



UNDERSTANDING COMMUNION

You may have been a partaker of Communion for all your life, but do you understand the true meaning of it? A study of Communion can be a soul-stirring experience because of the depth of meaning it contains. That's why engaging with these biblical insights from Derek Prince on the power of Communion can help to re-vitalise your experience of it!

Communion is a proclamation of your faith

I believe the Bible reveals several aspects of the Communion, aspects that speak of your relationship to Christ, to Christ's body, and to the world. Let's start with the words of Paul in First Corinthians 11:26:

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

You may not be a preacher by ministry or calling. But when you partake of these emblems, you are making a proclamation of tremendous significance. You are proclaiming to the whole universe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died and shed His blood on your behalf to redeem you. You are proclaiming your faith in Him as Saviour. You are proclaiming your faith in His atoning death on your behalf.

You are not merely proclaiming this truth to our fellow believers. Rather, you are proclaiming it to the world. Even more importantly, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord to the whole unseen realm. It is an authoritative, powerful act of proclamation.

Communion is an act of remembrance

When you take Communion, you look back to His death. Jesus Himself made the point about remembrance, as quoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:25: *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

Then Paul adds the aspect of remembering His death in verse 26: *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*

I am convinced that a lot of Christians go through much spiritual trouble because their minds are not focused on the death of Jesus. They say, “I wonder if God loves me. Has God forgotten me?” You could not talk like that if you remembered the cross. The cross is the ultimate demonstration of God’s love for each of us.

Hear again the words in Romans 8:32:

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

This is the guarantee that the total inheritance is yours. God is saying, “It is so important—especially in times of darkness, testing and pressure—that my people enact this sacrament and this ordinance. By taking the Lord’s Supper, you will continually remember the fact of Jesus’ death and sacrifice for you.”

I have become absolutely convinced that believers should be regularly remembering the Lord’s death. It is said that Smith Wigglesworth, one of the great pioneer evangelists of the Pentecostal movement, wanted to take Communion wherever he could get it. During his evangelistic travels, he literally went looking for any church having a Communion service. When he found one, he went in and shared in that sacrament. I truly believe that many of our problems—spiritual,

emotional, psychological—are due to the fact we don’t remember the Lord’s death often enough.

Communion is an act of anticipation

Another aspect of Communion in relationship to Jesus is anticipation. Let’s read 1 Corinthians 11:26 once again—this time paying close attention to the ending:

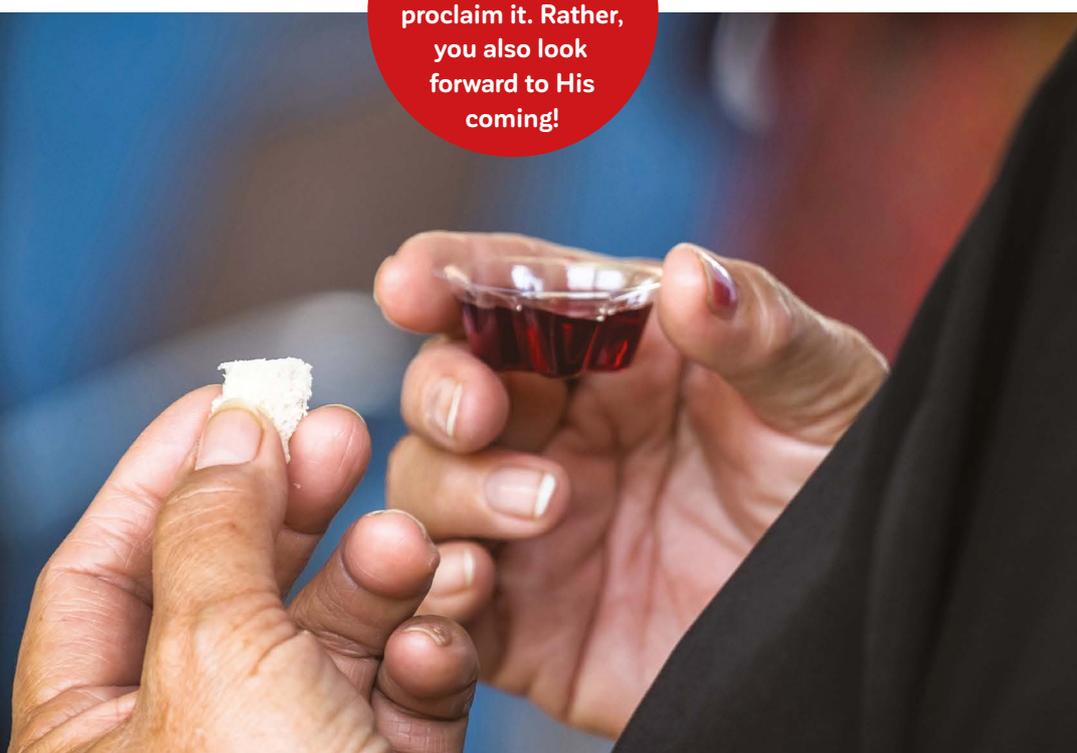
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death [but not forever] until He comes.

You do not merely look back to His death and proclaim it. Rather, you also look forward to His coming! Every time you observe this ordinance, you are reminding yourself of these two truths: first of all, that Jesus died on the cross for your sins; secondly, that He is coming again!

If you and I could really live—moment to moment—in the consciousness that Jesus died for you and me in the past and that He is coming for you and me in the future, many of our bouts of depression and dark moods would never arise.

There were periods in past revivals and renewals when Christians were very conscious of the coming of the Lord. Even their conversation was marked with an expectancy—as if the Lord was coming within the next five years. But then, He didn’t come. As a result, we

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have seen the wrong kind of reaction: “Well, it’s foolish to talk about the Lord’s coming.”

However, as far as I am concerned, it is not foolish to talk about the Lord’s coming. I believe the Lord is coming, and I believe He is coming quickly.

No matter what we do as the Body of Christ, I am convinced that the only ultimate solution to earth’s problems is the return of Jesus. If He doesn’t come back, we are in a mess we will never get out of.

Communion is an act of participation

The next aspect of Communion in relationship to Christ’s body is *participation*. Let’s examine John 6:53–58:

So 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.” verse 53

Like all orthodox Christians of all ages, I believe in the resurrection of the body as part of the Apostles’ Creed. If I am right, it seems to me that what the Lord is saying in this verse is something like this: “When you partake of the bread and of the cup in faith, something happens to your physical body that guarantees that I will resurrect it.”

When you take Communion in faith, from then on your body is different from the body of a person who has never partaken of the body and blood of the Lord. There will be a moment when the Lord commands the archangel Gabriel to sound the trumpet—when He gives the shout that will arouse the dead in Christ. You will come forth with a new, glorified body; new in the sense of being glorified—but the same in the sense of having the same constituent parts that your body had when it was still alive.

Digging deeper into God’s word

Perhaps this study has moved you personally to place a greater emphasis on the observance of the Lord’s Supper. Let’s ask God to begin to prepare your heart right now with the following prayer:

“Heavenly Father, how deeply grateful I am for this beautiful sacrament of Communion—given to us by Jesus the night before His crucifixion. Thank you that as I partake, I am receiving life from You and celebrating the eternal life You have brought to me.

I prepare my heart now to meet You at every opportunity I will have to partake of this wonderful sacrament of Holy Communion. Amen.”

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1 How would you describe your experience with partaking Communion: as a celebration, a tradition, a personal experience you enjoy?

2 A lot of Christians experience spiritual trouble because their minds are not focused on the death of Jesus. They say, “I wonder if God loves me. Has God forgotten me?” Do you ever feel that way? How can Communion help you deal with such thoughts and change your attitude towards life?

3 Derek Prince described several aspects of Communion. What was new to you or became more vivid?

4 If someone asked you to describe the importance and meaning of Communion, how would you respond now?

My testimony of faith

A PROCLAMATION ABOUT THE VICTORY OF JESUS

We overcome Satan when we testify personally to what the Word of God says the blood of Jesus does for us: **1**

Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil. **2**

Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven. **3**

Through the blood of Jesus, I am continually being cleansed from all sin. **4**

Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I'd never sinned. **5**

Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God. **6**

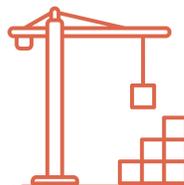
Through the blood of Jesus, I have boldness to enter into the presence of God. **7**

The blood of Jesus cries out continually to God in heaven on my behalf. **8**

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- 1** Revelation 12:11 **2** Ephesians 1:7 **3** 1 John 1:9
4 1 John 1:7 **5** Romans 5:9
6 Hebrews 13:12 **7** Hebrews 10:19 **8** Hebrews 12:24

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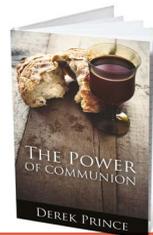


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