

CGI Canada Newsletter

Answers to Questions about
The Day of Pentecost

Life is but a dream!

Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-47

**The Secret Thing Men Want More Than
Love (And How To Give It To Them)**

**Sabbath Service
info for May**



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the May edition.

You may (or may not) have noticed that I've featured a picture of the Holy Bible on the front cover and on this page of the May issue. Why? Because I want to remind you that reading and studying your bible every day will not only guide you to live a Kingdom bound life, but it will also inspire and comfort you throughout the year. So don't delay... read yours today!

This month's featured article is **Answers to Questions about The Day of Pentecost** by Elder Vance Stinson, followed by **Life Is But A Dream!** by Elder Horane Smith. **Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-47** - is a Lesson from our Sabbath Keeping Youth Archive, then read **The Secret Thing Men Want More Than Love**. Enjoy our **Member Spotlight** and some pics from the services on the **First and Last Days of Unleavened Bread**. Also enjoy **Standing Firm in your calling in 2025** by David & Elizabeth Townson, followed by **Brunner Hill Blessings** from Herb & Janet Jacobs.

If you have an interest in providing Content for the monthly newsletter please contact me at the email below. I'd love to hear from you!

Psalms 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"



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Answers to Questions about The Day of Pentecost

Elder Vance A. Stinson

The risen Lord said to His disciples, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). The Source and the purpose of that power are brought out clearly in the book of Acts: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 2:8).

The Promise of the Father was the Holy Spirit, which would come upon the disciples and empower them as they went about doing the work Jesus had assigned to them. As witnesses to the risen Saviour, the disciples were to “preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15) and “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...[and] teaching them to observe all things” Jesus had commanded (Matthew 28:19,20). But they would be unable to accomplish this mission in their own strength. They needed power—power from on high. They needed the Holy Spirit to guide them, enlighten them, motivate them, and work through them in convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8–15).

The Spirit did come upon them, just as Jesus had promised. The day the Holy Spirit came was a very special day, the first day of a new era in God’s plan of redemption. That day was the **Day of Pentecost**.

Let’s focus our attention on this important holy day, its original meaning, what Scripture says about it, and what it means to the Church of God today. One of the best ways to study a subject is to divide the subject into several study categories, and address each category with a question. The following questions and answers should help people new to the holy days gain a good understanding of the meaning of Pentecost, and (hopefully) provide a fairly good review for those who have been keeping the annual festivals for many years.

Where is Pentecost found in the Old Testament?

The word Pentecost is not in the Old Testament, but the holy day that would come to be known by that name is described there. The word is derived from the Greek, and means “fiftieth.” This holy day falls on the fiftieth day— hence the name— from the day the sheaf of the firstfruits of the grain harvest is waved (Leviticus 23:15–21). In the Old Testament, the festival is called the “**Feast of Weeks**” (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10, 16), signifying the seven weeks of the spring harvest. It is also called the “**Feast of Harvest**” (Exodus 23:16) and “**Day of the Firstfruits**” (Numbers 28:26).

What did this festival mean for ancient Israel?

The Feast of Weeks was a thanksgiving festival. The men of Israel, with their families and servants, as well as the Levites, widows, orphans, and strangers dwelling in their land, were to “rejoice before the LORD” at the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:11). In other words, they were to come before God with thanksgiving for the blessing of the harvest and all that He had done for them.

They were also to remember that they had been slaves in Egypt (verse 12). Remembering that experience helped motivate them to have compassion for the servants, for the poor, and for the strangers (including Egyptians) who dwelt among them.

The Feast of Weeks reminded Israel of the terms of the Covenant. God had promised that if the people would diligently obey His commandments, He would cause great blessings to come upon them. “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks...The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you...And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand” (Deuteronomy 28:4, 8, 11, 12).

What does this festival mean for the New Testament church?

Let’s first look at some terms that are used in the Old Testament. God said, “When you [Israelites] come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Leviticus 23:10,11).

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Answers to Questions about The Day of Pentecost cont'd

The sheaf of the firstfruits was to be waved on a Sunday ("the day after the Sabbath"). Like the Sadducees, Samaritans, and some others in the time of Christ, we take this to mean the Sunday that falls within the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Now let's look at the New Testament.

Paul writes, *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming"* (1 Corinthians 15:20–23).

Christ was presented alive before God on the very morning the sheaf of the firstfruits was waved. When Mary Magdalene recognized Him that morning, He said to her, *"Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God'"* (John 20:17).

The symbolism is unmistakable. The sheaf of the firstfruits clearly pictures Christ and His being presented alive before the Father.

But remember, the waving of the firstfruits sheaf occurs on the first day of a seven-week harvest (Leviticus 23:15). The day after the Sabbath of the seventh week is the Feast of Weeks (verses 16). Notice what happens on this day: *"You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD....The priest shall wave them [certain sacrificial offerings] with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD....And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it..."* (verses 17, 20, 21).

Now, let's go back to the New Testament.

James writes, *"Of His Own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we [we Christians] might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures"* (James 1:18). James is speaking of the "church militant," or church in this world. And in Revelation 14, the 144,000 who are *"redeemed from the earth"* and who *"follow the Lamb wherever He goes"* are called *"firstfruits to God and to the Lamb"* (verses 3,4). This is a prophetic picture of the glorified church.

If the sheaf of the firstfruits waved on the first day of the harvest represents Christ the Firstfruits, then the wave loaves must represent the church— the *"firstfruits of His creatures."* And since the wave sheaf pictures Christ in His resurrected glory, the wave loaves picture not only the present church but also the "church triumphant," or church in its resurrected /transformed glory. The seven weeks of harvest between the wave sheaf and the wave loaves remind us of the ongoing harvest of lives for the Kingdom of God—the work of gathering the "firstfruits" for the time when they will be presented before the Father alive, just as Christ the Firstfruits was.

For us, the Feast of Weeks—or Day of Pentecost—is both a memorial of the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and an encouraging reminder of our glorious future. It is also an annual reminder of our responsibility to *"live in the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:25), *"walk in the Spirit"* (verses 16, 25), be *"led by the Spirit"* (verse 18), produce the *"fruit of the Spirit"* (verses 22, 23), and *"quench not the Spirit"* (1 Thessalonians 5:19, KJV).

Why don't you observe Pentecost on the fixed calendar date of Sivan 6?

We believe the original instructions for calculating Pentecost call for waving the firstfruits sheaf on a Sunday. That puts the Day of Pentecost— fifty days later—on a Sunday. The fifty-day count begins with the Sunday of Unleavened Bread. But from year to year, that Sunday occurs at different points within the Feast. Therefore the Day of Pentecost, occurring fifty days later and always on a Sunday, can occur on different calendar dates.

Scholars have made arguments for both sides of the issue. We believe that an honest weighing of the evidence on both sides tips the scale in favour of a Sunday Pentecost. (continued on the next page)



Answers to Questions about

The Day of Pentecost cont'd

First, the wording of the text itself strongly supports this view: “And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count 50 days to the day after the seventh Sabbath...” (Leviticus 23:15, 16).

Notice that the count begins on the day after a Sabbath, takes in seven Sabbaths, and concludes on the day after the seventh Sabbath. To us, there is no ambiguity here. The day after the Sabbath is a Sunday. Count 50 days and you wind up on another Sunday. As if that were not clear enough, we are told the fiftieth day is the day after the seventh Sabbath. That would be Sunday!

But Sivan 6 advocates are not satisfied with that simple understanding of the word Sabbath. They claim that the first “Sabbath” here is the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—an annual Sabbath. They then claim that the “Sabbaths” between that day and Pentecost are not Sabbath days, but “weeks”—seven consecutive periods consisting of seven days each—that may or may not end with a Sabbath. If we take “seven Sabbaths” to mean “seven weeks,” and “seventh Sabbath” to mean “seventh week,” then why don’t we take “day after the Sabbath” to mean “day after the week”?

Taken that way, we might be inclined to think that the “day after the week” refers to the day after the “week” called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a seven-day Feast (Leviticus 23:6–8), and the instructions for counting Pentecost come only a few verses after mention of the “seventh day” of this Feast, which is both an annual Sabbath and the end of a specific seven-day period (see verses 8–11).

But if we take “Sabbath” (Hebrew: Shabbat) in its ordinary sense, then the most logical and consistent conclusion is that the “day after the Sabbath” means the day after the weekly Sabbath—Sunday!

Second, Scripture gives calendar dates for Passover, the first and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but not for the Day of Pentecost. This seems odd, especially if this day was (as the later rabbis claimed) a memorial of the giving of the law at Sinai. The law may have been given on the Day of Pentecost, but Scripture does not say so. Some scholars believe that the fixed calendar date for Pentecost was established after the rabbis began viewing this holy day as a memorial of the giving of the law.

Third, Scripture instructs us to count to the Day of Pentecost. This is evidence, though not of itself conclusive, that the original Pentecost did not occur on a particular calendar date, but was calculated by counting from a day that could fall at various points within the Days of Unleavened Bread.

These are some of the most basic points favouring a Sunday Pentecost, but there is much additional evidence. (If you are interested in a more thorough study of this subject, we invite you to view a free copy of our booklet here: [Should We Observe Pentecost on Sivan 6?](#))

Why do you count from the Sunday of Unleavened Bread rather than the weekly Sabbath that falls within the Days of Unleavened Bread?

The Bible does not say that the fifty-day count should or must begin during or even near the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Pharisees and the Sadducees, though they adhered to different counting rules, started the count within the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Essenes apparently started the count on the day after the Feast, though they used a calendar different from the one the Pharisees and Sadducees used.

These traditions have a common thread: All of them connect the wave sheaf and count to Pentecost with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The common element most likely reflects the intent of the original instructions. In other words, it appears that God intended that the fifty-day count connect Unleavened Bread with Pentecost.

The question, however, still remains. Should we begin our count with the Sunday that falls within Unleavened Bread? Or should we begin with the weekly Sabbath that falls within the Feast? Since Scripture does not say, someone must decide what to do.

(continued on the next page)



Answers to Questions about

The Day of Pentecost cont'd

There are theological reasons for starting the count to Pentecost with the Sunday that falls within Unleavened Bread. Christ was raised from the dead and presented alive before the Father during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Feast pictures Christ as the “Bread of Life” upon which we depend for spiritual sustenance. It seems logical, then, that the day that pictures Christ as the Firstfruits of God’s spiritual harvest would occur within the Feast that so powerfully portrays His redemptive work.

Of secondary importance is the probability that the Sadducees, Samaritans, and others who observed a Sunday Pentecost began their count with a Sunday within the Days of Unleavened Bread. Here’s what the eleventh edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica has to say: “The first-fruits of the barley harvest are to be gathered on the ‘morrow of the sabbath’ (Lev. xxiii. II). This expression has formed the subject of dispute between Samaritans and other sectaries and the Jews [i.e., the Pharisees], the former of whom regard it as referring to the first Sunday during the festival, the latter as a special expression for the second day of the festival itself...” (Vol. 20. article: “Passover,” p. 889, emphasis added).

The church observed a Monday Pentecost until 1974. Why was it changed?

Long before the change took place, a good many ministers and lay members had doubts about the way the church determined the date for Pentecost. In 1974, the issue was reexamined, and the result was a change in the way the church counted days leading to Pentecost.

Leviticus 23:15 says that we are to count “*from the day after the Sabbath.*” It was reasoned that “from” means “away from,” which suggests counting exclusively rather than inclusively.

The remedy for the error involves a simple reading of Leviticus 23:15,16. The count is from the day after the Sabbath, and to the day after the seventh Sabbath, for a total of fifty days. The text itself strongly suggests that the counting (from a Sunday to a Sunday equals fifty days) is inclusive. In other words, it includes that initial “day after the Sabbath.” That’s the first day of the count. If you start on a Sunday and count fifty days, the fiftieth day will be a Sunday. (Recall that the word Pentecost means “fiftieth.”) There’s no mention of a “fifty-first” day, and not a hint that the Day of Pentecost is the day after the fiftieth day.

Did the early New Testament church continue observing the Day of Pentecost in the years that followed the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Of course. The first disciples of Jesus were Jewish, and the Day of Pentecost was an important Feast for all the Jews. For the disciples, though, it became all the more important when the Holy Spirit came on that day (Acts 2). It took on new and much more profound meaning. Abandoning such a meaningful festival was out of the question.

In addition to Acts 2, two other New Testament texts mention Pentecost. The first is Acts 20:16: “*For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.*” The second is 1 Corinthians 16:8: “*But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost,*” says Paul.

Standing alone, these texts do not conclusively prove that the early Christians observed the Day of Pentecost. But the fact that Paul mentions Pentecost to Gentile converts indicates they were familiar with it—and their familiarity with the holy day suggests that they observed it.

The historical record shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that the early church observed the Day of Pentecost. The manner of its observance was modified over time, but many of the early theologians and apologists mentioned Pentecost as a Christian Feast. It is extremely unlikely that some second-century theologians one day just decided to begin observing Pentecost. Doubtless, their practice was a carryover from the earlier, apostolic church. Ω



Life is but a dream!

Elder Horane Smith

I recall singing in my early childhood this nursery rhyme:

*Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream.*

Somehow, I can't seem to remember the entire song, but what has always stood out to this day is that last line, Life is but a dream. Perhaps it's the significance of our reality as human beings. The futility of life rings a familiar bell not only to me but should be to everyone who has ever been born.

The rest of the song hasn't stuck in my mind, yet that phrase about the temporariness of life speaks volumes. How often do we stop in our tracks from our busy chores to focus on our walk as human beings and the stark possibility of being here today and gone tomorrow? Maybe not too many of us. Some may fear doing such reflections; we often have a propensity to want to avoid the subject of death or what happens when the breath of life goes. Understandably so, because we live as if we will never die and death is not for us. We fear the unknown.

The Holy Bible speaks a lot about life and its temporariness. It describes this life as vapour. ***"For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away,"*** James 4:14.

It also compares life to grass. Isa. 40:6-8, ***"The voice said, 'Cry out!' And he said, 'What shall I cry?' ' All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."***

Ecc. 1: 2-4, ***"Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever."*** (continued on next page)



Life is but a dream!

cont'd

There is no doubt that life is fickle. This civilization is headed for destruction. However, all is not lost. There's one whose death has brought about life. A different kind of life from what we know. It's eternal life – live forever.

Life without the limitations of time. A concept known as eternity which is very hard for us to grasp in our finite existence. The Bible puts it this way, ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him,”*** 1 Cor. 2:9.

Life, God's life, through his Son Jesus, the Christ, has been sacrificed for us so we can escape this temporary life that leads to eternal death. ***“Jesus died so that we may live so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised,”*** 2 Corinthians 5:15.

“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Phil 2: 6-8.

Romans 5: 9-10 spells the significance of Christ's death even more profoundly. ***“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”***

While we prepared to partake of the New Testament Passover, drinking of His blood symbolized by wine, and eating of His broken body represented by bread, we would have remembered 1 Cor. 11:26, ***“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he comes.”***

Life is certainly a dream, however, it can become a reality when we accept the shed blood of the Christ for the remission of our sins and we exalt Him above everything else, knowing in the fullness of time this temporary life will be transformed into a new life – life eternal.

Ω



Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-47

(A Lesson from our Sabbath Keeping Youth archives!)

In 2025, Pentecost is Sunday June 1st

Before reading the story, here are some facts one should know about Pentecost.

Pentecost is the Greek word for “50.” Another name for Pentecost is “Feast of Weeks”. This name comes from counting seven weeks or fifty days after the first Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The law defining how to count is found in Leviticus 23:9-21. In other words, one begins and ends counting with a Sunday, hence a Sunday is the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost is the anniversary of the founding of the New Testament church. The same Spirit, which was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost, is available to all whom God calls. Upon true repentance granted by God and a true belief in Jesus Christ, one may be baptized and then receive God’s Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony (Acts 2:38; 8:12-17).

After Jesus was crucified, He rose again and many of His disciples saw Him alive. Both in Jerusalem and in Galilee He walked among them for forty days. The day came when Jesus ascended into heaven, while the disciples watched. Before He did, He told them not to leave Jerusalem, but wait until they were “*clothed with power from on high*” (Luke 24:49).

When the Day of Pentecost arrived, the apostles and other followers of Christ waited in the Upper Room. While waiting, they chose Matthias to take the place of Judas as one of the Twelve disciples. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Then there appeared, what looked to be, tongues of fire resting on each person. Each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages.

At the time this took place, there were Jews and devout men from every nation in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. When the multitude heard the news about the apostles’ speaking, they were confused and amazed. It was odd to them to hear their language spoken by men from Galilee. There were those who asked, “What does this mean?” while others mocked the apostles saying, “*These men are full of new wine*” (Acts 2:12-13).

Peter stood up with the other eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “*Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and heed my words. We are not drunk as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.*” He went on to inform them that God was fulfilling the promise He had made in prophecy to Joel (Joel 2:28-29). Peter continued to speak powerfully about the life, works, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pentecost was no longer just a festival for Israel, but for all people.

The hearts of the people listening to Peter were moved. They asked Peter what they must do. Peter told them to turn away from sin, repent and be baptized. Then those who gladly received his words were baptized. That same day, three thousand people were baptized. All that believed were together and owned all things in common. They sold their possessions and goods and divided the money among all the people and worshipped together daily.

Are you listening to the message given to all people everywhere about Pentecost? Christ speaks to and offers salvation to everyone. Christ is not concerned about your color, race or language. Peter spoke boldly on Pentecost. It didn’t matter the language, everyone could hear the Gospel message. Are you listening to the message? Ω

THE SECRET THING MEN WANT MORE THAN LOVE (AND HOW TO GIVE IT TO THEM)



Last month we featured an interesting article for the young Sisters in the church titled "**15 Tips Every Woman Should Consider Before She Says 'I Do.'**"

Is it love or infatuation? Now that you have your check list of some of the things to look for to tell if he loves you, **do you have what it takes to be his partner for life?**

It is natural for us as human beings to be selfish and to put ourselves first in relationships. Added to that is the fact that men and women have very different needs hierarchy, which can make it even more difficult for us to please each other.

It can also be difficult to figure out exactly what men desire, especially when it seems as though they don't communicate quite the same as women. This means women, in particular, know less about what men want, both in life and relationships.

Reading men isn't easy; they don't just come out and tell you what they want, after all. But it's not just physical attraction that men look for in a woman who is marriage material. Men look for a woman who is not only a good looking person, but someone who has some very specific traits that make her stand out from everyone else. That is the reason why some men can have intimate relationships with women they would never choose to be their wives. They can have a physical attraction without any emotional attachments.

Let's be very clear, every man is going to want something a little different in a woman, based on a number of factors, including personality and socialization, but he certainly won't disagree with these fundamental traits, which you should consider.

If you're a woman and you don't understand how men think or what they're "about," then you might be forgiven for thinking that all men want a nice girl to love and eventually settle down with.

Love is as important to men as it is to women (and sometimes more so) however, **there is this one thing he wants more deeply and profoundly than love.**

What men want more than love (and than anything else) – so much that most of them can't even express it as a need – is **RESPECT**.


Men want to be respected by others, especially their significant other before he can even think about love. However, the man in your life may not even realize that or know how to communicate it. He may be totally unaware of his great need for respect because nobody ever talks about it and there is no clue in his life (most of the time) that could inform him of it.

Most men have learned from competing against other boys from school when they were small that being able to achieve their goals and gain skills in something, whether it be a sport, a difficult or dangerous activity or by being braver or wittier than others, grants them respect from others (it is a learnt behaviour).

Most importantly, he wants his significant other to get his advice and trust his judgement about the things that are important to both of them. Only when a man is able to feel competent to the point that others respect him can he find time to think about other things such as love. **As a woman, you need to understand that treating your man without respect will never win you his heart.**

So whether it be a mild joke about something he's not good at or a criticism levelled by a wife to her husband of many years, if a woman isn't careful, the man she loves will not feel that she has earned his TRUST - as he interprets her lack of **RESPECT** as a betrayal of his love.

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THE SECRET THING MEN WANT MORE THAN LOVE (AND HOW TO GIVE IT TO THEM) cont'd

Now that you have ticked off the #1 item on the list of things to consider, there are some other things you need to understand about your significant other.

To be sure, some of the things that men expect of their wives are the same things women expect of their husbands, however, there are some fundamentals that are gender specific that should not be overlooked.

Some expectations hold true for both men and women, but these are fundamental for men.

A KIND HEART

A kindhearted woman is thoughtful, loving, and caring. When she smiles at a man, he has no choice but to reciprocate. Her smile and energy are infectious and inspire him to be a better person. A woman who radiates warmth from her heart does small things for her partner just because she loves him. (of course, a good man will do the same for her). Men want to marry the type of woman who goes out of her way to make him happy in any small way she can. He looks forward to coming home to a happy, friendly face after a long, hard day's work (1 Peter 3:4)

UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY

Being compassionate, supportive, and staying encouraging towards a partner is a huge part of building a successful relationship. Nobody wants to share life with someone who won't support them in their endeavours or in times of need. Life is full of challenges that a couple will face together, particularly a married couple. But empathy is a big trait men secretly want in a wife. He wants a woman who can handle challenges with him as a team, all while remaining understanding of his wants and needs, and lending a shoulder to cry on, if he needs it (do you believe that?)

AMBITION

In addition to supporting and encouraging her partner's own goals and dreams, men want a woman who has her own set of goals and dreams. She lives by her own personal aspirations, not what others intend for her to do. An ambitious woman has a vision for her future and chases after it with voracity. She will be someone he can take on the world with, and be a teammate in life. Nothing should be too difficult for them to overcome together. (Pro. 31:10-31)

CONSISTENCY

Think of consistency as the opposite of volatility. If she's unpredictable and volatile, it's difficult to know how she will act on a given day. This stands no matter how outwardly beautiful she is. Another way to be consistent is to be authentic throughout the entire dating process. She shouldn't send her "representative" self for the first few months of dating and then drastically change once he's committed! Instead, men want women who remain true to themselves. Being consistent is a valuable virtue that every man wants in a wife. And staying authentic not only improves a woman's chance of landing the man she wants, but keeps her confident as well.

SOMEONE WHO PUTS IN THE EFFORT

Sometimes the romance wears off in long-term relationships, but don't let it. It just takes a little bit of consistent effort to keep things going. It can be something as simple as planning a surprise outing for him, cooking him his favourite meal, or renting a movie he's been wanting to watch. Be creative, don't let the fire go out. Furthermore, a woman who continues to do what she knows her partner was attracted to in the beginning, shows she cares about keeping them around. And that is definite wife material.

SHARED VALUES

Many times, our value system comes from our upbringing and includes things that are important to us, what we believe strongly in, ways we treat others, and ways we treat ourselves. It doesn't matter how attracted you are to someone or how well you get along — if your values don't align, you will clash in the long-term.

So, similar values equals wife potential, but don't compromise your own values in the process. Remember this doesn't mean you are identical and have similar personalities. (continued on the next page)

THE SECRET THING MEN WANT MORE THAN LOVE (AND HOW TO GIVE IT TO THEM) cont'd

PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

Yes, both men and women need to be physically attracted to their partner to start a relationship. However, attractiveness also plays an important role in holding the relationship together. That's not to say that a woman has to fit a certain image of beauty in order to be considered wife material or to keep her man; every man is attracted to a different type of woman and has his own personal tastes, after all. Growing old together can bring about physical changes in both men and women. Learn how to embrace each other's imperfections.

SOMEONE WHO'S FRIENDLY AND SOCIAL

When men are out and about, they want someone by their side during those situations. He wants someone he can find himself with at events or when hanging out with friends. Men look for a sociable personality in a woman he wants to marry, not someone who gives off negative energy or attitude from being in social situations or when meeting friends, family or coworkers.

A SENSE OF HUMOUR

We know how important it is to women for the man in their life to have a good sense of humour, but it's equally important in the other direction. Men want a woman who can laugh, whether it's at his funny jokes or other humorous things. If a guy has a great sense of humour, it will be lost on a woman who is too dry or stiff. Furthermore, it could cause tension if he's often joking around and she becomes annoyed due to her seriousness. A couple needs to be able to be playful and joke around with each other. It helps lighten the mood, makes extended periods of time together more fun, and never gets old. A woman that shares his type of humour is what any man wants in a wife and partner.

LOVE AND AFFECTION

It is often said that women need affection, but it goes without saying that being loving and affectionate symbolizes connection and this is applicable, especially in marital relationships. It brings a warm and loving feeling, and makes a man feel truly loved, appreciated, and needed. It would be difficult to build a long-term relationship with a woman who shrugs off a man's needs and wants. Instead, he's going to look for a woman who is loving and caring, leading with her heart.

This list might not be exhaustive, but it covered some of the fundamentals of what a woman needs to know about the man she intends to marry.

HAPPY DATING

So Now That You're Thinking About Marriage...What Makes You Think That You're Ready?

Many Women Get Married And Then Find They Did It For The Wrong Reason... What Are Some Of The Red Flags?

- ▶ I'm Lonely
- ▶ I'm Getting Old
- ▶ I'm A Christian
- ▶ I Got Pregnant
- ▶ I Want Children
- ▶ My Friends Are Doing It
- ▶ Financial Security
- ▶ Parental Pressure
- ▶ Societal Pressure

Pay attention to the red flags. If you have any doubts it's best to seek individual and/or couple's counselling.

Ω

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Featured in this month's Member Spotlight is CGI Deaconess **Euis Daniel**. Sister Euis has been affiliated with the Church of God Sabbath keeping culture for many years, actually over half a century now. Her first contact was with The Worldwide C.O.G., and she is a valued member of the CGI Toronto Congregation. She has always been involved with the Music Ministry; first as a Choir Member and now as Director formally, and currently. She has studied music for most of her years - starting at the early age of 8 yrs old, including training in piano and professional vocal and voice training to operatic level. She has blessed us during many Sabbath services with her beautiful operatic voice. Sister Euis was ordained into the Deaconate of CGI in the Year 2012 where she currently serves in the Prayer and Mercy Ministry as well as the Music Ministry.

Why Should God's People Pray To God?

A Study Topic by David Townson



Prayers of the Saints

Revelation 5:7-9

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Revelation 8:3-5

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Why do you think God values the prayers of the Saints enough to keep them in bowls beside His throne?

Read **Philippians 4:6 & Colossians 4:2**

Ω

Pics from 1st Day of Unleavened Bread in Puslinch



Pics from Last Day of Unleavened Bread in Puslinch



Standing Firm in Your Calling in 2025

STAND FAST, STAND FIRM & STAND TALL...

By David & Margaret Townson

Standing fast reminds gardeners and farmers to stay rooted and grounded - thoughts that relate to living courageously, fearlessly in God's strength.

Standing firm suggests no fear of falling, only possible if we stay grounded in God's Word.

Standing tall suggests courage - the courage of our convictions based on both God's Word and prayer.

Now looking into the Bible for evidence of **STANDING** in confidence in God... not slouching as unsure, fearful and frightened!

Ephesians 6:13-16

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Romans 11:20; Again other translations say "Stand Firm!"

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Again an indication of 'standing tall, firm, solid...' and "holding fast"...

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
Standing fast in one spirit- God's Spirit- similar to standing firm!

Philippians 1:27

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Spiritual life depends on standing fast IN THE LORD.

1 Thessalonians 3:8

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. Spiritual life depends on standing fast IN THE LORD.

Brethren, as we grow older, it is sometimes quite difficult to stand tall physically and that serves as a constant reminder of Standing Tall... in God's strength!

LET'S USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO STAND FAST and TALL, FIRMLY IN THE LORD.

That is how God means us to live... thriving and fearless trusting in God- staying close to God in His Word, in Prayer, in Fellowship and Service!

(continued on the next page)

Standing Firm in Your Calling in 2025

STAND FAST, STAND FIRM & STAND TALL...

David & Margaret Townson



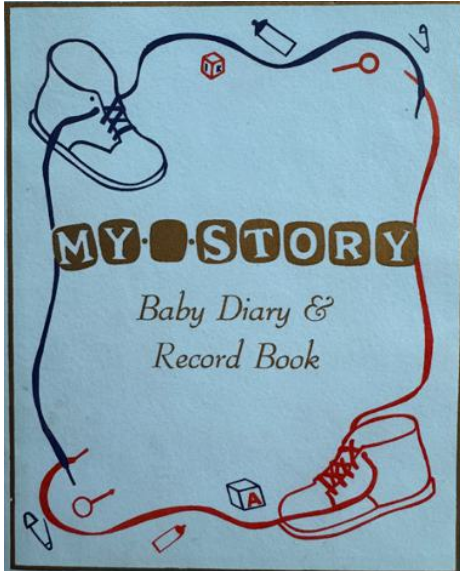
*Pictured above: David and Margaret Townson
standing in their garden... 'grounded'!*



By Janet & Herb Jacobs

Threescore and Blessed with More?

When I (Herb writing this to the Church of God International Canada), recently reviewed my early birth records, some of my thoughts would turn to the **Old Testament**.



According to my Birth Certificate and early records, I (Karl Herbert Jacobs) was born on May 11, 1963, at 3:38 am, in the Stratford General Hospital, weighing 4 lbs 8 ounces, with blue eyes. As I was a

preemie, possibly my birth date should have been changed to my expected arrival date, that happened to be my Father's (KFJ) birth date of June 4.

I was blessed to make it through the incubator stage (no warming oven above the stove for me) and came home when I weighed 5 lbs.

Fast forward threescore years and my beautiful wife Janet gave me a nice celebration so everyone could rub in the "over the hill" stuff. One score previous, it was "Lordy Lordy Look Who's 40". Others on the more generous side would say life is just beginning.

My thought about turning 60, was that I have been blessed with 21,915 days, and God willing, with a chance for 3,653 more days (10 years). This would be the 3 score and 10 as we see from the **Holy Bible in Psalms 90:10**, "**The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and**

sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."



Blest for me, I reached the 30 score; look at all the people that do not even reach one score or even one year.

As this is the time of year for Passover, we reflect from The Holy Bible in Exodus 12:12-13, "12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you...".

Also, from the Holy Bible, the Gospel of Matthew tells us of the male children 2 years old and younger, Matthew 2:16, "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old

and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men."

You may wonder what score means?

Growing up, a score of 20 meant you were close to winning at horseshoes. I also liked a hockey "score" of Montreal 3 versus Toronto 1. As I was a bit of a sersuck, it helped that the Canadiens were a winning team at the time, since brother Steve, was the hopeful Leaf's fan.

More recently, as my mother-in-law at 103 years old remains a huge Leaf's fan, I do not mind if the score is now Toronto 3 and Montreal 1.



We often hear, "That Matthew - what a guy!". (Matthew is the Dutch pronunciation for Matthews - in reference to Austin Matthews of the Leafs and not Matthew the Disciple/Apostle).

We are all winners through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As a youngster, I also liked to believe I had the wisdom of an old farmer and knew all the important measures. The easy ones were 5,250 feet to a mile, 43,560 square feet in an acre, and 16 ½ feet in a rod. Using the term 80 rods away (1/4 mile), would give some strange looks. If buying a tractor tire or similar item, I did not dare ask, "How many shekels for that?"

The bushel basket was an easy one to understand the measure, and to this day, my beautiful wife Janet loves these baskets and some even have coloured hoops.



After all that, from what I could find, this archaic term was used for counting large groups (**cows for example**), in groups of 20 and then "scoring" or marking a stick with each count.

Using the score terminology, as in the **King James Bible** translation, 3 score and 10 gives us 70 years and for some, fourscore or 80 years.

There are other verses in the **Bible** where "score" is used. In **Genesis 25:7**, "**And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.**"

This equates to $100 + (3 \times 20)$ or $60 + 15 = 175$ years.

In **Genesis 5:27**, "**So all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.**"; this equates to 48 score and 9, however, the "score" translation is not used.

Our years are further shortened from **Genesis 6:3**, "**And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.**"

This is quite a difference from 969 years to 175 years to 120 years and then to 70 years.

Possibly due to our sins, our years are now shortened, and I now wake up every morning with "**Thank-you Lord**" as the first thing I do or think about.

Blessings until next time,

Janet & Herb.

PENTECOST

SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025



“Astounding!” “Dumbfounding!” “What is the meaning of this?” “What is happening?”

These were the startled expressions coming from the mouths of a crowd of several thousand on the Day of Pentecost nearly two thousand years ago. Those who uttered these words of astonishment were mostly Jews and proselytes, with a sprinkling of Romans and other gentiles among them, who were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, or the fiftieth day following the offering of the wave sheaf. All knew it was the “Feast of the Firstfruits,” and that it was celebrated “on the morrow after the seventh Sabbath” following the wave sheaf ceremony. But none had the slightest inkling of what was to happen on this momentous day.

They were shocked, startled, puzzled! Then, by the thousands, they tearfully crowded around Christ’s apostles, asking to be baptized! They repented in droves at the inspired preaching of the apostles, who wore flickering, brilliant crowns of flame! Read, in your own Bible, of the miracles that took place on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection—of the miracle of Pentecost!

To read our FREE booklet about the miracle of Pentecost click here: [The Miracle of Pentecost](#)

CGI TORONTO FAMILY & FRIEND'S DAY



The Church of God International, Toronto Congregation will be hosting a 'Family & Friend's Day' on May 3, 2025, starting at 1:30pm.

Members are encouraged to bring a family member or a friend to an enlightening **"Life After Death"** presentation. Join **Elder Mike James** as he delves into profound topics such as the concepts of **heaven, hell, and the beliefs of the ancients.**

His presentation will address questions such as:

- **Can we still communicate with our deceased loved ones?**
- **What will happen when Christ returns?**
- **What are near-death experiences?**
- **What does the Bible truly say about Heaven and Hell?**

Elder Mike will also address difficult scriptures and provide insights into the second resurrection and the end of the **1000-yr Kingdom of God on Earth.**

Don't miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and find answers to these thought provoking questions. There will be a potluck after the presentation. Parking is FREE!



The presentation will be held at:
2737 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON
(Trinity Presbyterian Church premises,
corner of Bayview Ave. & Truman Road -
1 block south on Hwy. 401 at Bayview Ave.)

MAY SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

May 3 - Mike James
May 10 - Kenroy Allen
May 17 - Courtney Scarlett
May 24 - Horane Smith
May 31 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

May 3 - Rick Dubler
May 10 - Bernard Wilson
May 17 - Kenroy Allen
May 24 - Adam Dubler
May 31 - Heinrich Peters

Burlington

May 3 - Jan Kowalczyk
May 10 - Adrian Davis
May 17 - Murray Palmatier
May 24 - Jan Kowalczyk
May 31 - Adrian Davis

London

May 3 - Mel Rahel
May 10 - Rick Dubler
May 17 - Adam Dubler
May 24 - Bernard Wilson
May 31 - Horane Smith

Kawartha Lakes

May 3 - Larry Arnburg
May 10 - Horane Smith
May 17 - Taped Sermon
May 24 - Taped Sermon
May 31 - Jim French

Ottawa

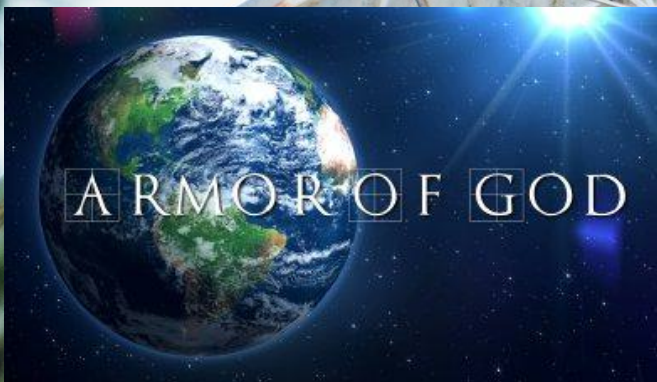
May 3 - Jim French
May 10 - Peter Wilcox
May 17 - Jim French
May 24 - David Townson
May 31 - Taped Sermon

Note: *Pentecost service - Sunday June 1/25

**For more info - see the Congregation websites
@ Cgicanada.org**

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