



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Brothers & Sisters

2007 SPECIAL

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNION

What did the early Church of the New Testament have that is lacking in the Church today? The answer is POWER. Power to heal. Power to deliver. Power to overcome all the forces arrayed against it, whether they be the might of the Roman Empire, the religious Jews or the spiritual powers of darkness in the heavenly realms. Power to turn the world upside down. Well then, what has happened to the Church in these latter days that it is no longer the potent force of the early Church? What have we lost? Where have we gone wrong? Indeed, are we still as pleasing to God as they were? If not, why not? In fact, are we earnest in seeking to please Him? Or are we merely a "Holy Joe" club doing our own thing? It really behoves us to ponder the difference between the Church today and the early Church. We read in Acts 2:42 that "they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, in **the breaking of bread** and in prayers". And in verse 46 that they continued "daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread** from house to house...with gladness and simplicity of heart". In other words they constantly had communion together and "the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved". They knew that to feed on His Body was His will and they determined to remember and honour Him as He had commanded them. And in faith the power was with them as they healed the sick, delivered the demon-possessed and triumphed against all the might of the Roman authorities and the Jewish Sanhedrin. Throughout the centuries since, the true Church has continued to observe the Lord's Supper regularly and often. When revival has hit in various parts of the world the believers shared in communion as the Holy Spirit moved mightily amongst them. Well, what is happening today in many churches? Is communion held to be so precious that it is partaken of every worship service, and is it the centrepiece of the service, shared with deep devotion or is it treated lightly and thrust into a minor role? It really is time we took a hard look at our attitude to this most important part of our worship if we sincerely want to please the Lord and follow God's pattern for His blessing. In fact it is high time we grasped the full significance of this most holy, intimate and rewarding act of worship. With this in mind, let us deeply ponder the elements of the **bread and the wine**, which are so vital to our supernatural growth and spiritual development both corporately and as individual believers.

THE LIVING BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE

Jesus said, "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." (John 6:51) Furthermore He added, "Truly, truly, I say unto you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you." In other words, there is life and health and power in the One Whose presence is in the bread of communion. As we eat of the bread and discern His Body we partake of His very presence. In so doing we are strengthened in the faith and in the inner man by the divine power that is Christ in us, the hope of glory. We remember Him dying on the cross, His Body bruised and battered. We remember that He who lived a perfect life and brought to us the saving grace of a Father's love knew He must die for our salvation; that without His death, sin in us could never be overcome nor death conquered. Out of His true love for each one of us He was willing to suffer and die that we might live and be reconciled to the Father of Whose

love the Son's self-sacrifice was the divine expression. So we eat of His presence knowing that without the bread of that presence we have no life, that we become weak and sickly both physically and spiritually. That is the divine promise to His people, as it ever has been. Come on, Church, change your ways; learn to receive from Him as you share in His Body and find strength and power to go out into the world and overcome the evil one, even as the early church did.

THE CUP OF BLESSING

In 1 Corinthians 11 the Apostle Paul writes that after eating the bread, Jesus "took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." To drink the cup of communion is to declare to others, the world and the devil that Jesus shed His precious Blood for your salvation and for all: you believe it; you stand on it; you are His witness. We drink the cup knowing we drink of His lifeblood that flowed freely on Calvary as He bore our sins in His Body. Think of it. A crown of vicious thorns is thrust on His head, jabbing into His scalp and the Blood spurts into His hair and trickles down His brow into His beard. His back is lacerated from the 39 stripes of the Roman soldier's whip and is covered with His own Blood. Spikes are driven into His hands and Blood courses down His arms and sides. Spikes are driven through His feet, a spear pierces His side and more Blood runs down the wooden cross onto the ground beneath. . . It was a spectacle of BLOOD, BLOOD, BLOOD! This is the Blood of the New Testament, the New Covenant, the Blood of Christ which purges our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Every type of atonement was fulfilled in Christ. Never has there been a sacrifice like that of the divine Son of God. O such love for us! This is the same Jesus Who is now crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death for us all. How could we not delight to share communion with Him whenever we gather together in praise and worship?

THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

The place of the Blood in God's plan of redemption is glorious and immeasurable beyond words. In the communion we see how unspeakably precious is the Blood of Jesus Christ, the spotless, sinless Son of God. This same Blood has a vital place in the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit, especially upon His Church which has the responsibility to usher lost souls into his Kingdom. You see, God's holy presence is intolerable to the human race without the cleansing of His precious Blood. In fact, it wasn't until the Blood was shed at Calvary that the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost and the glory of God was seen in the early Church. Much later, when a mighty outpouring of the Spirit fell in both England and the United States in the early part of the twentieth century, the Blood was paramount in worship. A Sunderland fellowship paper of the day recorded that, "The precious Blood of Jesus has been our constant and only plea and we have, as never before, adored the Lamb that was slain. When the Blood was honoured the power was greatest. The Blood was exalted above all human action. There is safety under the Blood and power in the Blood, as they sang sweetly often in the meetings...*There is power, power, wonder-working power in the Blood of the Lamb.*" Recently, revival came to Brownsville, Pensacola in Florida when a church there restored the communion to its rightful place as the centrepiece of its worship. When we speak the word "Blood", we must remember that the Blood of Jesus carries all the power, Spirit and life that is in Jesus; that each time we say "Blood" in faith, we are bringing the creative life of the universe to bear upon the destroying power of Satan. It is time for churches everywhere to plead the Blood of Jesus for the latter rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is time to preach about the Lord's Blood; to pray in the power of the Blood; to magnify the Blood in all services; and to sing about the wonder-working power of the Blood of Calvary. Let us be at one with the Holy Spirit in honouring that precious Blood through which the Lord cleanses and sanctifies and prepares us to be His spotless bride to do the Father's will on earth.

Communion. What a vital part of our services! Father, forgive our lack of sincere, devoted, constant remembrance of Your Son's deepest desire to have *koinonia* (fellowship) with His beloved bride-in-waiting through Holy Communion. May we all resolve to rectify our failings and shortcomings as we commit ourselves to learn how to enter the glory of the Lord through this, the most important part of our coming together to worship You in Spirit and in truth. Hallelujah, glory to God and Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man, In love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.