

INTRODUCTION

*“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...”
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, emphasis added)*

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*) as defined in 1 Corinthians 13.
- God wants us to be informed and understand the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1). Learn more from previous sessions’ notes which are available at evidentlife.org/eagerlydesire

God, who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17), is calling us to draw near to Him (Jam. 4:8), and to enter into His holy presence through Christ Jesus with thanksgiving and praise (Ps. 100; 118:19-23). He has given us the pattern of the Tabernacle to better understand our identity in Him (1 Pet. 2:4-5), and what it looks like to draw near to Him in this New Covenant in Christ Jesus (Heb. 8:5-6, Ex. 25:9).

I. THE BRAZEN LAVER

- A. **As we reflect on our previous Session, we remember that almost everything in the Outer Court was made of or overlaid with bronze (Ex. 26:11, 37; 27:1-19) which is biblically symbolic of judgement of sin (Num. 21:4-9; Jud. 16:20-22; 1 Sam. 17:4-6; Job 20:23-24; Jer. 6:28; Micah 4:11-13; Rev. 2:18-23; Lev. 26:18-19; Deut. 28:15, 23), and this includes the Laver, or Basin, that was placed between the Altar and the Tent of Meeting (Ex. 30:18).**
- B. **Interestingly, while most of the other pieces of the Tabernacle were recorded as having been made from the freewill offerings of the people, we’re told specifically that Laver was fashioned from the mirrors of the women who used to minister at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting (Ex. 38:8). While the Scriptures don’t tell us exactly who these women were, or their exact role, we see that God took the offering of these women’s mirrors (typically an object of vanity) and they were used to create an object of Holy cleansing.**
- C. **The Laver was created for the priests to wash their hands and feet in pure water before they approached God to offer a sacrifice on the Altar or enter the Tent of Meeting. This washing was a serious event, which if left undone, could lead to the death of the priest.**

*¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, ¹⁸ “You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, ¹⁹ with which Aaron and his sons [the priests] shall wash their hands and their feet. ²⁰ When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. ²¹ They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring [the priesthood] throughout their generations.”
(Exodus 30:17-21, emphasis added)*

II. WASHING IN THE WATER OF THE WORD

- A. The Scriptures show us that cleansing water is symbolic of the Word of God. While the priesthood in the Old Covenant was commanded to wash in physical water, God has called us as a Holy Priesthood in a New Covenant in Christ (1 Peter 2:5) to be purified and wash in the water of the truth of His Word and receiving the working of His Holy Spirit to cleanse us.

²⁵...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27, emphasis added)

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end... ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet... ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." (John 13:1, 5, 8-11, emphasis added)

³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (John 15:3, emphasis added)

²⁶...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26, emphasis added)

- B. This washing is not merely an outward washing, but an inward washing that sanctifies us for the ministry and for communion with the Lord. As we wash in the water of the Word, we are set apart to approach God on His terms, in His way, and we begin to come to God with a Holy view of who He is and who we are in Him.
- C. The Hebrew word for "mirror" (*mar'â*), which was used of the mirrors that the Laver was fashioned from, is the same word for a spiritual or prophetic "vision" in several places in the Old Testament (Gen 46:2; Num. 12:6; 1 Sam. 3:15; Eze. 1:1, 8:3, 40:2; Dan. 10:7-8, 16).
- D. Washing in the Word of God is a place where the Holy Spirit releases spiritual and prophetic vision that builds us and others up (1 Cor 1:1-5) in Christ (Rev. 19:10) who is Himself the Word (John 1, Rev. 19:13). **If you want to grow in prophetic gifting, get into God's Word!**
- E. When washing in this Basin made from metal mirrors full of pure water, the priests would have seen their reflection in the water. The Apostle James speaks to us about how the Word of God is like a mirror where we see our reflection and bring revelation that can change our lives.

²² ...*be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* ²³ *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.* ²⁴ *For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.* ²⁵ *But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.* (James 1:22-25, emphasis added)

III. HANDS AND FEET

- A. The priests would use this Basin to wash their hands and feet. Hands and feet are often symbolic of our actions/works (Gen. 5:29, 31:42, 37:21, 39:3; Ex. 15:17; Deut. 2:7, 4:28, 14:29, 31:29; Ps. 9:16, 18:20; John 10:39), and our walk/life (Ps. 17:5, 40:2, 56:13, Prov. 1:15-16, 4:26-27, 5:5, 6:18). It is because of the cleansing and sanctifying work of God's Word in our lives that we can draw near to Him in holiness.

³ *Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?* ⁴ *He who has clean hands and a pure heart...* (Psalm 24:3-4, emphasis added)

¹ *O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?* ² *He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart* (Psalm 15:1-2, emphasis added)

- B. The works, ministry, and lifestyle we are called to can only truly happen out of a place of having been washed in the Word and the work of Holy Spirit within us (2 Cor. 3:18).

¹ *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (by God's Word), that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:1-2, emphasis added)

- C. We are called to live and minister in a life truly transformed by God's Word, washed and purified inside, in a way that changes how we live outwardly (1 Pet. 3:3-5, Jam. 2:14-26, Eph. 4:21-23). It's in this kind of faith and lifestyle, that we can confidently draw near to God and live a life holy and blameless before Him.

²¹ *and since we have a great priest (Jesus) over the house of God,* ²² *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.* ²³ *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* ²⁴ *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* (Hebrews 10:21-24, emphasis added)