

“The Bread and Water Diet” *John 6:22-29*

And yet, in spite of all these negatives, Jesus prescribes a diet of His bread and His water for optimum spiritual health!

John 6:33-35 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world. Sir, they said, always give us this bread. Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered, Everyone who drinks this water (from the well in Samaria) will be thirsty again but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

We have seen in our study of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John that abiding in Christ is accomplished by walking by means of the Holy Spirit; indicating that the Church Age Christian life is a unique supernatural life empowered by God the Holy Spirit.

And failure to abide in Jesus Christ, the true Living Vine means that we fail experientially in the spiritual life; it doesn't mean we lose our salvation but that we lose our peace and contentment here and now.

In God's plan of grace, we have the Holy Spirit mentoring us to help us learn biblical truth; He stores it in our soul memory and reminds us of it when necessary.

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Biblical joy is the inner stability, peace and contentment which belongs to God and is given to us by Him and it's quite different from man's concept of happiness.

Man's happiness is based on circumstances, people and emotional highs but the joy of Jesus Christ is based on the absolute perfect integrity of God's character demonstrated in His plan, not on people, circumstances or our emotions.

God's happiness is related to His own attributes like His eternity; God is eternal life, so He's always had maximum inner joy which is never dependent on the successes or failures of His creatures.

1st Corinthians 2:16 tells us that we share the mind or thinking of Christ which means we also have the happiness of Christ when we think like He does and that further means that the foundation for true joy begins at the cross of Christ.

And this means that it is impossible for an unbeliever to have this depth of happiness, peace and stability.

But we must remember that at the cross, we don't get the entire package of experiential happiness, only the potential to enjoy it.

Totally sharing God's happiness is based on our spiritual growth, through processing the mind of Christ and therefore, abiding in Him as branches abide or receive nourishment

from the roots of the vine to which it is attached.

It takes our time, our energy, our attention and our effort to study the Scriptures to the point where our thinking becomes transformed to the thinking of Jesus Christ.

We've got a sin nature within and Satan's world system on the outside fighting for our souls.

But in and through it all, Jesus says we can advance in the spiritual life and share the happiness of God

as a result of our advanced status of spiritual maturity.

If the world hates us and it will, we know that it hated our Lord before it hates us and if it hates us due to our association with Him, that's cause for deep rejoicing!

The baptism via the Holy Spirit daily adds to the number of Satan's targets which causes him to go on an all-out offensive tirade to destroy the Church of Jesus Christ, something he's been trying to accomplish for almost 2000 years and is yet to succeed at.

Angels are divided into two categories: Unfallen known as Holy and Elect and Fallen, headed up by Satan and there are demons in two categories: operational demons and imprisoned demons.

Fallen angels, to include Satan have been adjudicated guilty by God and sentenced to the Lake of Fire.

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To resolve Satan's objection to God's verdict, an inferior creature, man, was placed on the earth and his free-will responsibility was tested also.

Before man's fall, he existed in innocence, ignorant of sin, with no sin nature but he had his free-will choice and he used it in a negative way resulting in his fall which sentenced the entire human race to spiritual death.

And after Adam's fall, every human being with one exception was born with Adam's original sin and his sin nature credited to him, his own free-will and a new tree to choose or reject known as the cross of Christ.

Satan does have a well-organized strategy in this great spiritual dispute and he still has access to Heaven where he accuses believers in an attempt to stifle the work of Jesus Christ on earth but our defense council is the Lord Jesus Christ, so we can't lose!

Satan desires that all believers ignore biblical truth and opt for false doctrine which frustrates God's will as he seeks to get the eyes of believers off the Lord Jesus and on to themselves, other people, things or their circumstances.

And Satan loves it when believers worry and become occupied with human solutions, neglecting God's solutions and he also loves to promote the fear of death in believers.

There is nothing in life more enjoyable than going through maximum pressure with inner unshakable happiness.

Like most people who are introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ, these were impressed by His abilities but not interested in His message and therefore, they sought to use Him for their own personal gain.

Most people including this crowd would gladly trade their eternal destiny for a bowl of pottage representing political and financial improvement.

Proper order for success in life begins with spiritual orientation to eternity and continues with solving the problems of time.