

READY TO MEET THE CALL OF GOD

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19: 7, NIV)

This month we will commemorate two major holidays, namely the day of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus and the day of Pentecost (the Day of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit). The commemoration of these two holidays reminds us of the day when the Lord Jesus will come again to pick up His bride. We all know that what is written in Revelation 19: 7 is a vision given to the apostle John to welcome the Lord Jesus' return in the last days. Now we are in the last days, the time when the Lord Jesus will return. As believers, we all yearn to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb, enter the Kingdom of Heaven and live with God forever. When the Lord Jesus comes the second time, He will come no longer as a holy baby, but He will come as a just Judge. The Lord Jesus will come as a Bridegroom to pick up His church which is ready to be His bride. Be ready here means spiritual maturity. It is the brides of Christ who have left their childish nature and are advancing to full spiritual maturity. The Apostle Paul once said to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I felt like a child, I thought like a child. Now that I am an adult, I left that childish nature." So, God does not want all of His followers to be Christians who are children all their life and do not reach spiritual maturity. God wants us to continue to experience spiritual growth from day to day until all of His followers become "... mature people and who have full faith with all things that God wills" (Colossians 4:12). Spiritual maturity does not happen instantaneously or automatically, but requires process and time. It is the same as a child who from time to time grows from infancy to childhood, then becomes adolescence, youth, adulthood and finally becomes a parent. However, we need to note that being a Christian for many years does not guarantee a person being spiritually mature. Talking about spiritual maturity reminds us of what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 25: 1-13, namely that we need to be like the five wise virgins. The five wise virgins can welcome the bridegroom and attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. When it was midnight they heard a voice shouting: The bridegroom is coming! Sing to him! And the five wise virgins who were ready are allowed to enter with the bridegroom into the wedding supper room, after that the door is closed (verse 10), while the five foolish virgins (spiritually immature) are refused to given entry into the wedding supper room because they are not known by the bridegroom (verses 11-12). The five wise virgins (who are spiritually mature) can actively go out to greet the Bride and follow the Lamb's steps closely. Why? Because they focus on listening to God's voice, listen to God's Word and words and want to do God's will. So, if we want to accept God's call to rejoice and cheer for the entrance of the Lamb's wedding, let us focus our attention on hearing God's voice and doing all His will. Therefore one day, „Let us rejoice and shout for joy, and give Him glory! For the wedding day of the Lamb has arrived, and His bride is ready. “Let's celebrate the day of the Lord's Ascension and the day of Pentecost this month by testing the spiritual maturity of each of us, Amen!

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