



Eating & Drinking of Jesus

At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications

"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

1 Corinthians 2:13

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WD Furioso, Writer ~ Frances Furioso, Editor

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Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the *New American Standard Bible*.

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This message is about eating and drinking – eating and drinking with Adam and Eve, eating and drinking with Moses, as well as eating and drinking with Jesus, and His Disciples. Let's drop in on Adam and Eve in their garden ...

Adam & Eve

⁸“The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God caused every tree to grow that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Genesis 2:8-9

It has always been God's desire for Mankind to eat of the Tree of Life "and live forever". The Lord said that if Mankind ate of the Tree of Life, he would live forever.¹ In other words, Mankind would have eternal life. Jesus said that to have eternal life is to **know** the God of Life.² But, as it was, Adam and Eve chose to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and they "died", as God said.³ The meaning of this “death” is that Mankind became separated from the God of Life. So, we see that something went very wrong with that first meal in the Garden. Mankind decided to

¹ Genesis 3:22b

² John 17:3

³ Genesis 2:17b

choose from the menu without taking the Chief Chef's suggestions, so to speak. Mankind decided to choose for themselves what would be good & bad to eat. They wanted to make their choices independent of God. They got "food poisoning", as it were. We need to let Jesus make our menu choices. And Mankind continued to be sick throughout all the generations of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But with each of these men, God did make covenant promises that there would be a cure for the sickness.

Moses

When we come to Moses, we see clearly the idea of “eating & drinking” beginning to be rectified – that is, there were some good meals being offered at some good restaurants - restaurants that usually seemed to be located in mountain resorts. I’m not referring to the “manna in the wilderness”. Manna is just the “ante pasta”. You can’t live on “ante pasta”. Manna is a very impressive dish; but you can’t live on manna. Jesus said that the people “ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died”.⁴ Paul the apostle wrote: Those who conduct the sacrifices at the altar in the temple could eat the food of the sacrifices⁵; but the writer to the Hebrews also wrote that there are “heavenly sacrifices” which are “better sacrifices”.⁶

But let’s visit an amazing meal where Moses was the “guest of honor”:

⁹ “Then Moses went up ^[a]with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet ^[b]there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, ^[c]as clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ Yet He did not reach out

⁴ John 6:49

⁵ 1 Corinthians 9:13

⁶ Hebrews 9:23

with His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.” Exodus 24:9-11

"They ate and drank and **saw** the Lord." Eating & Drinking spiritually has to do with *knowing* & *seeing* the Lord. And Jesus. Himself, is the best thing on the menu. Let's look at what Jesus had to say about this in John, chapter 6:

Jesus

35"Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty. 36But I said to you that you have indeed seen Me, and yet you do not believe. 37Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out. 38For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day. 40For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:35-40

Words to the Jews

41"So, then the Jews were complaining about Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." 42And they were saying, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" 43Jesus answered and said to them,

"Stop complaining among yourselves. 44No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45It is written in the Prophets: 'and they shall be taught of God'.⁷ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. 46Not that anyone has seen the Father,

⁷ Isaiah 54:13

except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who **believes** has eternal life. 48I am the bread of life. 49Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may *eat from it* and not die. 51I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone *eats from this bread*, he will live forever; and the bread which I will give for the life of the world also is My flesh.” 52Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” 53So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you *eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood*, you have no life in yourselves. 54The one who *eats My flesh and drinks My blood* has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56The one who *eats My flesh and drinks My blood* remains in Me, and I in him. 57Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, the one who *eats Me*, he also will live because of Me. 58This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; the one who *eats this bread* will live forever.”

John 6:41-58

The Old & New Covenants

Jesus spoke of “**eating and drinking**” of Him. The Jews wondered what He meant. His disciples wondered what He meant. And we also wonder what He meant. Well, His meaning is obviously not that His body and blood are material food, and we are to physically eat His body and physically drink His blood. But why

was Jesus so cryptic in His speaking? It is important to note that Jesus is speaking to Jews – both the Scribes and Pharisees, and His disciples – people living under the Old Covenant. Jesus' intention was to make a clear distinction between Himself and the manna as God's Provision for His people – representing a clear distinction between the Old and New Covenants. Instead of eating manna, we eat of Him, the Bread of Life. He is obviously referring to **spiritual food and spiritual eating and drinking**. But still, what does it mean to spiritually eat and drink of Jesus?

New Covenant Relationship

I highlighted certain phrases Jesus repeated:

“coming to Him”, “seeing Him”, “hearing and learning, and being taught”. These all speak of entering into and carrying on RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. The promise of the New Covenant:

“They all shall know Me....” (Jeremiah 31:34) Notice the connection with “and they shall be taught of God” (Isaiah 54:13)? So, this “eating and drinking” of Jesus is carrying on a relationship with Him, of which so much could be discussed. In a few words – pursuing Revelation of Christ, Relationship with Christ, with a

view to Reflecting Christ, through the various spiritual disciplines of a devotional life.⁸

One of the languages which Jesus (and His disciples) spoke was Aramaic. However, the original manuscripts of John's gospel and the whole of the New Testament were written in Greek.⁹ In this John 6 passage, Jesus, speaking Aramaic, used the Aramaic word *akal*.¹⁰ This word figuratively means to consume, focusing on the inward aspects of digestion, rather than just the outward aspects of eating. So, this Aramaic word carries connotations of *intimate relationship* – even “becoming one with”.¹¹ Jesus was communicating that “eating and drinking” of Him means carrying on an *intimate relationship with His Spirit and His words*.

Experiential & Cognitive

However, the translators (from Aramaic to Greek) used two different Greek words which are both translated "to eat" in English: In verses 49-53, the Greek word *phago*¹² is used which

⁸ Some suggested articles on pursuing Revelation, Relationship, and Reflection of Christ: [Revelation & Relationship](#), [The Apostles' Teaching](#), [Seeking the Lord](#), [Christ is Prerequisite for Church](#), [On Prescribing Relationship with God](#).

⁹ *Aramaic Primacy*, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Aramaic-Primacy.html>

¹⁰ Strong's # 399

¹¹ *Aramaic Word Study – Eat*, <https://www.chaimbentorah.com/2020/01/aramaic-word-study-eat/>

¹² Strong's # G5315

means to be given or served something to eat. And in verses 54-57, the Greek word *trogo*¹³ is used which means to chew. *Trogo* emphasizes the slow process of eating. It is in the aorist tense – that is, not a single act, but a continuous act – namely, the “holy habit”¹⁴ of spiritually “eating and drinking of Jesus”.

In verse 58, both *phago* and *trogo* are used. Here, Jesus is making a distinction between the two ways of eating of Him - the two ways of knowing Him - the two ways of relating Him: To *phago* is to know Jesus *experientially*. Your relationship is limited to your personal experience. To *trogo* is to know Jesus fully - *both experientially and cognitively (by revelation and reflection)*. Your relationship becomes unlimited.

Knowing Experientially (*phago*)

Throughout verses 49-53, *phago* is used:

- to be given or served something to eat
- to know Jesus experientially
- the relationship is limited to one’s personal experience

When the people were given the manna to eat in the wilderness, they had an experience of God. In fact, they had this experience

¹³ Strong’s # G5176

¹⁴ An alternative term for “spiritual discipline”, attributed to John Wesley.

every day for 40 years. They had this personal experience 14,600 times, but it never gave them eternal life. They died in the wilderness, and then this experienced stopped when the next generation entered into the Promised Land. They never did know the God of Life - the Bread of Life, the Living Bread.

Knowing Cognitively (*trogo*)

Throughout verses 54-57, *trogo* is used:

- to chew¹⁵
- to know Jesus fully - both experientially and cognitively (by revelation and reflection)
- the relationship becomes unlimited

In the New Covenant relationship of *knowing Christ* – coming to Him, seeing Him, believing Him, through the various spiritual disciplines – that is, a devotional pursuit of Jesus through thinking, reflecting, meditating on the word of Christ, and then experiencing the person of Jesus - *revelation of Christ is changed into relationship with Christ*, and the life of Christ is appropriated in the process¹⁶ - “spiritual food” is changed into “soul food”, so to speak.

¹⁵ This word emphasizes the slow process of eating. It is in the aorist tense - that is, not a single act, but a continuous act – namely, the habit of spiritually “eating and drinking of Jesus”.

¹⁶ Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16

And then in verse 58, Jesus makes an important distinction between the two ways of "eating and drinking" of Him:

"Not as the fathers ate" – that is, a relationship limited to personal experience with manna. They ate, "and died". We cannot inherit the Promised Land or have the Life of The Eternal One with a relationship limited to personal experience. "He who has (embraces and possesses) the Son has the life..." 1 John 5:12a

"But he who eats this bread ..." - that is, he who has a devotional pursuit of Jesus through thinking, reflecting, meditating on the word of Christ, and then experiencing the person of Jesus - "will live forever" – that is, he will have the Life of The Eternal One. Of course, the resurrection life of Christ was available only after He Himself was resurrected from the dead



Disciples

There was a restaurant on the Road to Emmaus, and a meal with two disciples and the RISEN Christ:

¹³ “And behold, on that very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing

Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they came to a stop, looking sad. ¹⁸ One of *them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You *possibly* the only one living near Jerusalem who does not know about the things that happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What sort of things?" And they said to Him, "Those about Jesus the Nazarene, who proved to be a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is *now* the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us left us bewildered. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ And *so* some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵ And *then* He said to them, "[^d]You foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to come into His glory?" Luke 24:13-26

"Then beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things *written* about Himself in all the Scriptures." Luke 24:27 The Spirit of the Risen Christ "explained to them all the things concerning Himself *in all the Scriptures*" – that is, **revelation of Christ from the Scriptures**.

²⁸ "And they approached the village where they were going, and He gave the impression that He was going farther. ²⁹ And *so* they strongly urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So, He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ And it came about, when He had reclined *at the table* with them, that He took the bread and blessed *it*, and He broke *it* and *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ And *then* their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight." Luke 24:28-31

The revelation of Christ came when they were "at the table", "eating and drinking" of Jesus.

"They said to one another, "Were our hearts not burning within us when He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

The revelation of Christ burned in their hearts "**while He was explaining (opening) the Scriptures.**"

³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road, and how He was recognized by them at the breaking of the bread."

Luke 24:33-35

Again, the revelation of Christ came when they were "at the table" "eating and drinking" of Jesus.¹⁷ To be "at table" with Christ is to have "**koinonia**" with Christ - fellowship with Christ, but also participating in and sharing in His Life – changing revelation into relationship, appropriating the Life of Christ, changing spiritual food into "soul food".

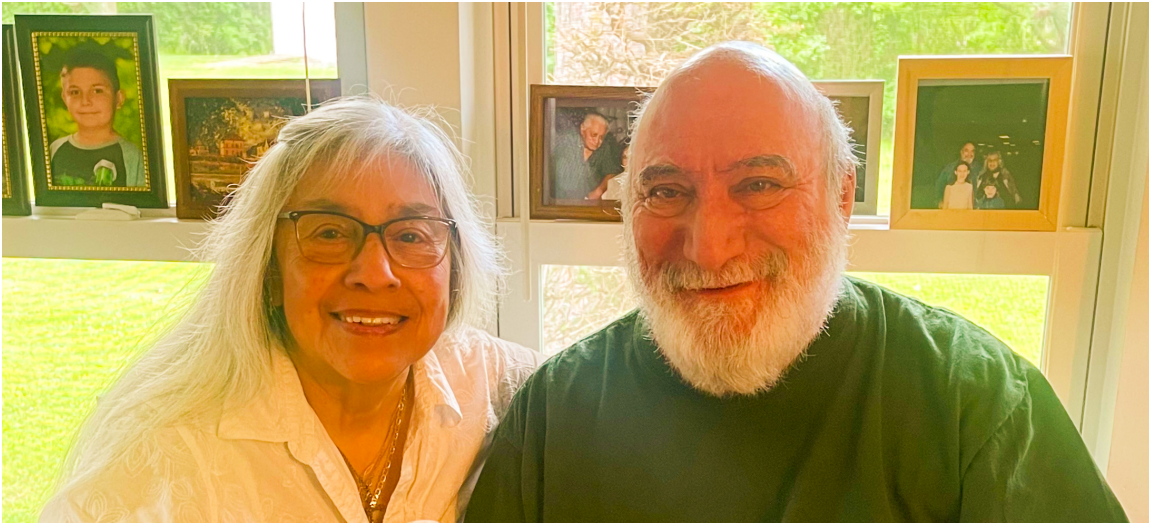
"They began to relate their experiences..."

When you have personal experiences based upon revelation of Christ, you have understanding, and can therefore explain these revelations and experiences to others.

"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— ²and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete." 1 John 1:1-4

¹⁷ Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16

Bill & Frances Furioso
~ At Christ's Table ~



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, discipled many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

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