a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake *today*, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'" ²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. ²⁵ Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today *is* a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ Now it happened *that some* of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? ²⁹ See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

God was teaching them, along with feeding them with the bread. God wanted them to understand two things very clearly. If they kept the bread overnight, the next morning it would have worms in it and it would stink. God wanted them to learn that they were dependent upon him every single day for that day's bread; they were dependent upon God to remain alive in the wilderness. If they tried to take matters into their own hands, they were not successful. If they disobeyed God the bread rotted and provided no nourishment for them. God was the one who was giving them bread from heaven to sustain their lives.

If they gathered twice as much on the sixth day as they were told to do, it would keep overnight and it would provide food for them on the Sabbath when God did not provide bread for them. They were to rest on the Sabbath day in obedience to God's law. Receiving the bread of life was dependent upon them keeping and honoring God's law. There is a parallel here that we need to realize in our own lives.

John 6:47-51

47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Here Christ directly refers to the bread that Israel received in the wilderness, the manna that they were fed, the bread from heaven. The bread that Israel received in the wilderness was a type of the true bread from heaven; Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of what that bread pictured. Jesus Christ is the true bread of life sent down to us from heaven by God the Father. We are in the wilderness of this world and we must partake of this bread to live and to exist eternally. Physical bread can only nourish the body. This is the bread that nourishes us spiritually and that provides eternal life...a life that extends beyond this physical existence. We only receive that bread if we are obedient to God and honor His law.

Physical existence alone; is **not** true life. Immersing ourselves in this world and partaking of what it has to offer, indulging ourselves in its pastimes and distractions; is **not** true life. Living a life apart from God and apart from His son, living in opposition to God's law and God's way; is **not** true life. A way has been provided for us to be free from bondage, to be free from a life of sin and we have been freed from a life of ignorance and darkness. A tremendous price was paid to allow us to have that opportunity. Jesus Christ, the true bread of life is what we must nourish ourselves on. That true bread is what we need to truly sustain our lives.

Matthew 16:5-11

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."

8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

⁹ Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? ¹⁰ Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up (He is reminding them that if it were just physical bread that they were lacking, He could provide that)? ¹¹ How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? – *but* to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that He did not tell *them* to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

We have to be careful that we do not let the wrong type of leaven enter into us. We can become leavened by the things around us. We can be influenced by wrong thought and wrong attitudes that slowly begin to leaven us, without us even realizing it. Christ was warning His disciples that they could become leavened by the thoughts, attitudes and erroneous doctrines that were around them. We have to be watchful at all times.

Yeast does not leaven a lump of dough all at once. The bread does not rise all at once. There is a process that takes place; it is a biological and chemical reaction. Yeast is a living microorganism. The yeast cells eat the sugar and starch that is in the dough, as the sugar is consumed the yeast cells produce a gas, carbon dioxide, which causes the dough to rise. The yeast cells reproduce very quickly and spread throughout the bread, until the dough becomes thoroughly saturated with the yeast and puffed up.

We have to be careful and we have to be vigilant. There are different types of yeast that are literally floating around in the air. If you were to make up some bread dough and leave it sitting out on a counter, it would become leavened with some type of yeast. There are many different types of leaven, or sin, floating around that can affect us. Pride, arrogance, selfishness, unforgiveness, covetousness, idolatry and the list goes on. God wants the leaven of this world out of our lives. God did not allow any leaven to be included with the sacrifices that the priests offered at the tabernacle.

Leviticus 2:11-12

¹¹ 'No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire.

God wanted them to always be in remembrance that sin, as the leaven pictured here, was not acceptable to Him in any way. Our lives are a living sacrifice to God, so we need to keep the leaven out, because it is not acceptable and we cannot be the sacrifices that we should be to God.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God (To be acceptable, there cannot be any leaven), *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world (Do not become leavened by this world), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

God's Spirit brings about a renewing of the mind. God's Spirit opens our minds and gives us the understanding we need to receive God's word. The words and the mysteries of God are spiritually discerned. It is only through the indwelling of God's Spirit that we can come to truly understand His word. Anybody can read God's word, but how many really understand it? Without the Spirit of God to guide us, it will not happen.

1 Corinthians 2:11-15

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Apart from God's Spirit, there is no understanding. Apart from the word of God, the bread of life, there is no life. Without those things, we live out a physical existence with no real awareness or understanding of who we are and why we are on this earth.

After we have become unleavened and free from this world, something has to replace that leaven that we removed. When Israel went out from Egypt and they were de-leavened, they began to receive bread from God. That bread replaced the leavened bread of Egypt that they had purged from themselves. We also need to receive the bread of life, the bread from heaven, to replace the leavened bread of this world that we have purged ourselves from.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

⁶ Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump (Do not let the old leaven back in), since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us (Christ provided the way for us to become unleavened). ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast (He was talking about the Days of Unleavened Bread here), not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

Jesus Christ is the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. That is the bread that we must receive. If we want to live, this is the only bread that truly gives us life. This bread will give us eternal life and this is the bread that we must feed on...always. This is the bread that we must become leavened with.

John 6:35-58

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

⁴¹ The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." ⁴² And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, '*And they shall all be taught by God.*' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me (How do we learn and how are we taught? By God the Father through His Spirit that dwells within us). ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father (If you are not of God, you have not and you will not see God. How do we see God? Through the personal relationship that we have with Him, His Spirit that dwells within us and through His word). ⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world (Christ is talking about the sacrifice that He is going to make for all of mankind)."

⁵² The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat (They did not understand in any way, what He was talking about)?"

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you (It is only through Christ's sacrifice that we may have life). ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him (Christ actually dwells within us when we accept His sacrifice on our behalf). ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

This is the bread that we are to leaven ourselves with. Just like the bread (the manna) that God sent down from heaven to feed Israel in the wilderness, God has also sent down the bread that leads to eternal life (Jesus Christ) to feed us in the wilderness of this world. God is feeding us and sustaining us while we are in this world. We are wandering in this wilderness of this world, just as Israel wandered in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. By feeding on the bread that God provided for them, Israel was able to survive and cross over into the Promised Land.

John 6:58

⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

By feeding on that bread that God sent down to us from heaven, His Son Jesus Christ, we are also able to survive in this wilderness and cross over into the Promised Land of God's Kingdom. As the Days of Unleavened Bread come to an end, this is the bread that we need to leaven ourselves with. Now and always we need to feed on the true bread of life, Jesus Christ.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)