

# The Lord's Supper

## A Spiritual Fellowship Meal 10-02-09

The Lord's Supper is a church ceremony using bread and the fruit of the vine to symbolize our spiritual participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ, remembering His death and hoping for His soon return.

God made food for Adam and Eve and had fellowship with them. (Genesis 2:8-9). The sacrificial system in the Law of Moses kept the meal theme as seen in Leviticus 7:15. Jesus ate food while on the earth even after His resurrection (John 21:15). Furthermore, the Lord's Supper involves food and drink and was established during the Passover meal. Therefore we look to the truths of the Lord's Supper as a spiritual fellowship meal with deep meaning.

**FIRST SHEDDING OF BLOOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED THE FALL**  
**Genesis 3:21** "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

**Commentary:** Instead of taking the life of Adam and Eve, God used the blood of animals, concluding with the eternally effective blood of Jesus Christ. *Atonement* is a word used to describe this loving and merciful act by God. Read Hebrews 2:17 and Leviticus 17:11.

**Question:** Why was the shedding of blood necessary in sacrifice offerings? **Answer** is in Hebrews 9:22.

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**PASSOVER MEAL WAS A FEAST THAT ENDED AT THE CROSS**  
**Exodus 12:11** "This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover."

**Commentary:** The tenth plague to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites began the Passover Feast. A lamb was sacrificed and the blood was used to identify those to be *passed over* by the death angel.

**Question:** Why did the Passover end when Jesus died on the cross? **Answer** is in 1 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 9:23-28

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### TRUSTING IN JESUS BLOOD SAVES US FROM DEATH

**Hebrews 2:14-15** "Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

**Commentary:** We will all die physically unless the Lord returns first. It is what is called the second death that we escape from when we trust in His shed blood. The Bible states that the lake of fire is the second death (Revelation 20:14). In a very real way we enter the first death spiritually in order to partake of the divine nature now while still in this body. Read 2 Peter 1:4

**Question:** How can a person overcome the fear of death? **Answer** is in Romans 8:38-39 and Hebrews 11:1.

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### THE LORD'S SUPPER AND SEPARATION FROM DARKNESS

**1 Corinthians 10:16** "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"

**Commentary:** The spiritual fellowship meal of The Lord's Supper declares our participation in all that happened when Jesus defeated the devil, demons and darkness. At the Lords' Supper we celebrate the blood of Jesus shed on the cross to defeat the power of death and it is offensive to the Lord when we participate in things related to evil and darkness and then sit at the Lord's Supper. They are opposed to one another. If you have children, they will learn an important lesson of how serious the Lords' Supper really is. Read 1 Corinthians 10:18-22; 11:27-32.

**Question: In keeping with this Biblical warning, what activities, memberships and associations that connect or celebrate death, darkness and evil should you stop, and distance yourself from?**

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**JESUS INSTITUTED THE LORD'S SUPPER THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH.**

**Matthew 26:26-29** "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

**Commentary: Jesus instituted The Lord Supper at the Passover Meal. The theme and reality of having fellowship during a meal continues. However, now when we sit at the table it is a spiritual fellowship meal made possible by Jesus becoming the Lamb of God, the eternal sacrifice for the sins of the world.**

**Question: What purpose did Jesus explain was fulfilled in the blood of the covenant?**

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**Question: When will Jesus drink the cup with us in person?**

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**Question: What warning did Jesus give if we try to receive forgiveness and don't forgive others? Answer is in Matthew 6:14-15.**

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**Question: Approximately how many hours before Jesus died did He institute the Lord's Supper? Answer is in Matthew 26:31; 27:46-50 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.**

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**THE BREAD AND FRUIT OF THE VINE ARE SYMBOLIC**

**Luke 22:19** "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

**Commentary: Jesus taught us to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The physical elements are not as important as the spiritual reality.**

**Question: Does the bread become the body of Jesus and the fruit of the vine become the blood of Jesus?**

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**SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT FROM THE WORD**

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51). When we eat the bread of the Lord's Supper we are being spiritually nourished by the Spirit of Jesus. Like water doesn't save you in baptism, neither does the bread have any special power or the presence of God. Jesus taught us to recognize the spiritual aspect of His nourishment when He said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). (see also John 7:38).

**CONTINUED FAITH IN CHRIST**

Baptism is my declaration of becoming a member of God's household. Participation in the Lord's Supper is my declaration and commitment to stay a member of God's household by continuing to recognize that His blood was shed for my sins, even my current sins. As you progress from the time of your baptism you should see your life becoming more holy and when you consider your sinfulness and the wickedness of the world you should become more bothered by it. But we can rejoice because Jesus has overcome the world. Read 1 John 5:4; 2:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:5-8.