52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Come to the Table and Eat**

Day 44, June 26, 2013

**Psalm 119:151** “**Thou art near; O Lord**, and all Thy commandments are truth.”

As we continue in our journey through the Tabernacle, we are getting nearer to the Lord’s Heart. This is where we need to spend more of our time. As the days grow near for our Lord to return, severe judgments will be coming to the people of the earth. He needs us to stand firmly with Him in those days, so we can be a light and stability to those around us; all to bring them to the salvation of the Lord.

**Daniel 11:32-33** "… but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days.

God desperately wants us to know Him so we can be strong and take the actions He needs us to take in the difficult days to come. We are to be His messengers to the church first and then to the lost. We must gain wisdom from the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place in this age.

**We will continue in our study of the Holy Place, a special area designed exclusively for the priests to minister to the Lord, away from the distractions of the crowds.** There are three golden objects in the Holy Place: the Lampstand, the Table of Showbread, and the Altar of Incense. Two of these represented times of one on one ministry and fellowship with the Lord; but one, **the Table of Showbread involves a small number of consecrated priests coming together to minister corporately to the Lord.** We will look at the Table of Showbread today.

Every Sabbath, 8 priests were chosen to attend to the Table of Showbread. Two priests would **gather 12 loaves of freshly baked bread** from the best baker in each of the 12 tribes. They would enter into the Tabernacle through the one gate and wash in the Brass Laver, before going through the first veil into the Holy Place. Another priest carried **hot coals from the brazen altar** in a small shovel, and a forth priest carried in a **golden cup of frankincense**. The four priests stood on one side of a beautiful golden table. Four more priests entered the Holy Place. They stood on the opposite side of the table. Two of the priests removed two golden plates of bread that had been on the table, at the same time as the fresh bread was put on the table. **They worked together in unity to make sure there was always bread on this table.** The priest who brought in the frankincense sprinkled a little of this white powder on the bread, filling the Holy Place with a wonderful aroma. The 4th priest set the burning coals on the Altar of Incense, and the 3rd priest sprinkled the rest of the frankincense over them. Immediately a thick white smoke curled up towards the ceiling, filling the entire room with a delightful fragrance.**They would then pray and worship the Lord**.

After a while, one of the priests in the 2nd group took the older bread, **broke the bread and offered a large piece to each of the priests.** Then another priest in the 2nd group gave each priest a **glass of wine** to drink with this bread. As they ate and drank, they would **fellowship with one another, sharing their struggles and joys in this safe and intimate place.**

The Table of Showbread and the ceremony that the priests partook in, symbolize so many things to us as believers. **The first points to Communion, our observance of the Lord’s Supper.** We think of this as a New Testament ritual, pointing to the shed blood and broken body of our Savior Jesus Christ. God foreshadowed the atoning death of Jesus Christ in the Table of Showbread.

**Mark 14:22-24 “**While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take it; this is My body.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’ ”

Why do we partake of communion every week or every month in our churches? To remind us afresh that Jesus came to offer His body as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, all so we could be forgiven and brought into close fellowship with the entirety of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** “…do this in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”

**His death brought forgiveness of all sin, reconciliation with Almighty God, and a way for us to have an intimate relationship with God.**

**The Table of Showbread also points to our fellowship with fellow Christians, enjoying each other’s company as we share the triumphs and struggles in our lives.**  As we share the goodness of God with each other our faith is built and we break out into wonderful rejoicing, proclaiming how good our God is!

**Hebrews 10:23-25 “**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

God’s Word is so clear about the vital importance fellowship with other believers is to our walk with the Lord. **Just as the priests would treasure this intimate gathering with their fellow priests in this quiet place, so should we.**

Do you regularly fellowship with a small group of believers who are dedicated to the Lord; sharing your joys and struggles all the while encouraging each other in the group as you all feed on God’s Word? Do you make time in your busy schedule to attend Christian retreats throughout the year? Do you gather with other believers just to worship God, to share in the joy of the Lord?

Or do you stay away from other believers, because they have either hurt you in the past or not lived up to your expectations of helping you? If you find yourself saying, “I just want to spend ALL my time alone with the Lord”; watch out, you are putting a huge target on your back for the enemy. Think about when a lioness is searching for prey to devour. She looks for an animal that is alone; and if they look injured or weak, all the better and she pounces. If we are hurt from others, we need to get with a mature believer to help us get healing for our hurts. Our wounded heart will only get worse when we are alone. It is in those times when the enemy has an easy time putting bitterness and unforgiveness in our hearts, which separates and weakens us even more. If we are not regularly feeding on the Word of God, we will become weak.

**We must get together with mature believers on a regular basis.** They need you to encourage them and you need them to encourage you. We all have struggles and triumphs that have built our faith, and sharing these with others encourages them to persevere in their struggles.

**Hebrews 3:13 “**But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**”**

**The third and most important symbolism of the Table of Showbread points to our fellowship with Jesus Christ and the spiritual nourishment we get when we spend time with Him.**

**John 6:35 “**Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.’”

**Today many Christians are spiritually starving. Jesus is standing in the inner courts waiting to feed His priests (all believers).** But most do not enter in to get what He is offering. **They stand in the outer courts, thinking they are alright.** Jesus wants everyone to eat the spiritual bread of God’s Word, which will strengthen us for His service, and help others feed on God’s Word. **He also wants us to drink the wine of the Holy Spirit so we can have joy and be filled with His power.**

**Psalm 119:103 “**How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**”**

We are to take the Word of God and eat it, to delight in it, and to savor it. Not just to read it as a Christian duty, to check off that we have done it; but to read a passage, chew on it, and delve into what it means to us personally at this time in our life. Jesus wants us to taste the sweetness of His Words.

**Psalm 119:162 “**I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great treasure.”

One of our goals as believers should be to become the Word of God to those all around us.

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3** “You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

But if we do not know the Word of God, how can we become it? I think we all at some time in our lives think God will just hit us with a magic wand and “poof” we become the Word of God. Not so, **we must spend time in fellowship with the author and perfecter of our faith, Jesus Christ.**We do this by reading and studying His Word. He wants us to know His Word so well that it is written on the tablets of our hearts. That means that **as we read and study His Word, we become His Word.** As we do this we will come to know God and His character and His will for our lives. We become encouraged as we are taught what is right and wrong. We can use it for prayer, and to encourage and teach others.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

Please work on your memory verse: **Psalm 119:130**.

**Psalm 119** is all about how wonderful and useful God’s Word is for our lives. Please take time to read this week’s scriptures: **Psalm 119:139-152**. Study David’s enthusiasm for God’s Word and the benefits he found in knowing it. Go back over some special verses that we have studied in Psalms 119, chew on them again and let them go deep within your heart.