

Realizing the Presence of Jesus in communion

Holy Spirit

Jesus has invited us to fully participate in unbroken fellowship with Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many times man has made a religious practice out of something that was meant to be a devotion of intimacy.

Communion is one of the sacraments that Jesus gave us to personally/corporately encounter Him and fully receive everything that He wants to release in our lives by realizing His presence .

Receiving communion is something we do in the natural that releases something in the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NKJV) *16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, [though] many, are one bread [and] one body; for we all partake of that one bread.*

The word translated communion (koinonia) means fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse;

What we call communion Paul refers to as The Lords Supper in

1Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) *23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the [same] night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke [it] and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner [He] also [took] the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink [it,] in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

In Acts 2 we see that the New Testament church directly correlates their fellowship as koinonia which included The Lords Supper. True Biblical Koinonia will ensure a Christ is in the center of all things.

This gift of communion has power to bring healing to you soul and body as you recognize that the power of the body and blood of Jesus Christ and the mystery that He is actually dwelling within you if you have given your life to Him.

Spurgeon-“I think the moments we are nearest to heaven are those we spend at the Lord’s table

Matthew 26: ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My **body.**” ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My **blood** of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

We know in this initial Receiving of the bread and wine they were eating the Passover meal which was the annual Jewish celebration that focused on

1. the deliverance from Egypt
2. God’s mercy by passing over the home of the Israelites. The blood of the slain lamb on the outside of the Israelites door protected their families from God’s judgment upon the Egyptians.
3. The dinner was full of symbolism and reminders of God’s faithfulness.

It stands out “As they were eating” Jesus took hold of two very common items and declared that they had new meaning. He took something ordinary and made it miraculous provision,

1. **He took bread, blessed it** (Invoked a blessing upon it) and said “Take, eat; this is My body”
2. **He took the cup and gave thanks** (expressed gratitude) saying drink from it, for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
3. His words changed what was ordinary into something miraculous.

John 6 ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides** in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Jesus breathed life when He spoke.

The words Jesus spoke were spirit and they were life. What He said would often offend the flesh (mans thinking) but would be food and life for the soul. If you stayed offended you missed life.

He declared that He is the bread of life that will release life in us. We must however move beyond doing something simply in the flesh and receive the deep work of Jesus Christs in our spirit.

The Lord's Supper is much more than just a religious tradition—it symbolizes everything Jesus did for us at Calvary. **Luke 22:19** Jesus tells us to take the Lords supper in remembrance of Him. Remind us of the continual Presence of Jesus

1. **When you partake of the cup (representing the blood)**, you are remembering that Jesus delivered you from sin.
2. **When you eat the bread (representing His body)**, you are acknowledging the physical and spiritual torment Jesus endured to deliver you from temptation, addiction, worry, care, fear, poverty, lack and every part of the curse. That includes sickness and disease (Isaiah 53:5). “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 NASB

Are you like the Psalmist aware of the benefits of having the very Presence of God living in you.

Psalm 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, *ble*ss His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

God created the Lord's Supper for a reason. When you receive it, you should plan to partake of *everything* Jesus' sacrifice provided—

- **salvation, peace of mind, healing, hope Joy etc.** Otherwise, you're neglecting to enjoy the gifts He sacrificed to give you.

- We need to continually practice the Presence of Jesus in our midst through the abiding Holy Spirit and receive/believe what He is saying.
 - Many call this sweet fellowship with Jesus the the meal that heals.
- You don't have to wait until you go to church to receive Communion. You can receive it anytime and anywhere. Under the blood of Jesus you can approach Him directly! In fact, if you haven't made a practice of taking Communion on a regular basis start now. The Communion table is the table of thanksgiving, the healing table, the deliverance table and the confession table. It's the powerhouse of God. *Many men and women of God make this sweet fellowship with Jesus weekly or even daily.*

Every time we take Communion, we become increasingly aware of our fellowship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *This recognition of fellowship has the power to grow our roots even deeper into our faith in Christ.* When he described the Eucharist, Charles Wesley wrote, "see him set forth before your eyes, behold the bleeding sacrifice, his offered love make haste to embrace, and freely now be saved by grace."

- **Examine yourself before you take Communion.** Before we partake, the Bible tells us to examine our hearts (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). Ask God for forgiveness in areas where you've missed the mark (*strife, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy, hatred, covetousness, fear, worry, unbelief, etc.*) Be sure you are not receiving Communion just as a religious exercise, rather than truly recognizing Jesus love for you and your love for Him while accepting everything Jesus' sacrifice provided.

Acts 2:42-47, they went from house to house and continued to break bread on a regular basis. These Scriptures refer to far more than just a group of people getting together to eat. They were taught by Jesus before He went to the cross to participate in communion to remember Him. *The Last Supper it seems was designed to empower the church who would become the very body of Jesus Christ to the world.*

➤ **Healing/transformation/renewal is not always immediate, many times it is progressive. Do not get discouraged but continue to participate in fellowship with Jesus. You do not need any special bread or wine, because it is your faith that is the key, not the material objects you have.”** The important thing is to take Communion in faith, recognizing His Presence. Keep track of signs of improvement.

Remember/Recognize-what Jesus has done, is doing and that He is coming again.

Repent and Renounce-Any way of thinking that does not line up with His truth as revealed in the word of God.

Receive-His finished work that has already been paid in full. Including forgiveness of all sin and healing of all diseases.

Rejoice-Have faith that your loving Father has heard you and is releasing answers to your prayers of faith.

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saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My **blood** of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Home groups

I encourage you to take communion together as a group.

1. Spend some time discussing the beauty of communion.
2. What does it mean to eat Jesus flesh and drink His blood.
3. Why must we leave room for mystery as we grow in faith and understanding concerning the depths of God?
4. Have you considered the healing power that comes through His broken body and blood.
5. How can you personally commit to living a lifestyle that intentionally pursues Jesus fullness through communion?