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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

DESTRUCTION OF EXCUSES

Communion Message

Sunday 2 July, 2017 A.D.

(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 8 Tammuz, 5777

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- **Let our voices unite in praise:**

Hymn #18
REVIVE US AGAIN

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1. We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy
love,

For Je-sus who died, and is now gone a-bove.

Hal-le-lu-jah! Thine the glory;

Hal-le-lu-jah! A-men!

Hal-le-lu-jah! Thine the glo-ry;

Revive us a-gain.

NEXT

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2. We praise Thee, O God! For Thy Spir-it of light,
Who has shown us our Sav-ior, and scat-tered our
night.

Hal-le-lu-jah! Thine the glory;

Hal-le-lu-jah! A-men!

Hal-le-lujah! Thine the glo-ry;

Revive us a-gain.

NEXT

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3. All glo-ry and praise to the Lamb that was
slain,

Who has borne all our sins and has cleansed
every stain.

Hal-le-lu-jah! Thine the glory;

Hal-le-lu-jah! A-men!

Hal-le-lujah! Thine the glo-ry;

Revive us a-gain.

NEXT

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4. Re-vive us a-gain; fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be re-kin-dled with fire from a-
bove.

Hal-le-lu-jah! Thine the glory;

Hal-le-lu-jah! A-men!

Hal-le-lujah! Thine the glo-ry;

Revive us a-gain.

END

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Breaking of Bread

- Welcome to breaking of bread and prayer.
- **Let our voices unite in prayer.**
- Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Luke 11: 2
- Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil. Psalm 51: 4
- I come boldly unto the throne of grace, to find grace in time of need. Hebrews 4: 16
- Jesus took bread, blessed, and brake it. He said, Take, eat; this is my body. Matthew 26: 26

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Breaking of Bread

- My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Luke 22: 19
- Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the covenant, poured out for remission of sins. Matthew 26: 27-28
- Jesus has borne my griefs, carried my sorrows; was wounded for my transgressions, and bruised for my iniquities; the chastisement of my peace was upon Him; and with His stripes I am healed. Isaiah 53: 4-5

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Breaking of Bread

- Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Psalm 51: 2
- Asking all in Jesus name. John 14: 14
- **Celebrate Breaking of Bread**
- **Praise God singing the Doxology:**

Praise, God, from whom all bless-ings flow,
Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;
Praise Him a-bove, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost! A-men.

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- A charged battery works!
- Fathers need a charged battery to start their car or operate tools. Children need fresh batteries to operate toys. Mothers need charged cell phone batteries. People know to keep their batteries charged if they want their devices to work. It does not matter what the battery operates, charging a battery is necessary.
- People need to keep their battery charged too. Proper diet, regular exercise, and sleep, keep a

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body fresh. Proper diet requires most people to eat breakfast, lunch and supper to maintain their energy through the day. To keep muscle tone and strength a body requires exertion. Six to eight hours of sleep is required.

- The Gospel recounts Jesus took time to revive. He encouraged the apostles to participate. The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath! (Mark 2: 27) Many forget! Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20: 8) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth,

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the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20: 11)

- Just as your body needs to be charged, so does your spirit.
- Many distinctions drain the spirit; family, vocation, and Christianity are but a few.
- It is necessary that man's spirit be fully charged.
- An excited spirit will be aroused to obey God and produce powerful results.

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- Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. (Hosea 10: 12)
- The ancient Hebrews were a nation of farmers and shepherds. The scriptures are ripe with references to their occupation and scenes with which they are familiar. The prophet Hosea addresses them as a nation of backsliders. He reproves them for their idolatry. He threatens them with the judgments of God.

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- What is the meaning of "Break up your fallow ground"?
- The mind of man is often compared in the Bible to ground. The Word of God is compared to seed. Seed is sown in the ground. Seed grows bringing forth fruit representing actions and affections of those who received the seed.
- "Break up your fallow ground" is to break up your heart to prepare your mind to bring forth fruit unto God. To bring your mind into such a state that it is fit to receive the Word of God.

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- Sometimes your heart gets matted down, hard and dry. There is no such thing as getting fruit until it is broken up, mellowed down, and fit to receive the Word. It is this softening of the heart, to make it feel truth, the prophet calls breaking up your fallow ground.
- Feelings are an involuntary state of mind. They exist naturally and necessarily in the mind under certain circumstances calculated to excite them. We cannot by will call forth feelings, but they can be controlled indirectly.

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We cannot say: "I will feel so-and-so towards such an object." We can command our attention to it, look at it intently, until the proper feeling arises. Let a man who is separated from his family bring them up before his mind, and will he not feel? It is not by saying "Now I will feel deeply for my family." A man can direct his attention to any object about which he ought to feel and wishes to feel, and in that way he will call into existence the proper emotions. Let a man call up his enemy before his mind, and his feelings of enmity will arise.

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- If a man thinks of God, and fastens his mind on any parts of God's character, he will feel. Emotions will come up by the very Laws of Mind.
- If he is a friend of God, let him contemplate God as a gracious and holy Being. He will have emotions of friendship kindled in his mind.
- If he is an enemy of God, only let him get the true character of God before his mind, and look at it, and fasten his attention on it. His bitter enmity will rise against God, or he will break

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down and give his heart to God.

- States of Mind are under your control. The mind regulates moving our limbs. We are unphilosophical about their moving. The mind regulates emotions. We are unphilosophical about our feelings.
- Just as your mind works in moving your limbs or regulating your emotions it is required to break up the fallow ground of your heart. We are unphilosophical about our own hearts. Look into your heart. Examine it. Draw your attention

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from other things. Are you walking with God everyday? Are you serving God or Satan most? Are you under the dominion of the prince of darkness or Jesus Christ. Few know whether they are producing fruit or not. Note with your state of mind where you are.

- Self-examination consists in looking at your life, considering your actions. Calling up the past and learning its true character. Look back over your history. I don't mean that you take a glance at your past life. Examining your heart requires

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you consider your sins. Take them individually and look at them. Go over them as carefully as a merchant goes over his books.

- A general confession of sin will never do. Your sins were committed one by one, they ought to be reviewed and repented one by one.
- Let's begin with what are improperly termed Sins of Omission.

Ingratitude

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee

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out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20: 2-3)

- Have you known some remarkable providence? A turn of events that saved you from ruin? Goodness before your conversion? How many instances can you remember where you received favor from God for which you never exercised gratitude? Or have not been thankful enough?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Idolatry

- I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.
(Exodus 20: 5)
- Think of the alarm to find a husband, wife or children shunning your affection while another engrosses their hearts, thoughts and time. Your heart would ache. You might well die.
- Have you given your heart to other loves offending Him?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of the Word

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
(II Timothy 3: 16)
- Remember when for perhaps weeks, or longer, God's Word was not a pleasure? Remember reading over whole chapters in such a way you could not tell what you had been reading? Wonder why your life was spent without purpose?

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Unbelief

- I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive. (John 14: 16-17)
- Jesus prayed for and God promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to them that ask. If you have not believed nor expect to receive the blessing expressly promised, you charge Him with lying.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of prayer

- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5: 16)
- Think of the times you neglected secret prayer, family prayer, and prayer meetings.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Hypocrisy

- The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3: 17)
- Prayer offered in a worldly state of mind, and careless manner with want of feeling and want of faith. The words were nothing but mere chattering of a wretch who did not deserve that God should feel the least care. Remember when you prayed in a way grievous to God.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of grace;

God's Redemption At Christ's Expense

- Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1: 21)
- When you suffer trifling excuses that prevent your attending to the Lord's work you have neglected and poured contempt upon your means of salvation.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of your family

- Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20: 12)
- Think how you lived before your family. Have you obeyed them? Have you prayed for them? What example have you set? What efforts have you made for their spiritual good?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of your neighbor

- Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
(Mark 12: 31)
- Remember how little compassion you have felt for your friends and relatives. You have stood by and seen them going to hell, and you did not care. Have you made their salvation the subject of a single fervent prayer?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of self-denial

- Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

(Matthew 18: 18-20)

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- Many will do anything not requiring self-denial. Anything requiring them to deny themselves, is too much! They give of their surplus thinking they are doing a great deal. How soon will they find hell?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of witness

- Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he:

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before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43: 10)

- Christians are left in the world to be witnesses for God. They call attention to God and the thoughtless multitude see a difference in character and destiny of those who believe the Gospel. The Holy Spirit awakens mans attention to the plan of salvation through you.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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World mindedness

- Said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19: 23)
- What is your state of mind in regard to your worldly possessions? Do you look at them as really yours? Have you loved property and sought after it? Do you lust after title or position? Is your ambition to reach the pinnacle? Are you laying in store for you or your family? Do you have the right to dispose of your worldly

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- possessions as your own according to your own will?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Pride

- Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16: 18)
- Do you exercise in pride? Vanity is a form of pride. Do you take pains to decorate your body. Are you vain about your dress and appearance? Do you care anything about

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having people look at you? Would you take all these pains about your looks if every person was blind? Do you pay more attention to your outward appearance or how your heart and soul appear to God?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Envy

- Jesus knew that for envy they had delivered him. (Matthew 27: 18)
- Do you envy those above you in any respect?

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What do you think of those who are more talented or more useful than yourself? Are you pained to hear someone praised? Do you dwell upon someone's faults or virtues? Their failures or success?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of charity

- Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. (1 Corinthians 13: 4)

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- Do you have a bitter spirit? Have you spoken in a manner devoid of charity and love? Charity requires you always hope the best case will prevail and you to put the best construction upon any ambiguous conduct.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Slander

- Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. (Ephesians 4:31)

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- You need not lie to be guilty of slander! Do you tell the truth with a design to injure? Have you spoken behind peoples backs without good reason or unnecessarily? Do you talk of their faults, real or supposed?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Lying

- Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. (Proverbs 12: 22)
- Understand what lying is: any designed

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deception; if the deception be not designed it is not lying. If you design to make an impression contrary to the naked truth, you lie. How innumerable are the lies told every day in business and social intercourse by words, looks, and actions designed to make an impression on others for selfish reasons that are contrary to the truth!

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Cheating

- All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law. (Matthew 7: 12)
- When you have dealt with an individual, and done to him that which you would not like to have done to you, that is cheating. The law is not that you should do "what you might reasonably expect them to do to you." That admits every degree of wickedness. It is "As ye would they should do to you."

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Robbing

- Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3: 8)
- Think of the hours squandered which God gave you to serve Him. How many souls are lost because of vain amusements or foolish conversations? How much money have you spent for things which did not contribute to your

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health, comfort or usefulness? How have you misapplied your talents and powers of mind?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Temper

- A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards. (Proverbs 29: 11)
- Have you had a fit(s) with your husband, wife, children, relatives, workers, or neighbors?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Hinderance

- Who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (Galatians 5: 7)
- A wicked servant not only loiters but hinders the rest! Sometimes taking their time. Sometimes destroying their confidence. Playing into Satan's hands you show yourself to be an idle vagabond who prevents others from working.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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- Jesus spake a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let

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him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (Luke 8: 4-10)

- Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which,

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when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (Luke 8: 11-15)

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- When the Word falls on the ears of "way side" Christians it bears no fruit. A minister might wear out his life, doing very little good when the Word falls on the ears of "stoney ground" Christians. If the Word falls on the ears of "good ground" Christians it bears fruit.
- Much preaching and teaching is wasted if Christians will not break up their fallow ground. They will continue to harden their hearts. They will grow worse and worse, just as the rain and snow on an old fallow field makes the turf thicker and the clods stronger.

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- *Lord willing, we study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Join us.*