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LET'S DO JOSEPH

THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE- *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose name is written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**" (Rev.13:8) These words are clear, and without controversy; God gave His pure Lamb for the salvation of all who dwell upon the earth. Before the world was ever created, God had made provision to save it. He covered all with the blood of His holy, slain Lamb. At the appointed time, He brought forth and raised up Jesus, His only begotten Son in the flesh. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus became the firstborn of the new creation of God in Christ, and the firstborn among many brethren. This happened in the earth at a certain time and date, but actually the *'works were finished from the foundation of the world'*. (Heb.4:3b) The Father gave His beloved Son to the world from the beginning of time, but it was only at the appointed time that He appeared to mankind. *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us."* (I Jn.1:1-2)*

Before His death, Jesus and His disciples partook of a last supper. It was then that He took the bread, and *"When he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."* (I Cor.11:24) Jesus Christ called His body, the bread of life. Breaking the bread and giving a piece to each of the disciples, He explained that His body was broken in pieces, in order to give a piece to each who would receive it. The sharing of this "bread" is the communion of the saints. Jesus was repeating what had taken place, before the foundation of the world, when as the slain Lamb, He gave Himself to be the Savior of the world. Jesus is *"... the true light, which lighteth **every man that cometh into the world.**"* (Jn.1:9) When Jesus asked Peter, *"Who do men say that I am?"* Peter answered, *"Thou art **THE CHRIST**, the son of the living God."* (Matt.16:16) Jesus indeed is that bread of life that was broken for each man to partake of, and He is *"...the mystery that hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest in the saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory."* (Col.1:26-27) Indeed, this same Christ who was slain from the foundation of the world, gave His broken body for all men to be saved. This mystery is not only found in a few called out ones, and it is not given when one begins to believe; this mystery has been hid among the Gentiles, (godless), from the beginning. Howbeit now, it is to the saints that this is revealed.

The spirits of this world, the flesh and the devil, have kept the people at enmity against this Christ. He has been and still is being trampled upon, ignored and crucified daily as He lays buried in the earth of every individual. Indeed, the Sower sowed the Seed in all of the earth, meaning in all human beings. We were all laying dead in the grave, until the day, that His voice called us forth and we answered and followed. Then we, who answered followed Him from faith to faith and glory to glory. Jesus Christ is the only Way to life eternal. There are many good teachings who lead man to peaceful living and love among brethren, but the power of eternal life can only come through the mystery which is Christ in you, the only hope of glory.

Jesus Christ is not just an historical being, or a great teacher and prophet, He is the eternal living One who has *"...called us, (our souls), out of darkness into His marvellous light."* (I Pet.2:9)

THE SOURCE OF OUR WARFARE- Before the serpent was ever found crawling on his belly, he had a place of dominion in Eden. Isaiah describes his high inspirations, *"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high."* (Isa.14:13-14). This was the heart's desire of the serpent, the one Isaiah calls Lucifer. When God placed Adam in Eden and gave him dominion over all His earthly creation, envy, jealousy and fury rose up in the heart of Lucifer, and he devised a cunning plan that was geared to give him what he had been lusting after from his beginning; he was about to steal the dominion away from man. And so, as if he was a wise and helpful gentleman, he approached the woman, (the soul, mind part of the man), and he began to reason with her; those are the tactics of the cunning serpent. Eve bought his reasoning, lock, stock and barrel. From that day forward, the serpent had gained access into the human minds and hearts. He knew how to manipulate, shape and use man to accomplish whatever he desired. The human mind became carnal, at enmity against God, and soon a spirit of competition and greed took over man's nature and ways. Men began to fight and kill each other to get what their hearts lusted after; greed became the uncontrollable and unstoppable drive of the Adam man. The race for preeminence had begun, and men truly believed that their super intelligence, knowledge and wisdom gave them the power to rule themselves and the world. This is the greatest deception ever fostered over mankind. The creature who was created to become the likeness and image of the Son of God, had now become the image of Lucifer, so much so that it is difficult to find a difference between the two. Men became puffed up with their abilities and creativity; they truly believed that they had ascended above the clouds, and were like the most High. Some teach that Lucifer is Adam, the truth is that Adam's carnal mind is so much like the serpent's mind, that it is hard to tell them apart. The one *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God, sitteth in the temple of God, (the hearts of man), showing himself that he is God."* (II Thes.2:4)

CHANGING THE SOURCE- It is wisely said that "a man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." One may know how to quote scriptures, or may have studied for years under highly educated or anointed teachers, yet, it is only as the Lord reveals Himself personally, through many experiences, that we can stand steadfastly in the faith of Jesus Christ, even when things begin to shake and crumble. What made the apostle Paul stand immovable and unshakable in the face of hostile oppositions, severe beatings, imprisonments, and much pain and suffering, was the fact that he had met the risen Lord personally. The apostles before him, walked with Jesus face to face, but Paul met the resurrected Lord, who came to him as a blinding light, and knocked him off his high horse; thus Paul had indeed met the Lord in person. From that moment forward, no one could change his mind or shake his faith; as David, his heart was fixed, *"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed..."* (Ps.57:7). Each of God's called out ones, have met Jesus in person in some way or other. It may have been at the baptism of the Spirit experience, or at some other time, but sons who hear His voice are sure to meet the One behind the voice. It is by the hearing of His voice that we become strong in the faith. *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* (Rom.10:17) Most of the time, it is the *"still small voice"* within that we hear, and it is with the ear of the Spirit that we hear it. The more we heed the voice, the quicker we cut out the source of our carnal mind, and develop our spiritual ear. The voice of the Lord in the book of Revelation, addressed the trained ear of the church, *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."* (Rev.2:7) The school of the Spirit teaches by experience. All that we learn through our teachers or through books and such, has to pass through the fires of life's experiences. The best teachers of God's Word are those who have experienced His presence.

THE COST OF SONSHIP- Paul declares, "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil.3:13b-14). Paul's intense and foremost desire was to become a son of God. Salvation is free, but sonship is costly. Our "press" for sonship, leads us on a narrow path that compels us to leave all our personal ambitions behind, and to follow the Lamb everywhere He goes. While the Spirit calls whosoever will to come, none can choose to become a son; sonship is a calling. *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you..."* (Jn.15:16a) And again, *"...ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."* (Jn.15:19) In exile on Patmos, John was transported by the Spirit to the time of the Day of the Lord. He heard a voice, and turned to see the voice that was speaking to him, *"And behold being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to his foot...And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."* (Rev.1: 12b,13,15) The clothing of the Son of man that John saw, are the garments of our High Priest. His voice as the sound of many waters denotes that this being was many-membered, and his feet like unto fine brass had been refined in a furnace of fire, which speaks of the fiery experiences that the members of this new priesthood body are called to walk through. Zechariah saw them as the part that was set apart, *"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; they shall call on my name, and I will hear them; I will say, It is my people, and they shall say, The Lord is my God."* (Zech.13:9) Sons of God belong to the Melchizedek priesthood, under Jesus Christ, the High priest. They are set apart to serve God in the temple of God. Peter writes, *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye may shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."* (I Pet.2:9) This is not addressed to "whosoever will." Peter makes it clear at the beginning of his letter that he is writing to the strangers who were scattered, and who were *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ..."* (I Pet.1:2). These have been "sanctified" or "set apart" for God's purpose. These are the sons, the priesthood, the peculiar people, (a preserved possession) who will minister in the age to come. Indeed, "sonship" which is much more than a doctrine or even a revelation; it is a calling attained at a high cost.

OUR FIERY FURNACE OF EARTH- Our earthly bodies are designed to be the expression of our souls. They also become a fiery furnace, to tame us and train us and mold us. It is through the fiery furnace of earth, that the royal priesthood walks with the Word of God. *"The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."* (Ps.12:6) The Word of the Lord is His law written in our hearts; it is not kept by mental assent or with a memorized list of commandments; it is executed through living experiences in our daily lives. We live every word spoken to us by God's Holy Spirit, and so all who reach maturity in Christ, have feet of refined brass, passed through the fire. They have been rejected for the word that they believe. Jesus Himself walked through the fires that were set for Him at every turn, culminating in the death of the cross. Since that time, Jesus, by the Spirit, has been walking through the feet of His body of sons. Our Lord took the law and the words of the prophets through the fires of His earthly life, and He will continue to do so through each member of His body, until all is fulfilled. *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."* (Matt.5:17-18)

LET'S DO JOSEPH- The old Testament furnishes us with many vivid examples of the walk of a son of God. Among these, Abraham, Jacob and David shine as bright lights on the way, yet, perhaps the closest to our calling is found in the life of Joseph, the favored son of Jacob. As it has been God's way to communicate with me, early on, in my journey, He once gave me this dream. *"I was in my kitchen talking with a sister in the Lord. She was sitting at the table and I was standing holding my Bible under my arm. I told her that I*

was going to bed "to do Joseph." End of dream- At the time, I had no idea what this meant, but as my life unfolded and things happened, I began to understand. Joseph, the beloved son of Jacob and Rachel, is a perfect example of the walk of all the sons of God to come. When Joseph innocently shared his dreams, he opened the way to a chain of events that would change his life completely, and would fulfill God's plan of saving the world from the great famine of that day. The two dreams that Joseph shared were prophetic. *"For behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold your sheaves stood around about and made obeisance to my sheaf."* (Gen.37:7) *"And behold the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."* (Vs.9b) Both dreams revealed his calling in Christ, as well as the calling of many sons to come, Jesus having the preeminence as the firstborn and unique Son of God. Joseph's brethren already harbored envy and jealousy against him in their hearts, so when they heard his two dreams, the heinous and malicious spirit of Cain rose up within them, and they began to plot how to kill their brother. At that point, Joseph's life was in danger, and things quickly took a course of adversities that could not be stopped. Joseph had not only been rejected of his brethren, he had been murdered in their hearts, and set to die. They lied to their father and covered up their sins with animal blood. But Joseph was preordained to be an overcomer, and although he walked through much fire, in the end, he came out stronger than he could have ever been had he remained at his father's side. In the end he declared to them, *"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."* (Gen.50:20).

I know now that my dream of "doing Joseph" came to pass many times, as I shared my dreams and the understanding that God gave me, in the places where He sent me. While the Word that the Spirit gives to the sons, whether through dreams or just through the "hearing ear," is life to some; it is extremely offensive to the brethren who are still in bondage to the systems and the traditions that men have established in this world. It riled up the dear pastor of my Community Church long ago, as I innocently shared with him a dream that I knew to be very significant. It caused him to cast my husband and me out of his church. This was repeated several times, when I shared dreams of words that the Lord gave me, with the pastors, apostles or prophets to whom God sent me. I know that in some way or other, this has been a great part of this journey for all who are called to this place in Christ Jesus.

The walk of the sons is the way of Christ, the Overcomer. The reward is great, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."* (Rev.21:7) Jesus faced much adversity from the established religion of His day. He had come to save them, but instead they killed Him. *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to **become** the sons of God, even to them that believe in his name."* (Jn.1:12) Becoming sons is easy, yet so very hard. Follow the Lamb, heed His voice and know that when the time is fulfilled, the Son of God in His body will have truly become the Savior of the world.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Rom.8:19-23)

What a glorious calling, what a most wonderful plan, what a loving and caring Lord Jesus!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*