Unleavened Bread 2023 - Allowing Jesus Christ to Live In Us!

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Deuteronomy 16:3 NLT - Eat it with bread made without yeast. For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast, as when you escaped from Egypt in such a hurry. Eat this bread--the bread of suffering--so that as long as you live you will remember the day you departed from Egypt.

Specific Purpose of this message:

Today we will see that during these days of Unleavened Bread it is about more than just eating unleavened bread. It is about what it symbolically portrays - Us allowing the sinless Jesus Christ - the true unleavened bread - to live in our lives!

Need?
It is an annual reminder - for 7 days - that we need to put out and overcome sin, and replace it with Jesus Christ in us strengthening us to live a sin free life!

Galatians 5:7 NLT - You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth?
Galatians 5:8 NLT - It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom.
Galatians 5:9 NLT - This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!

1 Corinthians 5:6 KJV - Your glorying [is] not good. Know ye not that **a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**
1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV - Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

> His sacrifice cleanses us from sin.

1 Corinthians 5:8 KJV - Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with **the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth**.

Leaven = sin, malice, wickedness

From UCG Study Guide:
Today removing leaven from our homes for seven days reminds us that we, too, through prayer and God's help and understanding, must recognize, expel and avoid sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is thus a time of personal reflection. We should meditate on our attitudes and conduct and ask God to help us recognize and overcome our shortcomings.

2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV - Examine yourselves [as to] whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you**?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

Romans 8:9 NKJV - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
Romans 8:10 NKJV - And if Christ [is] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin, but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.
Romans 8:11 NKJV - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

John 6:1 NLT - After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias.
John 6:2 NLT - A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.
John 6:3 NLT - Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him.
John 6:4 NLT - (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.)
John 6:5 NLT - Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"
John 6:6 NLT - He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.
John 6:7 NLT - Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"
John 6:8 NLT - Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up.
John 6:9 NLT - "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"
John 6:10 NLT - "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)
John 6:11 NLT - Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.
John 6:12 NLT - After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted."
John 6:13 NLT - So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.
John 6:14 NLT - When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"
John 6:15 NLT - When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.
John 6:22 NLT - The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them.
John 6:23 NLT - Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten.
John 6:24 NLT - So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him.
John 6:25 NLT - They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

John 6:26 NLT - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs.
John 6:27 NLT - But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."
John 6:28 NLT - They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"
John 6:29 NLT - Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."
John 6:30 NLT - They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?
John 6:31 NLT - After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"
John 6:32 NLT - Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven.
John 6:33 NLT - The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
John 6:34 NLT - "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."
John 6:35 NLT - Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.
John 6:36 NLT - But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me.
John 6:37 NLT - However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.
John 6:38 NLT - For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.
John 6:39 NLT - And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day.
John 6:40 NLT - For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."
John 6:41 NLT - Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."
John 6:42 NLT - They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"
John 6:43 NLT - But Jesus replied, "Stop complaining about what I said.
John 6:44 NLT - For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.
John 6:45 NLT - As it is written in the Scriptures, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.
John 6:46 NLT - (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)
John 6:47 NLT - "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life.
John 6:48 NLT - **Yes, I am the bread of life!**
John 6:49 NLT - Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died.
John 6:50 NLT - Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die.
John 6:51 NLT - **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."**
John 6:53 NLT - So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you.

John 6:54 NLT - But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day.
John 6:55 NLT - For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.
John 6:56 NLT - Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.
John 6:57 NLT - I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me.
John 6:58 NLT - I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever."
John 6:59 NLT - He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Matthew 16:5 NKJV - Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.
Matthew 16:6 NKJV - Then Jesus said to them, "**Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."**
Matthew 16:7 NKJV - And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "[It is] because we have taken no bread."
Matthew 16:8 NKJV - But Jesus, being aware of [it], said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?
Matthew 16:9 NKJV - "Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?
Matthew 16:10 NKJV - "Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?
Matthew 16:11 NKJV - "How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?--[but] to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
Matthew 16:12 NKJV - Then they understood that He did not tell [them] to beware of the leaven of bread, but of **the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees**.

Given just after:
Matthew 16:1 NKJV - Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.
Matthew 16:2 NKJV - He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '[It will be] fair weather, for the sky is red';
Matthew 16:3 NKJV - "and in the morning, '[It will be] foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot [discern] the signs of the times.
Matthew 16:4 NKJV - "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

Summary:

We need to purge out the sin, just like we have purged leavening.

> 1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV - Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:
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> We need to purge the sin, the wrong ideas, the hypocrisy, the guile, the deceit, our pet ideas.. And live as Christ did.

And replace it with Jesus Christ in us:

> Galatians 2:20 NKJV - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me;** and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

In the six days ahead, let us truly focus on allowing the unleavened, SINLESS, Jesus Christ - the true bread of life - live within us!

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Additional resources:

UCG Beyond Today Article: What Does the Feast of Unleavened Bread Mean for Christians?
https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-magazine/what-does-the-feast-of-unleavened-bread-mean-for-christians

UCG Beyond Today Article: How Much Do You Know About the Biblical Feast of Unleavened Bread?
https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-magazine/how-much-do-you-know-about-the-biblical-feast-of-unleavened-bread

UCG Doctrinal Statement: The Feast of Unleavened Bread
https://ucgweb.s3.amazonaws.com/files/papers/ucg-paper-the-feast-of-unleavened-bread.pdf

The Feast of Unleavened Bread: Replacing Sin With the Bread of Life
https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-study-aids/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind/the-feast-of-unleavened-bread-replacing-sin-with-the-bread-of-life
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