

KEEP ON KEEPING ON
(LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD)

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Today is the final day of Unleavened Bread! It will soon be over!

We have seen how the Bible uses leaven to picture sin and false teaching.

PUT SIN OUT — BRING IN an unleavened life of sincerity and truth.

Tomorrow ... we can go back to eating leaven. Does that mean we can also forget about sin — about living a Holy life — and jump back into the world's ways?

Of course not! The Feast is 7 days — but the lessons are for life.

We have to leave sin fully behind us ... not “one foot in — one foot out”.

Once we've left Egypt — sin — we have to keep going. We've got to stay the course ... **TO KEEP ON KEEPING ON.**

2 Timothy 2:19-22

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: **“The Lord knows those who are His,”** and, **“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”**

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonour.

21 Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but **pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

Depart from iniquity! Put out the bad things — cleanse yourself. Clean out the old leaven — be a new lump. **FLEE!** **RUN OFF!** **GET AWAY!**

It is a life-long journey to the Promised Land.

Hebrews 12:1-4

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

- Lay aside the weight (hobbies — things that distract us) — put away
- Run with endurance — winners never quit ... quitters never win
- Look to Jesus! Focus on Him! He's the example to look at

It takes action. Determination.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, **but one receives the prize?** **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.** (*Do the same as the winner would do*)

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 **Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.**

27 **But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

“I discipline my body” — “I subdue my body” . Like an athlete ... Paul keeps his body under control.

Not casual ... lukewarm — giving in to his appetites — taking things easily.

He is in a race. He wants to reach the victory line.

We've left spiritual Egypt. We need to leave completely. We're in the marathon now — we need to finish the race. Unlike that First Exodus.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3 all ate the same spiritual food,
4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**
5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, **for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**

They did not endure. Only Joshua and Caleb “made it”.

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not **lust after evil things as they also lusted.**
7 And **do not become idolaters as were some of them.** As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”
8 **Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did,** and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
9 **nor let us (believers) tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted,** and were destroyed by serpents;
10 **nor complain, as some of them also complained,** and were destroyed by the destroyer.
11 **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, (warning)** upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
13 **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

They didn’t discipline their bodies.

We saw recently that Israel often “looked back” to their former lifestyle. We aren’t to look back.

Hebrews 3:7 - 4:2

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 **Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,**

In the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,
And saw My works forty years.

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation,
And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart,
And they have not known My ways.’

11 So I swore in My wrath,
‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”

12 **Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;**

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For **we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,**

15 while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,

Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

17 Now **with whom was He angry forty years?** Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 And **to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest,** but to those who did not obey?

19 So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

Chapter 4:

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, **let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.**

2 **For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them;** but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.**

Deceitfulness of sin. Like leaven — only a little compromise.

LET US FEAR! BE ON GUARD!

Israel should have succeeded. God went with them. But they just lacked faith. They always walked by sight — never by faith. They failed to enter God's the Promised Land.

Jude 3-5

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, **I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

4 **For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, **that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.** *(All of the adults)*

It takes effort.

We should be familiar with the Old Testament stories. They were written "for our learning".

Running the race ... and enduring — does require faith. And a good understanding of God's ways and God's Word.

Israel had God's Word ... but so often refused to heed. We should know better.

Psalms 119:10-16

10 **With my whole heart I have sought You;**
Oh, **let me not wander from Your commandments!**

11 **Your word I have hidden in my heart,** *(that means at least reading it — a lot!)*

That I might not sin against You.

12 Blessed are You, O LORD!

Teach me Your statutes.

13 With my lips I have declared
All the judgments of Your mouth.

14 I **have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,**

As much as in all riches.

15 **I will meditate on Your precepts,**
And contemplate Your ways.

16 **I will delight myself in Your statutes;**
I will not forget Your word.

Are we whole-hearted?

Psalms 119:27-38

27 **Make me understand the way of Your precepts;**

So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.

28 My soul melts from heaviness;

Strengthen me according to Your word.

29 Remove from me the way of lying,

And **grant me Your law graciously.** (*Law = Torah*)

30 **I have chosen the way of truth;**

Your judgments I have laid before me.

31 **I cling to Your testimonies;**

O LORD, do not put me to shame!

32 **I will run the course of Your commandments,**

For You shall enlarge my heart.

33 **Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,**

And I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;

Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 **Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,**

For I delight in it.

36 **Incline my heart to Your testimonies,**

And not to covetousness.

37 **Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,**

And revive me in Your way.

38 **Establish Your word to Your servant,**

Who is devoted to fearing You.

These verses describe someone who is ENTHUSIASTIC AND COMMITTED TO GOD'S WORD. He KNOWS ITS VALUE!

God's Word reveals the way to live — and the perils — the world ... Satan ... our flesh.

The better we know the Word ... the better equipped we are. One thing we could easily do over the next few months?

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, (*Law = Torah*)

And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

- Don't fellowship with the world — spiritual Egypt.
- Delight in God's Word.

Isaiah 1:16-20

16 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;

Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,

17 Learn to do good;

Seek justice,

Rebuke the oppressor;

Defend the fatherless,

Plead for the widow.

18 "Come now, and let us reason together,"

Says the LORD,

"Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,

You shall eat the good of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel,

You shall be devoured by the sword”;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

- Wash yourselves
- Be willing! And ...
- Be obedient!

James 1:19-25

19 So then, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;**

20 **for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**

21 **Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

22 But **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 observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

- Lay aside — Put away
- Look into the Law and continue in it — KEEP ON KEEPING ON!
- Stay on course!

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; *(reading God's Word would be a very good start)*

10 that you may **walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

- Walk worthy of the Lord — fit for the Master's use

Colossians 1:19-23

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight**—

23 if indeed you **continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast**, and are **not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard**, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- **IF** you **continue** in the faith (until you complete your course)

Hebrews 6:1

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**

- Let us go on — to perfection/maturity

Hebrews 6:9-12

9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And **we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,**

12 that you **do not become sluggish**, but **imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

- Don't become sluggish ... lazy
- Not overly casual ... "easy does it"
- Being patient — KEEP ON KEEPING ON!

You don't win the prize till you cross the finishing line!

We all started our race some years ago. Probably long since we set off from spiritual Egypt.

How far along our journey are we? We've fought some obstacles ... climbed several mountains ... been through some dry places.

But we still need to finish. AND FINISH STRONG!

Matthew 24:11-13

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

- ENDURE TO THE END

We've been watching for leaven the past 7 days. We've pictured an unclean life.

Now ... let's keep going. Every year we're a little closer to the Promised Land.

LET'S KEEP ON KEEPING ON!!