

***Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...***

# The King's Table

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**Series**  
**Living with God**

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***Sending the Word of God to  
the Ends of the Earth***

# *A Personal Letter to You*

*Dear Friend,*

*This series of "The King's Table" is a modified version of the original "Project 21" series that has been so widely used in the Philippines and throughout Asia, the Pacific and Africa.*

*One brother in Christ wrote and shared with us that when he attended a Project 21 seminar he had 20 leaders in his church but now, some years later, had 400 leaders. He had used these foundational studies and had experienced this great growth and fruit.*

*The Word of God is life-changing and powerful. Every individual believer and group needs a sure foundation of simple clear teaching of the living Word of God.*

*Every blessing,*

*Paul, Buntz and David  
The Collins Ministry Team*

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# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Word of God

“ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock... Matthew 7:24 ”

Read Matthew 7:24-27. Just like a house, our lives need a strong foundation. Though the world around us changes, God's word - the Bible - never changes and is the absolute foundation for our lives (1 Peter 1:24-25, Eph.4:14-15).

### **The Creative Word**

God created the universe by His word (Psalm 33:6,9; Heb.11:3) and sustains the universe by His word (Heb.1:3). The word of God has the same creative power in our lives (Isa.55:10-11).

### **The Word of God is like water**

God's word cleanses us (Eph.5:25-27). We start life in the Kingdom of God totally "washed clean" by the Spirit of God through His word (John 15:3), and as we continue to absorb God's word, it enables us to live a life that pleases God (John 17:17).

### **The Word of God is like light**

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119:105 (v.130; 19:8).*

Before we knew the Lord, our lives were in spiritual darkness (Romans 1:21; Ephesians 6:8-20; Colossians 4:4-6). Now, as we read the Bible, God's word is like a bright light, revealing to us His glory, shining on areas of our lives that God wants to change, and shedding light on the path God wants us to walk with Him.

### **The Word of God is like seed**

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" 1 Peter 1:23.*

Read Luke 8:4-15. When we hear God's word, it is like a seed sown into our hearts, designed to bring forth life. If we receive it and obey it, allowing it to "take root", then God's word begins to work in our lives. Read James 1:21-22.

### **The Word of God is like food**

*"...Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4.*

When we received Christ, we were "born of the Spirit" by the word of God (John 3:3,6; 1 Peter 1:3,23). For us to grow in the Spirit, we need to continue to feed on God's word (1 Peter 2:2-3).

### **The Word of God is like a sword**

*"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword..." Heb.4:12 (read whole verse. Also Eph.6:17).*

The word of God can cut right to our hearts, making us aware of sin (Acts 2:36-37). God's word, stored in our hearts, is also a weapon against the attacks of Satan (Luke 4:1-14).

### **A Love for God's Word**

Read Psalm 119:103. We can be exposed to God's Word in three ways:

- We sit under regular teaching** (Acts 2:42)
- We read God's Word each day** (Ps.119:9,11)
- We share God's Word together** (Col.3:16)

As we absorb God's word, we become familiar with God's will, God's ways and discover His nature, and the Holy Spirit works in our lives to change us into the likeness of Jesus (Rom.8:29).

# The King's Table

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## God

“ . . . . God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see . . . 1 Timothy 6:15-16 ”

### **The Creator**

Everything in the universe was created by God's hand (Col. 1:16; Hebrews 11:3), including *you*.

*"You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you" Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 139:13-14.*

God is far too great for us to fully understand (Job 11:7). He has no beginning and he has no end. But what is God really like? The Bible reveals God is:

**All-powerful** (Jeremiah 32:17)

**All-knowing** (Psalm 139:1-4; 1 John 3:20)

**Everywhere** (Psalm 139:5,7-10)

God is absolute in power, absolute in knowledge and absolute in presence. But if this is all that we know about God, we are in deep trouble. For if God knows everything, then he knows every sin I have committed (Hebrews 4:13). If he is everywhere, there is no place I can escape his hand. If he is all-powerful, he can judge and destroy me any time he chooses. If all we know are the *attributes* of God, and know nothing of His *nature*, we have every reason to fear him.

### **The Nature of God**

There are three aspects to God's nature:

**God is holy** (1 Samuel 2:2; Exodus 33:20)

**God is love** (1 John 4:10,16; 1 John 3:1)

**God is wise** (Romans 11:33; 16:27)

God is not only perfect in holiness and perfect in

love, he is also perfect in his balance between the two (read Exodus 34:6-7). He is a God of compassion, but he is also a God of justice (Jeremiah 9:24).

### **God's perfect wisdom**

When the holiness of God and the love of God came into conflict over the dilemma of mankind, God's perfect wisdom went to work. God sent Jesus to die in our place. Instead of punishing us, as he has the right to, God took on himself the punishment his holiness demanded. The Cross was where God's love and God's holiness met.

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8 (also John 3:16).*

### **Seeing the Unseen God**

Read 1 Timothy 1:17. God is unseen, but he has revealed himself in three special ways to mankind:

**In his creation** (Romans 1:20)

**In his Word** (Romans 16:25-26)

**In his Son** (John 1:17-18; Colossians 1:15)

In Jesus, we see the nature of God expressed. He is the perfect image of God. In him, we see everything that God is - his love, his holiness, his wisdom and his power - all in perfect balance.

*"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" 2 Corinthians 4:6 (Hebrews 1:3).*

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## The Gospel

“When we were utterly helpless with no way of escape, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Romans 5:6 (TLB)”

The Gospel means “the good news”. Many religions teach people to be good. But the Gospel is different: it focuses through a single person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To understand how the Gospel works and why it focuses solely through Jesus Christ, we need first to understand the human predicament. To appreciate the good news, we first need to know the bad news.

### ***In the Beginning***

When God created the first man and woman, he tailor-made them for his presence. They were totally God-centered, God-conscious and God-dependent. But there was one part of God’s creation that had rebelled against God - an angel that we now know as Satan (Revelation 12:9; Ezekiel 28:12-19). He tempted Adam and Eve to rebel in the same way he had (1 Tim.3:6).

### ***The temptation***

“‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” Genesis 3:4-5.

Satan’s temptation was not just to eat of forbidden fruit. It was for Adam and Eve to rebel against God’s command and set themselves up as the god of their lives. When they sinned, they became self-centered, self-conscious and self-dependent. From that time on self became the center of everything. The “knowledge of good and evil” - of rights and wrongs - became the basis of human life. Sin had cut mankind off

from God.

### ***Mankind inherits sin***

“...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned...” Romans 5:12.

All the generations following Adam have inherited Adam’s fallen nature (2 Timothy 3:2-5). All have come under the power and dominion of Satan (1 John 5:19). Because of sin, we were also under God’s judgment (Romans 1:18-31). We were “objects of wrath,” waiting for the verdict to be passed (Ephesians 2:1-3). There was no way we could help ourselves because even the best of us fell far short of God’s glorious standard (read Romans 3:10-12,23).

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away” Isaiah 64:6.

### ***The Good News***

The good news of the Gospel is that God sent Jesus to take our judgment for us (Romans 5:8). The Gospel is the salvation of God in action. It describes how we enter into God’s salvation and how that salvation continues to work in our lives. Read Romans 1:16-17.

**It is from God** (2 Cor.5:17-18; Rom.11:36)

**It is by faith** (Phil.3:8-9; Hebrews 11:6; 4:2)

**It is from first to last** (Eph.1:13; Rom.16:25)

“...all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing...” Colossians 1:6.

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## Jesus

“ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things... ”

Hebrews 1:1-2

Two thousand years ago, Jesus appeared on the scene of history. He was born into the world and grew up just like every other person, but He was no ordinary man. He was called the “Son of God” (Luke 1:26-38) and the “Word of God” (John 1:14).

### ***The Mission of Jesus***

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” Luke 19:10 (Col.1:13).*

Jesus was sent into the world to fulfill the wonderful plan of God for our lives. His mission:

- To give His life as a ransom** (Matt.20:28)
- To destroy Satan’s works** (1 John 3:8)
- To give us eternal life** (1 John 5:11-12)
- To give us birth into God’s family** (John 1:12-13;3:3)
- To restore our fellowship with God** (2 Corinthians 5:18; Romans 5:1-2; 1 John 1:3)

### ***Jesus Represented God***

*“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...” Hebrews 1:3 (see also Colossians 1:15-17).*

Jesus existed eternally before He took on human nature (Philippians 2:6-7). As the Word of God (John 1:1), he communicated the heart of God to mankind. In Jesus, we see what God the Father is like.

*“If you really knew me [Jesus], you would know my Father as well. From now on, you*

*do know him and have seen him. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me” John 14:7-11 (1:18)*

### ***Jesus Represented Man***

In Jesus we not only see the perfect image of God, we also see the perfect image of man, as God intended us to be. He didn’t just take on human form, He completely identified with us. He shared totally in our humanity.

*“Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:6-8 (Romans 8:3).*

During his life on earth, Jesus experienced all the troubles that we face, and so understands how we feel (Matt.8:17; Heb.4:15). He became the example for us. In His words, His actions and His character He showed us how to live a life pleasing to God (1 Pet.4:1-2; 2:21-25). Jesus opened the door to heaven for us, because:

- Jesus died for you** (Heb.2:9; Isaiah 53:5-6)
- Jesus was raised to life for you** (Eph.2:4-6)

### ***Linked with Jesus***

When you accepted Jesus into your life, God forever linked you with Jesus - with His righteousness, with His authority, with His character, with His life (Colossians 3:1-4).

# The King's Table

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## The Cross

“...Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but...humbled himself and became obedient to death...even death on a cross! Phil.2:5-8”

When Jesus was put to death by being nailed to a wooden cross, wicked men thought they were just executing a man who was disturbing their way of life. They did not realize that the Cross was pre-planned by God (read Isaiah 53:4-6; Acts 3:13-18).

### **The Centre of History**

The Cross of Christ is the centre-point of human history. From the moment Adam sinned, it was pre-planned by God that Jesus would die on the Cross. From that time on people looked forward in faith to what God promised He would do.

*“Concerning this salvation, the prophets...searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow” 1 Peter 1:10-11.*

Whereas the Old Testament saints looked forward in faith to the Cross of Christ, we now look back in faith to the Cross. The Cross is the centre of human history and of our lives.

### **The Wonder of the Cross**

The Cross is the core of God's plan of salvation.

- It demonstrates God's power** (1 Cor.1:18)
- It demonstrates God's love** (Romans 5:8)
- It demonstrates God's holiness** (Col.2:14)
- It demonstrates God's wisdom** (1 Cor.2:7-8)

God's love and holiness intersected at the Cross. His righteous judgment demanded the death penalty for sin. But his love met his own demands.

Only the Cross fully satisfied God's righteous requirements. This is God's wonderful wisdom.

*“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified...so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power” 1 Corinthians 2:2,5.*

### **The Victory of the Cross**

The Cross has won freedom for you:

- Freedom from Satan's power** (Col.1:13; 2:15)
- Freedom from past sins** (John 8:36; Col.2:13)
- Freedom from your old self** (Rom.6:6-7,14)
- Freedom from sickness** (Matthew 8:17)
- Freedom from the curse** (Galatians 3:13)
- Freedom from judgment** (Hebrews 9:27-28)
- Freedom from everlasting death** (John 3:16)

### **The Finished Work**

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” Galatians 2:20.*

When Jesus died on the Cross, God counted his death as your death. Your old life was nailed to the Cross together with Jesus. When Jesus was hanging on the Cross, God saw you hanging on the Cross in Christ. Christ's death was the death of your old life, so that you could begin a new life in Christ. As a Christian, you too can say:

*“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” Galatians 6:14 (see also 2 Cor.5:17).*

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## The Blood

‘ In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. Ephesians 1:7-8

*“You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” Heb.12:23-24.*

Whereas Abel’s blood cried out for vengeance and resulted in a curse (see Gen.4:8-10), the blood of Jesus cries out for forgiveness and results in blessing. The shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross was the essential condition for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and acceptance into the presence of God.

### **The Effect of Sin**

Sin has four effects in our lives:

**Sin separates us from God** (Isaiah 29:2).

**Sin brings guilt** (Psalm 38:4).

**Sin allows Satan to accuse us** (Zech.3:1-4).

**Sin demands the death penalty** (Ez.18:4).

*“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” Romans 3:23-24.*

### **The Reason for the Blood**

The blood of Christ wholly satisfies God’s holiness. When God rescued Israel from Egypt, he commanded them to put the blood of a substitute lamb on the doorposts of their home, saying “...when I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13). At the sight of the blood God did not judge that household. This was called “the Passover.” The sacrificial lamb was a picture of the coming Lamb of God - Jesus.

*“...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” 1 Cor.5:7 (see also John 1:29).*

### **The Effect of the Blood**

*“...it was not with silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

The blood of Christ not only satisfies the holy requirements of God; it also meets the innermost need of every person.

**The blood cleanses from guilt** (Heb.10:22).

**The blood gives confidence before God**

(Hebrews 10:19-22; 4:16).

**The blood makes us worthy** (Rom.8:31-34).

**The blood makes us holy** (Hebrews 13:12).

### **Seal of the Covenant**

*“...after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you’” Luke 22:20.*

The blood of Christ was the seal of a covenant God has made between you and him. That covenant is everlasting and is the basis by which you can now come close to God.

*“[Jesus]...entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption...How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” Hebrews 9:12-14 (read 13:20-21).*

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## The Resurrection

“...and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:4”

The resurrection is an inseparable part of the work of the Cross. The resurrection proved that sin had been dealt with once for all, and that a new life has been opened to every believer (read Hebrews 9:24-28).

*“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” Romans 4:25.*

The first Christians went everywhere declaring the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:33). So dynamic was their message that they “turned the world upside down” in their day (Acts 17:6, KJV).

### ***Raised with Christ***

When Jesus died, God counted his death as your death (Romans 6:6). You died in him. But more than that, you were also raised in him.

*“...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead” Colossians 2:12.*

His resurrection gave you five things:

**A new life** (Romans 6:4; 1 Peter 1:3).

**A new focus** (Colossians 3:1-4).

**A new confidence** (Rom.8:34,37; Eph.3:12).

**A new position of authority** (Ephesians 2:6).

**A new hope for the future** (2 Timothy 1:10).

When Jesus died, the Bible says He went into the depths of the earth (Ephesians 4:8-10) to a place called Hades - the place of the unbelieving dead. Satan thought He had destroyed the Son of God, but three days later, God raised Jesus back to life. The full glory of the risen Christ

exploded in the depths of the earth (Matthew 28:21-7) and Jesus rose with the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:17-18) - which represented the authority Satan had over your life.

*“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” 1 John 4:4 (see also 1 John 5:4; Hebrews 2:14-15; Ephesians 6:10).*

### ***Resurrection Power***

Read Eph.1:15-23. The Bible calls the power of the resurrection “incomparably great”. There is no other power in the entire universe that can compare with the power God released in the resurrection of Jesus. This same all-conquering power is available to us each and every day! When we have a revelation of the power of the resurrection, life takes on a new perspective.

### ***Future Resurrection***

Jesus is called “the firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:17-23) because his resurrection opened the way for our resurrection! One day Jesus will return and all believers who have died will be raised to life (1 Thess.4:13-18). Our bodies will be transformed (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). We will have an immortal body just like the Lord Jesus (1 John 3:2).

*“...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence” 2 Corinthians 4:14 (see also John 5:24-29; 11:25-26; Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:11).*

# The King's Table

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## Repentance

‘ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Repentance is the first step we take in personally receiving the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. Repentance is the gateway into God's blessings.

*"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" Acts 3:19.*

### **What Repentance is Not**

Repentance causes great joy in heaven (Luke 15:7). But before we can understand true repentance, we need to understand what repentance is not.

**Not just feeling guilty** - No one repents unless they first feel guilty, but not all who feel guilty actually repent (Acts 24:25).

**Not just being sorry** - Some people are sorry because of the consequences of their sin. They are not really sorry for the sin, but for the sin's penalty (2 Corinthians 7:10).

**Not turning over a new leaf** - Many people try in their own strength to change their way of life. Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not acknowledge the need of repentance from sin (Isaiah 64:6).

**Not becoming religious** - The Pharisees were extremely religious. They fasted and prayed and had many religious ceremonies, yet never repented (Matthew 3:7-10; 5:20).

**Not just knowing the truth** - Having an intellectual head-knowledge of the truth does not guarantee that the truth has become a living reality in one's life (James 2:19-20; Matt.3:8).

### **What Repentance Is**

Genuine repentance is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Several things mark this kind of repentance:

**Being sorry to God for your sin** (Ps.51:1-4)

**Being truthful about your sin** (Psalm 32:5)

**Being willing to turn from sin** (1 Pet.3:10-11)

**Being responsible before God** (Luke 19:8-10)

To repent means "to turn around, to change direction." Repentance means turning from four things:

**Turning from sin** (2 Timothy 2:19)

**Turning from the world** (1 John 2:15)

**Turning from yourself** (2 Cor.5:15)

**Turning from the devil** (Acts 26:18)

### **A Command from God**

*"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent" Acts 17:30.*

Repentance is a "turning around" - away from sin and the world - to face God. There are two kinds of repentance, pictured in the parable of the two sons (read Luke 15:11-32). There is a repentance from:

**Living separate from the Father**

**Being turned away from the Father**

Repentance is the gateway into the fullness of life God has planned for you! (John 10:10).

*"...In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..." Isaiah 30:15.*

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## Faith

“...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Hebrews 11:6

Faith is an indispensable part of God's plan of salvation. Why is faith so important and why is it impossible to please God without it? To understand we must see what happened in the original temptation of mankind (Gen.3:1-70). When Adam sinned, he stepped out of God-dependence into independence. This is why God now places such a high priority on faith. Faith presupposes total dependence on God. This dependence on God is expressed in every step of faith.

### **What is faith?**

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" Heb.11:1.*

Faith means having trust, assurance or confidence in another person or that person's words. Having faith in God involves an exchange of trust from self to him, from relying on one source of knowledge (our five senses) to a higher source of knowledge (God's Word).

*"We live by faith, not by sight" 2 Cor.5:7.*

We are challenged by the Word of God to advance beyond our five senses, beyond our past experiences and beyond our past capacities. This is the life of faith which each one of us is called to - where "nothing is impossible (see Luke 1:37; Matthew 17:20).

### **The basis of faith**

Faith in God is based on two important realities:

#### **The nature of God**

Abraham is given as the greatest example of faith (see Rom.4:16-22; Heb.11:8-12). He and his wife, Sarah, were beyond the age of having

children, yet God promised him a son. Even more, God promised that through that son Abraham would become the "father of many nations" (Gen.15:5;17:5). In believing God for his son, Abraham's faith was in three aspects of God's nature:

**God's promise** (Romans 4:20)

**God's character** (Hebrews 11:11)

**God's power** (Romans 4:21)

Abraham's faith was strong because he knew:

**God cannot change** (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8)

**God cannot lie** (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2)

**God cannot fail** (Job 42:2; 1 Chronicles 28:20)

#### **The finished work of the Cross**

Read Hebrews 12:2. Christ has become the source of our faith in God. His death and resurrection provides the ground for our believing (see 1 Corinthians 1:30; Romans 5:1-2).

#### **The trial of faith**

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and James 1:2-4. Faith is not faith unless there is an obstacle involved. This is called a "trial of faith". It works this way:

**A word comes from God** (Rom.10:17; Josh.1:8)

**You obey that word** (James 2:17; 1:22-25)

**A crisis of faith comes** (Romans 4:16-21)

**God brings the answer** (Jam.1:12; Heb.6:13-15)

Read 1 John 5:4. Faith *itself* is the victory. Even while you are going through a trial of faith, with the answer not yet in sight, your faith is the victory that sustains you. Faith is the foundation for the whole Christian life (Rom.1:17; Gal.2:20).

# The King's Table

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## Grace

‘ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and *much grace* was with them all. Acts 4:33

The word “grace” has two meanings. We must understand both aspects in order to experience the fullness of grace in our lives.

### **Unmerited favor**

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast” Ephesians 2:8-9 (read all Eph.1 through to 2:7; Rom.3:23-24; 5:1-2).*

Grace is God’s mercy at work. Even though we were sinners, deserving of judgment, God forgave us and saved us in Christ.

### **Enabling power**

But the second part to the meaning of grace is just as important. Not only does grace make us *accepted* into the family of God; it also *enables* us to live the Christian life.

*“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me” 1 Corinthians 15:10.*

In salvation, the fullness of God’s grace is at work. Through God’s unmerited favor we receive forgiveness and restored relationship with Him even though we don’t deserve it. But more than that, God’s enabling power is also at work. It is only by God’s grace that we are transformed (Ephesians 3:20), born again (John 3:3,6) and become a new creation (2 Cor.5:17). Grace simply means that God does what we cannot do ourselves. We could not save ourselves, so God saved us by His grace. Neither can we live the Christian life in our own strength, so God’s grace

gives us the ability to do what we cannot do ourselves. Both aspects of God’s grace - His unmerited favor and His enabling power - come to us because we are in Christ (John 1:14-17).

### **Don’t miss God’s Grace**

*“See to it that no one misses the grace of God...” Heb.12:15 (2 Tim.2:1; 2 Pet.3:18)*

As Christians, we have been called to continue in God’s grace (Acts 13:43). We can miss the grace of God through:

**Self-gratification** (Gal.5:13; Romans 13:14)

**Self-effort** (Galatians 2:21; 5:4; Romans 11:6)

We experience God’s grace in our lives through humility - a revelation that we cannot save ourselves or change ourselves. We can only rely on the wonderful grace of God (James 4:6).

Grace is available to us every day to receive...

**Power to Overcome Sin** (Titus 2:11-12)

**Power to Fulfil God’s Will** (Acts 14:26; 15:40)

### **Grace in Action**

As we walk with God each day, we constantly meet new trials of our faith (1 Peter 1:6-7). Our response to God is faith, which is believing what God’s word says *despite* what the circumstances might indicate. God’s response to our faith is His grace (see Hebrews 4:16; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 11:23-30).

*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” 2 Corinthians 9:8.*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Water Baptism

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Matthew 28:19”

The word “baptized” means to be “totally immersed”. When a person believes in Jesus as Savior and Lord, he/she is to be baptized or immersed in water. Why would Jesus command that his believers do such a strange thing?

### **Baptism is a Picture**

Understanding water baptism is the key to a victorious Christian life. The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a picture of what has happened to the Christian. In baptism, the four stages of Christ’s redemptive work on our behalf are enacted out:

#### **He died...I died in Him**

*“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should not longer be slaves to sin...” Romans 6:6.*

#### **He was buried...I was buried in Him**

*“...We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death...” Romans 6:4.*

#### **He rose...I rose in Him**

*“...in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection” Romans 6:4-5.*

#### **He ascended...I ascended in Him**

*“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” Ephesians 2:6 (see also Col.3:1).*

### **Water Baptism is...**

#### **My funeral service!**

A burial service is not designed to kill someone off. It is only performed when a person is *dead already*. And so, because you have “died” in Christ, you bury your old self in water baptism. Baptism is a declaration to God, to the world, to Satan and to yourself that the old life is dead and gone. The old you - which was an enemy of God (Colossians 1:21) - has been buried.

#### **My resurrection to new life!**

You rise out of the water demonstrating and declaring you are a new creation in Christ!

*“The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” Rom.6:10-11.*

### **The Two Kingdoms**

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” Colossians 1:13.*

Every man and woman born into the world is born into the dominion of darkness - as slaves of Satan’s power. There is no way out of this spiritual kingdom except by *death*, and there is no way into the Kingdom of God except by *birth*. On the Cross and in His resurrection, Jesus became both our death and our new birth. This is what we declare in baptism! We are no longer part of Adam’s fallen race but are part of a new humanity - the New Creation in Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:45-47; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Holy Spirit

“...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and...for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts 2:38-39”

### **The Seal of God**

*"...Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit" Ephesians 1:13.*

Read John 14:16-18; 16:5-7. When Jesus went back to his Father, he did not abandon us as spiritual orphans in the world. He sent his Holy Spirit into our lives. The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of the Godhead (Matthew 28:19). That means that although the Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and the Son, he is indeed God (note Peter's words in Acts 5:3-4). All three Persons are actively involved in our salvation.

*"For through [the Son] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" Eph.2:18.*

### **Gift of the Spirit**

*"We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit" 1 John 4:13.*

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to every believer. When a person personally receives Jesus as Savior and Lord, God's Spirit comes to live on the inside, imparting spiritual life (John 7:37-39).

### **Ministry of the Spirit**

The Holy Spirit has a twofold ministry:

#### **In the believer**

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believer to help him to grow in the Lord. He...

**Opens access to the Father** (Ephesians 2:18)

**Gives us new birth** (John 3:3,6; Titus 3:5)

**Testifies we are God's children** (Rom.8:16)

**Makes us one with the Lord** (1 Cor.6:17)

**Teaches and guides us** (John 14:26; Rom.8:14)

**Gives wisdom and revelation** (Eph.1:17)

**Enables us to live a holy life** (Gal.5:16-25)

**Helps us in prayer** (Rom.8:26; Eph.6:18)

**Imparts Life** (Eph.1:18-20; Rom.8:11)

**Changes us to be like Christ** (2 Cor.3:18)

#### **Through the believer**

Not only does the Holy Spirit indwell the believer, he also fills him with power to be an effective witness (Luke 24:49; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5). The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to serve and glorify God in the world. He...

**Gives power to witness** (Acts 1:8; 4:31)

**Testifies Jesus is alive** (Acts 5:30-32;4:31-33)

**Anoints with spiritual gifts** (1 Cor.12:4-10)

**Releases true worship** (Eph.5:18-19; John 4:24)

**Glorifies Jesus** (John 16:13-15; 15:26)

### **New Way of the Spirit**

*"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code" Romans 7:6.*

The "old way of the written code" is a way of self-effort. In the "new way of the Spirit," the Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life pleasing to God. He is the inner power which changes us from the inside out (2 Cor.3:17-18; Rom.8:2).

God desires every believer to experience the power of the Holy Spirit both *in* him (for personal growth) and *through* him (in empowered ministry to others).

*"Do not get drunk on wine...Instead, be filled with the Spirit" Eph.5:18 (see also 3:16-20).*

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Temptation

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.  
Ephesians 6:11

Satan attacks the Christian in order to distract him away from his focus on Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Hebrews 12:2). Although he can attack through persecution, discouragement and other ways, one of his most powerful weapons is temptation. Satan uses two ways to bring temptation to a believer:

### **The desires of the world**

Satan seeks to tempt a believer to become absorbed into the world's system:

- \* To make the material things of the world a central desire.
- \* To make the honor and recognition of this world an important goal.
- \* To make the comfort of being a part of this world our basis for security.

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" 1 John 2:15.*

### **The desires of the flesh**

Although a Christian - through Christ's work on the Cross - is delivered from the results of sin, and from the enslaving power of sin itself (see Romans 6:6-14), he still lives in a physical body that is subject to natural appetites and desires. Satan will focus on the flesh to distract a Christian from the promptings of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-9; James 1:14; Ephesians 2:3).

### **The First Temptation**

Satan won his original victory in the areas of the *world* and the *flesh* (read Genesis 3:1-6) and these are still his tactics today (1 John 2:16).

### **The Victory Won by Christ**

Jesus came to the earth to reverse the effects of Adam's fall (Romans 5:12-19). He did this in two ways:

#### **Through His life**

Jesus was tempted in everything, exactly as we are, "yet was without sin" (Heb.4:15). Note the comparison of the three areas of temptation in Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16; Luke 4:1-13. Jesus defeated every temptation from Satan. He opened the way for us to experience the same victory.

#### **Through His death and resurrection**

The Cross released us from sin's death grip (Romans 8:1-4,9). We are now free to walk in obedience to God (Romans 6:11-14).

### **The Daily Victory**

Read 1 John 5:4. Here are seven keys to continual victory:

**Know the victory is already won**  
Colossians 2:14-15; Romans 8:31-37.

**Walk in step with the Spirit**  
Galatians 5:16,22-25.

**Recognize the temptation for what it is**  
James 1:13-15; Genesis 4:6-7.

**Know the way of escape**  
1 Corinthians 10:13.

**Live a life of daily submission to God**  
James 4:7.

**Avoid obvious areas of temptation**  
Psalm 101:3; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Timothy 6:9-12.

**Keep the right focus in life**  
Hebrews 12:2; Col.3:1-4; Phil.4:8; Gal.5:16.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Fellowship

“ My prayer is...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me... John 17:20-23 ”

The prayer of Jesus in John 17 reveals God's plan for true fellowship:

### **The quality of fellowship**

“...just as you are in me and I am in you.” Our fellowship together is linked to the quality of fellowship experienced by the Father and the Son. The depth of this love and unity is out-worked by the Holy Spirit as we meet in regular fellowship. Christian fellowship then becomes a reflection of the fellowship of the triune Godhead.

### **The basis of fellowship**

“...I in them and you in me.” Christian fellowship only works because we have the same Spirit, making us one body (1 Corinthians 12:14,20). This fellowship is based on:

**Common commitment** (Romans 12:10).

**Common love** (John 13:34).

**Common focus** (1 John 1:3; Phil.2:1-2).

*“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.*

### **Meeting Together**

*“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10:25.*

Regular fellowship between Christians is very important for it is through our fellowship that...

### **The believer grows in Christ**

*“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” Eph.4:16 (read also verses 12-15).*

### **God is glorified to the world**

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” John 13:35 (see also John 17:23).*

### **Walking in the Light**

*“If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin” 1 John 1:6-7.*

Our fellowship embraces the need to be open with one another. This openness includes:

**Removing the pretenses** (1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7,11-12).

**Confessing our sins to others** (James 5:16).

**Forgiving each other** (Colossians 3:13).

**Encouraging one another** (Hebrews 10:24).

**A genuine concern for one another** (Philippians 2:3-4).

**A laying down of one's life** (John 15:12-13).

Read Acts 2:44-45; 4:32. The fellowship of the New Testament Church was expressed on three levels:

- \* One heart - a bond of love
- \* One mind - a bond of purpose
- \* All things in common - a bond of concern.

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Generosity

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6

Just as God has set physical laws to govern the physical universe, so God has also put into motion spiritual laws which govern human life. One of these is the *law of generosity* - the principle of sowing and reaping. The first step in understanding the law of generosity is to see material things as God sees them (Luke 9:25; 12:16-21).

### **Ownership is with God**

All ownership is with God (Psalm 24:1; 89:11; Job 41:11; 1 Chronicles 29:10-14).

### **Stewardship is with us**

We are not owners, but stewards who have been given special responsibility before God for how we use the things He has given us (Matthew 25:14-30). Generosity is part of our stewardship responsibilities. Our stewardship covers every single thing that "belongs" to us:

#### **Our life**

(Acts 17:25; 1 Cor.6:19; Gal.2:20; Job 33:4).

#### **Our time**

(Psalm 90:12; Eph.5:15-16; Colossians 4:5).

#### **Our talents and abilities**

(1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11).

#### **Our possessions**

(Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-2).

#### **Our finances**

(1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19; Matthew 6:24).

#### **The Gospel**

(1 Corinthians 4:1; 9:16-17; 1 Timothy 6:20).

The key that releases a believer into the full responsibilities of stewardship is *surrender* - the unreserved giving of one's entire life and purpose into God's hands. Only when we give *ourselves* do we learn what it means to give of what we have.

### **Importance of Generosity**

"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" 2 Peter 1:4.

Amongst all His "great and precious promises", God has given us promises of provision (see Philippians 4:19). This promise is not given so that we can "spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:1-4). The promises of God cannot be separated from the purpose of God. This "great and precious" promise of provision has also been given to us so that we can "participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

### **The Divine Nature**

God's plan is for us to be like Him (read Ephesians 4:22-24; Luke 6:36). God is generous (Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:32; 1 Cor.2:12; James 1:5,17). The Lord wants us to express the same kind of generosity in our lives.

### **The corruption of the world**

One of the reasons God places such an emphasis on generosity is because the material lure of this world is a destructive trap (read 1 Tim.6:5-10; Matt.6:24; Gal.6:14; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15).

### **The Grace of Giving**

"But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving" 2 Cor.8:7 (read verses 8-15; 9:6-8; 1 John 3:17-18).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Kingdom of God

‘ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves... Colossians 1:13 ’

*"But you are a chosen people...a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" 1 Peter 2:9.*

We have been snatched from Satan's rulership and are now under a whole new authority - that of the Lord Jesus. The keystone of living in God's kingdom is being in *relationship with Jesus, the King* (Ephesians 1:17; Philippians 3:10). This relationship takes two distinct forms:

### **Savior**

*"...he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" Heb.5:8-9 (also 2:10).*

This is the very first relationship we can ever have with Jesus. We cannot know God as Father until we first have had a revelation of Jesus as Savior - the One who died for us and rescued us from Satan's dominion. Jesus has saved us from:

### **God's judgment**

(1 Thess.1:10; 5:9; Rom.5:9).

### **Satan's power**

(Acts 26:18; Heb.2:14; 1 John 3:8).

### **Lord**

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him..." Col.2:6-7.*

Knowing Jesus as Savior brings us into God's Kingdom but once we are inside His kingdom, our relationship takes on dramatic new changes. Now we know Him not only as Savior, but as Lord - *our* Lord! (See 2 Peter 3:18; John 13:13; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 4:5).

### **New Citizenship**

*"But our citizenship is in heaven..." Philippians 3:20 (see also Colossians 1:12).*

When we enter the Kingdom of Light, we enter a relationship for which we were created - a relationship between the Lord and His creation. When Jesus becomes Lord of our individual lives, we find that our lives begin falling into place (Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Cor.8:6). The Lordship of Christ in our lives changes our whole life-style into that of a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

### **The Model Citizen**

*"Let your attitude to life be that of Christ Jesus himself..." Philippians 2:5 (Phillips) (read verses 6-16)*

Jesus, though King of the Kingdom, became the servant of all. He is the example for us of the true citizen of His Kingdom (John 13:5-17; Matt.20:26-28; Luke 22:26-27). Every day Jesus displayed what the life-style of the kingdom is all about: living to please God (Eph.5:8-10; Heb.10:5-9). We are to have a servant's heart, just as He had a servant's heart (Matt.20:26-28).

### **Paradoxes of the Kingdom**

#### **In slavery, there is freedom**

(Romans 6:16-23).

#### **In serving, there is greatness**

(Mark 9:35; 10:43-44).

#### **In humility, there is exaltation**

(Luke 18:14; 1 Peter 5:5-6).

#### **In submission, there is authority**

(Luke 7:3-10; James 4:7).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Worship

“ Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.  
Psalm 103:1 (NASB) ”

*“I will extol the Lord at all times his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together” Psalm 34:1-3 (see Ex.15:11,21).*

### Praise

Praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation. When we praise someone, we tell them how wonderful we think they are or how great their accomplishments are. It is the same with the Lord. When we praise God, we are acknowledging His character and power (Heb.13:15). We are told to praise God for two main reasons:

**Because of who He is** (Psalm 47:6-7).

**Because of what He does** (Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 150:6; Psalm 22:26).

We are instructed to praise God:

**At all times** (Psalm 34:1).

**In every circumstance** (1 Thess.5:16-18).

**Surrounded by God's people** (Ps.22:22; 68:26).

**On our beds** (Psalm 63:4-6).

**Among the nations** (Psalm 57:9).

Praise is not simply in words directed toward the Lord. We also praise God every time we speak about Him to others (1 Peter 2:9). We need to cultivate a praise habit toward the Lord (in personal praise) and about the Lord (to others).

### Worship

Whereas praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation, worship is a deeper expression of love and adoration. It can only be expressed with the giving of our whole heart and life to Him (see Mark 12:33).

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth” John 4:23-24 (also verses 4-26)*

### In Spirit

Worship results when the “inner man” - the real you on the inside (Ephesians 3:16) is released in love and adoration toward God.

### In Truth

To worship God in truth is to worship Him with genuine and sincere hearts and in full understanding of who He is, what He is like, and what pleases Him.

### Expressions

When our heart is overflowing with gratitude and love for God, there are many outward ways we can express the praise that is in our hearts.

#### With our mouth

**Singing** (Psalm 9:2,11).

**Praising** (Psalm 103:1).

**Shouting** (Psalm 47:1).

#### With our hands

**Lifting** (Psalm 63:4).

**Clapping** (Psalm 47:1).

**Musical instruments** (Psalm 150).

#### With our feet

**Standing** (Psalm 134:1 KJV).

**Kneeling, bowing** (Psalm 95:6).

**Dancing and leaping for joy** (Psalm 30:11; 2 Samuel 6:14-15).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Prayer

‘

He will call upon me, and I will answer  
him...and show him my salvation.

Psalm 91:15-16

’

The time we spend with the Lord in prayer can release the most dynamic, history-changing power this world has ever known. The Bible describes many different kinds of prayer.

### ***The Secret Place***

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" Matthew 6:6.*

This kind of 'secret' intimate prayer presupposes:

**The right motives** (Matthew 6:5).

**A right relationship with God** (Luke 11:11-13).

**A real trust in the Lord** (Psalm 55:16-17).

**A dispensing of false fronts** (Mark 7:6-7).

### ***Dimensions in Prayer***

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" Eph.6:18.*

As we express our feelings and burdens in conversation with God, it can be in the form of adoration (Psalm 34:1-4), confession (1 John 1:9), request (Matthew 7:7), thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:4,20) or intercession (1 Timothy 2:1).

### ***An Example of Prayer***

Elijah is given to us as an example:

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought*

*forth her fruit" James 5:16-18 (KJV).*

Elijah's prayer was:

**Effective:** Based on God's Word  
(Deut.11:13-17; 1 Kings 18:36).

**Fervent:** Based on God's character  
(1 Kings 18:36-46; Matt.15:21-28).

**Righteous:** Based on relationship with God  
(James 5:17; Proverbs 15:8,29).

### ***Five Commands to Pray***

**Watch and pray always** (Luke 21:36).

**Pray lest you fall into temptation** (Matt. 26:41).

**Pray for harvesters** (Luke 10:2).

**Pray for those in authority** (1 Tim.2:1-2).

**Pray for your enemies** (Luke 6:28).

### ***Aid in Prayer***

*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" Rom.8:26 (also verse 27; Jude 20; Eph. 6:18)*

### ***Praying Together***

Whenever Christians pray together in agreement, there is special authority (see Matthew 18:19; Ecclesiastes 4:12; Acts 4:24-31).

### ***Joining the Lord***

Jesus "always lives to intercede for [us]" (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34). The Holy Spirit is searching for those who will join Jesus in His ministry of prayer for individual people, for the Church and for the nations (Matthew 26:40).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## Eternity

“ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men... ”  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

God created us as creatures of eternity. Even though our physical body dies, our spirit continues to live forever. God has prepared an eternal dwelling for us..

### Heaven

*"...God is in heaven and you are on earth...Therefore stand in awe of God"*  
Ecclesiastes 5:2,7.

Heaven is...

**The dwelling place of God**  
(Job 22:12; Deuteronomy 26:15).

**The throne-room of God**  
(Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 66:1).

**The place of God's full glory**  
(Daniel 7:9-10; Acts 7:55).

**The home of believers who have died**  
(2 Corinthians 5:1).

**The future home of all believers**  
(Revelation 7:9-10).

Heaven is a place far beyond anything we can possibly conceive.

*"... 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' ..."* 1 Cor.2:9-10.

The Bible tells us Heaven is...

**A place of great glory**  
(Matthew 13:43).

**A place of continual worship**  
(Revelation 19:1-6; 5:11-12)

**A place that will never end**  
2 Peter 1:11; 1 Peter 1:4.

**A place untainted by evil**  
Revelation 21:27; Ephesians 5:5.

Heaven is the full manifestation of God's pres-

ence. It is a place of holiness, full of glory and without end.

### Our Link with Heaven

As believers, we now live our lives in a special relationship with Heaven, because:

**We belong to Heaven**  
(Hebrews 12:22-23; Philippians 3:20).

**We are seated in Heaven**  
(Ephesians 2:6).

**We have our source of life in Heaven**  
(Ephesians 1:3).

**We have our names written in Heaven**  
(Luke 10:20).

**We have been sent from Heaven**  
(John 17:16,18).

**We have our eyes fixed on Heaven**  
(Col.3:1-4; 2 Cor.4:17-18; Heb.11:9-10,14-16).

**We have our treasure in Heaven**  
(Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:3-4).

**We are being called back to Heaven**  
(Philippians 3:13-14).

### Hell

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels'"* Matthew 25:41.

Hell was originally prepared for Satan. But when mankind (in Adam) aligned itself with Satan (Gen.3) and became enemies of God (Col.1:21) their destiny was also joined with Satan's in eternal separation from God. But the wonderful news of the Gospel is that Jesus became the escape route from eternal judgment in hell. He became our passport to Heaven (John 3:16-21).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Second Coming

‘ . . . whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death *until he comes*. ’  
1 Corinthians 11:26

The New Testament writers discussed the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ more than 300 times. The language used was almost always imperative. The first thing we need to know about the Second Coming is that it is *certain*.

*“But be patient, my brothers, as you wait for the Lord to come... So must you be patient, resting your hearts on the ultimate certainty. The Lord’s coming is very near” James 5:7-8 (Phillips) (see also Hebrews 10:37).*

**Jesus spoke about His return**  
(Matthew 24:30; John 14:2-3).

**Angels foretold it**  
(Acts 1:10-11).

**Christians encouraged one another with it**  
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 1:7).

**God’s Spirit bears witness of it**  
(2 Corinthians 5:5).

### ***The Return of Jesus***

The Bible tells us clearly how Jesus will return:

**Unexpectedly to the world** (1 Thess.5:1-3).  
**Expected by the Church** (1 Thess.5:4-11).  
**Like the lightning** (Matt.24:27; Luke 17:24).  
**In the same way that He left** (Acts 1:10-11).  
**With great power and glory** (Luke 21:27).  
**In full view of all** (Revelation 1:7).

### ***Signs of His Coming***

Jesus told us the clear signs of His return:

**Worldwide war, earthquakes and famines**  
(Mark 13:8; Revelation 6).  
**False Christs and false prophets**  
(Matthew 24:23-24).

**Ecological disasters**  
(Luke 21:25).

**Signs in the sky**  
(Luke 21:25-28; Matthew 24:29-30).

**Return of Jerusalem to Jewish hands**  
(Luke 21:24).

**The rise of the “man of sin”**  
(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

**An abomination in the temple of God**  
(Matthew 24:15-16).

**Gospel preached to every tribe and nation**  
(Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10).

### ***The End of the Age***

The return of Jesus will mark the end of this “present evil age” and the commencement of a totally new age (Gal. 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 6:19; 2 Peter 3:10-14). At the Second Coming, a number of dramatic events will take place:

**Bride of Christ will be revealed to the world**  
(Revelation 19:7; 21:2-11; Ephesians 5:25-27).

**We will enter our full glory**  
(Phil. 3:20-21; Rom. 8:19-21; 1 Cor. 15:35-53).

**Dead in Christ will be raised**  
(2 Cor. 4:14; John 6:40; 11:25; 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

**Living believers will be caught up**  
(Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

**Creation will be set free**  
(Romans 8:19-22; Isaiah 35:1-7).

**Every enemy will be destroyed**  
(1 Corinthians 15:24-25; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8).

**Satan will be bound**  
(Revelation 20:1-3; 7-10).

**Judgment will be meted out**  
(2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

**God’s Kingdom will be set up**  
(Daniel 2:44; Revelation 19:15-16).

# The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

## The Call

“ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 ”

God has a plan for the life of every believer. Not only does His call involve a wonderful purpose for us throughout eternity, but we also have an expression of that call upon the earth now. The Bible says that God has called us...

**From the foundation of the world**  
(Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:10; Matthew 25:34).

**To be separated unto Him**  
(1 Peter 2:9).

**To fulfill His purpose**  
(2 Timothy 1:8-9; Romans 8:28; Phil.3:14).

### **Our Call on Earth**

*“Paul, servant (slave) of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God” Romans 1:1.*

In describing his own ministry, Paul gives us an example of the call that is upon every believer. It has three aspects:

#### **The general calling**

*“A slave of Christ” - Jesus paid the high price of His own life to bring us back to the Father.*

*“For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord’s freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price...” 1 Corinthians 7:22-23 (see also 6:19-20).*

When Paul calls himself a slave of Jesus Christ, he is pointing to an even deeper meaning. According to the custom of his day, if a slave came to the time when he could be set free, but because of love for his master chose *not* to accept his freedom, he then received a mark pierced in his ear. This was a sign that he was a “love-

slave” to his master for life (see Exodus 21:6; Deuteronomy 15:16-17). Paul, by his own choice, declared himself a love-slave of the Lord Jesus (read Psalm 40:6-7).

#### **The special calling**

*“Called to be an apostle” - Just as Paul had a special calling upon his life, so does every believer. Paul was called to be an apostle, but there are many different callings in the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-16). The special part that God has for us to play will be revealed to us as we seek to do His will.*

#### **The particular calling**

*“Separated to the Gospel” - Within each special calling there is a particular expression which is unique to each individual believer. For example, Peter and Paul were both apostles, but one was an apostle to the Jews and the other to the Gentiles (see Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).*

We only move into our special and particular calling as we prove ourselves as “love slaves”, for we must first learn to be wholly under the authority of Christ before we can be *sent* by Him (see Matthew 28:18-19).

### **Why Does God Call?**

**Because the world is in darkness**  
(1 John 5:19; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13).

**Because people are in need**  
(Matthew 9:36).

**To prove His wisdom**  
(Ephesians 3:10-11).

**Because time is short**  
(John 4:35; 9:4).

# Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit the verse to memory.


Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.


Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?


## **You can make a difference!**

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- \* Read and digest the study - meditate on the Word of God.
- \* Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- \* Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32

# Food for Thought

## **Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth**

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study and
for use in sharing with others.

### ***The King's Table is designed to help...***

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program which has many series of 21 lessons on different subjects. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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