***Day 39 - "Walk with Me in White'***

**The Church - The Bride**

***“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17***

***“What God has joined together let no man separate!” Matthew 19:6***

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, ***as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ,*** so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, ***just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, ***just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*** “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*** Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:22-33

***“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18***

God the Father chose to give His Son, Jesus Christ, a bride, a wife: to love, dwell with and to co-rule with Him for all eternity. It’s a journey of love from the beginning of time throughout all eternity. The Lord pursues people with a perfect love desiring that all would come to repentance and return to God’s family. [Gen. 1:26-28; Eph. 3:15] Holy Spirit prepares the church, each individual member of it, for Jesus as His bride, His wife. Through the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, the Holy Spirit saves, heals and delivers those who have called upon the name of Jesus and brings us into unity and maturity.

***“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:2***

God’s chosen Spirit-filled ministers labor with the body of Christ, the church, His bride, to see the glory of God released within each saint, “Christ in us the hope of glory!”

***“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” Colossians 1:24-29***

Jesus is the foundation of our faith and upon His life and finished work of the cross we are built in order to house the glory of God; a habitation of the Spirit.

***“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:18-22***

Jesus gave the church, His bride, all authority and power to make disciples of nations and to reveal the Father’s love. [Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-18] Sin and death were destroyed as Jesus was raised from the dead victorious. He shut and sealed the gates of hell from having any more authority over His church- His bride.

***“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18***

Now we are one spirit with the Lord, and one day, we will be with Him, face to face, in person, for all eternity.

***“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.” II Cor. 5:6-9***

***“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.” I Cor. 13:12***

Holy Spirit will finish the work in which He was sent to do in preparing a bride for Jesus. She will choose Jesus. She will prepare herself for Him and will love Him above all others, in full surrender to His will. She will live in this world but by the power of Holy Spirit she will not be of this world. [I John 1, 2] She will walk in the same works as Jesus according to John 14:12 and shall overcome by His precious blood. [Rev. 12:11]

***“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering’s, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”” Revelation 19:6-9***

***“And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17***

**Scripture Reference:**

Mat. 18:16,17; 25; John 14; Acts 2:40-47; 5:11-16; 8:1-3; 9:31; 11:22-26; 12:5-19; 13:1-5; 14:23-28; 15:3-4, 22; 20:28-38; I Cor. 1:2; 6:2-4; 15; 10:32; Eph. 3:10, 21; Col. 1:24; I Thess. 4:15-18; I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 12:23; James 5:14; I Peter 2; II Peter 3:9; Rev. 21; 22:1-5