

HOLINESS SERIES

THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS

In the earlier messages we have touched on the degrees of holiness. Some Christians live in the Outer Court all the time. All they know about Jesus is just the power of the Blood, salvation and all the benefits of the Word of God in the outer court. And that's all they do and that's all they are. But they don't understand the things that are in the Holy Place. So there are different degrees of holiness. What God wants us to do is to live in the realm in the Most Holy Place, which is the highest degree of holiness. We are going to see what this high degree of holiness is like. In our first session on holiness we touched on how holiness is connected to love. And it's different from righteousness. Holiness has to do with the attitude of the heart while righteousness has to do with the fulfillment of the law.

In this message we are going to look at the book of Exodus 39. We are going to see the garments of the priest and the work of the law of holiness.

Exo. 39:1 And of the blue and purple and scarlet stuff they made finely wrought garments, for ministering in the holy place; they made the holy garments for Aaron; as the Lord had commanded Moses.

These garments are called the holy garments. They are garments that are to be worn

in the presence of God. In order to live in God's holiness and live in the Most Holy Place we must know how to appropriate the New Testament equivalent and fulfillment of these garments. Without these garments the priests could not stand in God's presence. It is a requirement, it is an essential for them to put on these garments as long as they are in God's presence otherwise they would die.

Our God has opened a way through the Blood of Jesus for us to remain in His presence and holiness all the time. And we will look at it here in Exodus 39. Remember that whenever He speaks of gold He speaks about divinity. Silver symbolizes redemption and the redeemed life. When Jesus redeemed us He restored us to all those things that He wanted Adam to have. That is redemption to be the man or woman that God has intended for you to be.

Lets give an example. Suppose you were the owner of a house, with a nice garden and lots of fruit trees. And you have many servants under you and you have a bountiful harvest every year. Somebody comes takes the whole house and farm and puts you in prison. Jesus comes along and catches hold of this person who is the devil, crushes his head and takes him away from your property. Then He takes you out from the prison by the hand and puts you back in your farm and house. You have just been redeemed. Redemption speaks of restoration. You are restored to what you should have and what is rightfully yours.

But redemption only stops there. Jesus didn't just restore to us all that belongs to man, the authority and dominion over this earth. Jesus did something more. Jesus besides kicking opened the prison doors, taking you out and placing you in your own farm, your own house with all your fruit trees, Jesus also says, "Before I leave I am going to take a part of My life and put it in you." That is divinity. There is an impartation of life. Therefore when Jesus Christ came and redeemed us from the curse of the law, He not only brought us back to the position of Adam, He also brought us beyond the position of Adam. He brought us to the point of restoration and redemption, which is represented by silver. And He brought us beyond it to be like God, to be seated in the heavenly places with God, and that imparted life of divinity is represented by gold. Jesus became a part of man and we became a part of God higher than the angels. So what Jesus brought for us is beyond what Adam

could even be conceived. So gold speaks about divinity an impartation of life that is different from silver. We need both. We need to be restored and we need the life of God.

Now here in chapter 39 verse 1 the color that is used for the priestly garment is blue. Blue speaks about Jesus Christ the Son of God. Then you have purple, and that symbolized Jesus Christ the King of Kings. Then you have red or scarlet which is Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.

In verse 2 *he made the ephod of gold, blue and purple and scarlet stuff and fine twined linen.* Fine linen speaks about Jesus Christ the Son of man, the perfect man, the servant for us. And He made us like unto Him servants of others.

The colors represent all the 4 gospels. The gospel of John, Jesus is portrayed as the Son of God, and that is represented by blue. Then we have Matthew, which shows forth Jesus Christ as the King of Kings, the Messiah, and that is the color purple. Then you have Mark Gospel which describes Jesus Christ as the Son of man, and that is linen. Then you have Luke which portrays Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, the Lamb of God, and that is scarlet. All the 4 aspects of Jesus Christ in the 4 gospels are represented by the colors of the priestly garments.

In verse 3 *And the gold leaf was hammered out and cut into threads to work into the blue and purple and the scarlet stuff, and into the fine twined linen, in skilled design.*

Notice here that silver is never used. You have passed the point of silver. You are now going into gold. When you get into God's Holy Place do you notice that silver is not present in the Holy of holies or the Most Holy place? Every piece of the furniture and the utensils are made of gold. In the outer court all the utensils are made of bronze. But silver cannot enter into the presence of God's divinity; gold is demanded instead.

The gold thread together with the scarlet and the purple and the blue and the white linen are woven together and made into a piece of cloth. That tells us that in order to stand in God's holy presence we need to put on Jesus Christ the Son of God His heavenly nature. Jesus Christ the King of Kings His authority. Jesus Christ the Savior of the world the Blood of Jesus. Jesus Christ the Son of man His humanity. We become the redeemed man that is of light and nature of Jesus Christ. We need to put on all those things that are bound together by His life. It was the golden thread, which binds all the garments together. It is the life of Jesus that imparts into us all the aspects of Jesus. Without Him you cannot do anything. Without Him you cannot have a heavenly nature. Without Him you cannot demonstrate the authority or the power of His redemption His Blood or the full sonship of what a man should be in God.

In verses 6 and 7 The onyx stones were prepared, enclosed in settings of gold filigree and engraved like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel. And he set them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, to be stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel as the Lord had commanded Moses.

So there were a few things that he made. He made shoulder blades. He made the breastplate and he made the turban. All were made of the same 5 types of materials: Gold, blue, purple and scarlet and linen. Five colors altogether are involved in the making of the priestly garment. Five is the number of grace. As we learn to move into God's holiness we find that silver is not involved but gold is required. It tells us something. Holiness is not just what you don't do. Many people think that holiness is not committing sins, being morally upright and righteous. But that is not holiness. They are merely talking about righteousness.

Holiness is being like God in His nature, in His love, in His uprightness, in His justice. There is not so much of what you do or you don't do but who you are. That is holiness. How alike to the nature of God are you? When you are like God you will not put up with sin. From the human perspective we always see it backwards. We see the sins of the world and we think that to be holy we must get rid of the sins. Then we think that getting rid of sin is holiness. That's not true. It is because He is holy that we get rid of the sin. Holiness is God's nature. Holiness is being like

God Himself.

In verse 8 he made the breastplate then in verse 22 he made the robe of the ephod of the woven all of blue. It emphasizes the heavenly nature, the likeness of God. And the high priest is the one who gets into God's presence. What we want to do here is to see how the high priest functions and puts on this garment in order to know God's realm of holiness.

Lev. 8:1-5 The Lord said to Moses, "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and the bull of the sin offering, and the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread; and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tent of meeting." And Moses did as the Lord commanded him; and the congregation was assembled at the door of the tent of meeting. And Moses said to the congregation, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded to be done."

Now the high priest is the type and picture of what the church should go through. The high priest is not just a picture of the minister of God. If you think that the high priest just represents the minister then your conclusion is that only the minister can enter the Most Holy Place. That is not true. We are all kings and priests in Christ. The Most Holy Place is available to every born again believer. That means this high priest picture is a picture of every Christian what God wants him to be and to do.

There is an order in which the garments are made. When the garments were made God emphasized from the outside. There is a certain order in which the garments are put on. You cannot just put on the turban first. You have to put on part by part. There is a systematic way. No body wears a coat and then wears a shirt. There is a certain order in which God has the high priest put on his garment. And there is certain step involved which has to do with our relationship with God.

The First Step: Washing with the Word of God

Verse 6 *And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.* That is No.1 before he could even have the garment on him he must first be washed. And the water that they used is the water from laver. The laver represents Jesus the Word of God. In case those of you who have never heard this before, the brazen altar represents Jesus the Lamb, laver Jesus the Word of God, candlestick Jesus the baptizer in the Holy Spirit, table of show bread Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, altar of incense Jesus Christ the high priest. The glory of God that descends on the Ark is Jesus Christ the glory and the fullness of God.

Each aspect emphasizes an aspect of truth. The brazen altar represents the power of the Lord. The laver is the power of the Word. The candlestick is the power of the Spirit. The showbread is the power of the name of Jesus. The altar of incense is the power of praise and worship. And as you enter the Most Holy Place the power of the glory of God over the Ark of the Covenant is the fullness of the glory of Jesus Christ.

Before Aaron and his sons put on the priestly garments, they must first be at the laver, which symbolizes Jesus as the Word of God. Before Aaron could even get into the realm of God's holiness he must know God through the Word. The Word must cleanse him. The Word must transform him, his very nature and being. God wants to reveal Himself to your spirit; He wants to reveal Himself to your soul and manifest through your body. He wants to manifest Himself spirit, soul and body to you. But before anything happens the Word must cleanse your spirit, soul and body.

When you were born again First Peter says we are born of the incorruptible Word. That means the Word of God has entered our spirit and saved us. The day you accepted Christ your spirit is saved. Your spirit could fellowship with God. Then our souls need to be renewed. Need to be conformed to God's Word. And our bodies need to be in line with the Word of God. Part of the process of knowing God in His holiness is found in the renewing of the mind.

Rom. 12:1-2 *I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* And the word *transform* comes from the Greek word '*metamorphoomai*' which means *a change*. And it is used in the bible in Mk. 9:2 and Matt. 17:2 to refer to the incident when Jesus Christ was praying on the Mount of Transfiguration. Lk. 9 tells us that as He prayed His garment and skin were transformed. There was a change that took place. When your thoughts become renewed your very soul and body become transformed to the nature of Christ. There is a physical as well as a soul transformation that takes place through a cleansing of the Word of God.

Turn to II Cor. 4:6 *For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness." Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ? Now that is the glory of God that is shining in our hearts.*

Look at II Cor. 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

As we behold the Lord we are transformed. We behold Him with unveiled faces. What is the veil? The context of this passage is found in verse 14 where *the veil* refers to the veil of the mind. It talks about the Jews who still read the scriptures in the synagogue and Paul says there is a veil. Not like the veil of Moses but a veil in their mind that prevents them from seeing and knowing the glory of God. The veil is in their mind. Paul says that it was still there. When you are born again your heart is opened but your mind can hinder you. Your mind needs renewal to be washed and cleansed before it can move into the holiness and the fellowship of God's holiness.

That cleansing process brings about the light. The opposite of light is darkness. The first thought in holiness is righteousness. Righteousness is a gift that starts from the

heart and transforms your thoughts. People think that when they are no more sinning they are okay with God. That is just the cleansing. That is just receiving the righteousness. That is just the beginning not the end. Sometimes in the Pentecostal Movement when people get baptized in the Spirit they thought they have finally got it. They forgot that the baptism in the Spirit started at the beginning in Acts 2 and not at the end in Acts 28. Righteousness is only the beginning. Freedom from sin of thought, word and action is only the first stage. The cleansing must take place through the power of the word.

That is why Jesus Christ say in John 14:20-21 *In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in You. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*

That is only the first step in holiness - obedience to His word, the cleansing of His word. That's only step one. You haven't even put on the other garments yet. First John tells us what God is like: holiness is being like God. The first revelation of God that First John brings out is God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. Before he says God is love now he says God is light. Some people try to know love before they know righteousness. You cannot, you will get mixed up with what the world calls lust. Love and lust are not compatible at all. There is a cult going on that call themselves Children of Love. They talk about love that has no righteousness involved. No morality involved. That is not love it is lust.

Holiness is to be like God. Before we can understand the fullness of God's nature, which is Love, we must move into His light. That first step of allowing in the light is through the cleansing of the Word. Only the Word can separate your soul and your spirit. Only the Word can discern the thought and intent of your heart.

Heb. 4:12 *For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

This is the power of the Word. So here we have Moses putting Aaron through the process of cleansing. The Old Testament has an outward form. But in the New Testament it is an inward form. They are the shadows of which we have the real manifestation.

Let look at Lev. 8:6 *Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.* That is the first step in the holiness of God: wash them with water. Cleansing by the Word where all darkness is dealt with before righteousness comes first and then after that holiness.

The Second Step: The Fine Linen of the Restored Humanity

Then the second thing is found in verse 7. He put the coat on him and girded him with the sash. What is the coat?

Look back at Exo. 39:27 *They also made the coats, woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons and the turban of fine linen, and caps of fine linen, and the linen breeches of the twined linen and of blue and purple and scarlet stuff, embroidered with needle work as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

Notice there is no gold involved yet. The linen is made out of pure white thread. And linen represents Jesus Christ Son of man. So they put on the linen coat. So you have the first picture where you see Aaron washed. The second picture that you see of Aaron would be the white linen placed on him and Aaron is now clothed all in white. Then it says he put a sash around Aaron. If somebody wears a white dress and put on a 4 colored sash would you have notice it? When you have received the righteousness of God, the Blood has cleansed you. You understand through God's Word your gift of righteousness.

The next thing you experience is restoration. Restoration is when you become the son of man that God wants you to be. What God has intended man to be? Jesus the Son of man, the perfect man. That's the linen - the white linen is Jesus the perfect man. You could become the perfect person. Your personality is perfected.

Do you know that sometimes people's personality is not perfected yet? There are hurts and things in their souls that have not been touched by the Word of God. When the Word of God touches you your real personality comes out. Not all of us have good background. Sometimes as we grow into adult life there are certain parts of our personality that is not actually the true us. They were never a part of you in the first place. Some people say I have a weakness for alcohol. Or I have a weakness for cigarettes. Were you born with those weaknesses? No. Somewhere along the path of life you were introduced to it and now you are an adult and you say you have a weakness. It was not in you. It came into you. It was never a part of your nature. Or you say I have a bad temper. You were not born with a bad temper. It's not your personality. Don't accept it as your personality. Can you think about Jesus as a bad tempered person. Thank God He is not. So there are many things of our character that actually were not a part of us. We need the word of God to cut them off.

When you have gone through the washing. No. 1 you got clothing where you begin to manifest in your life your true personality. We are talking about holy garments. God never intended for you to be artificial. He made you with a different thumbprint. No two persons have the same thumbprint. You are unique. That is a realm, which I call God's special unique personality and soul that He has made in you. You were meant to be you and not somebody else. That we must have in our Christian life. We can learn from all Christians but you are not supposed to be a copycat. You can imitate them as they imitate Christ. But learn the principle: don't try to be somebody else. Let the perfect you come out. Learn for apostle Paul says be imitators of me as I imitate Christ. You learn from every person but the purpose is that you will reach to the fullness of the person God wants you to be. There is no such thing as the Billy Graham of Asia. You be yourself in God, as God wants you to be that's all.

So here we have the garments on Aaron. The first picture of him is that he is naked and he is washed. The second picture of him is that he is dressed in white linen. To be the high priest if he has any spot he will be disqualified. So your first experience of righteousness comes when you were naked before God. You have no righteousness of your own. All your works were filthy rags. You don't come to God with your garment. You come naked before God. Just as you are you come. You cannot say, "God I have served you for so many years and I have given so much here and so much there. I have been a good person and have been giving alms here and giving alms there." All our works are filthy rags. You have to start naked. And let the Word of God start cleansing you. Then only are you clothed with the white garment. You become fully the man or the woman God made you to be.

The Third Step: The Blue Ephod of Heavenly Minded

Now in chapter 8 of Leviticus they clothed him with the robe. And you notice in Exodus. 39:22 it says he made the robe of the ephod of the woven work all of blue. So the third thing he clothes him with the robe and put the ephod on him. What color was the ephod? Blue. He took on the heavenly nature. Blue is Jesus Christ the Son of God. Some people live so much on this earth that they forget that they are to be heavenly minded. If you examine their prayers, you can measure how much holiness is in their life. If 90% of your prayers are regarding the things of this life, it tells you how much you are thinking about heaven. In the Lord's Prayer we do begin by asking for our daily bread. Christians should be seeking to develop the heavenly nature in them right now. You were born again not just for the fact that you have now been saved and you are on your way to heaven. If all God wanted you to do is to bring you to heaven, then when you are born again He should have taken you straight away home.

But the higher purpose of the Christian life is that right now He is preparing us for heaven. And He is developing His nature for us to function in the depths of His kingdom that is to come. We should be like people who when you have done the things of this world you would run to your closet and pray God, "I missed you. I missed your presence. I only want to be with you." Then you leave His presence very reluctantly. Some people have more zeal for the supermarket than they have for the prayer closet. They are more interested in the things of this world. All that

the world can offer excite them more than the things of God. It is like they have put the blue clothing on the inside and put the white one outside. What God wants us to do is to primarily prepare for heaven. Examine your prayer life how much it has on this earth and how much it has on the things of heaven.

In church history I read about a man name John Fletcher. He was in the Methodist Revival with John Wesley. He has a heavenly nature on his life. The blue ephod was so strong on him that when he left his town the people cried and said in all the history of this town there has only been one angel like you. Now we lose you. When he died John Wesley said he had never met a man closer to God than John Fletcher. These are the men I admire who walk with God and live with God. Their lives revolve around God.

Today there are sometimes evangelists who focus on the things of this earth. It's just like people who put on a white linen and running around with it. But they have not put on the blue ephod. You will notice that sometimes a ministry has only the linen without the blue ephod. But to have the heavenly perspective the ministry must enter deeper into the heavenly perspective. If right now God were to send an angel from heaven this place will radiate with glory at the heavenly presence. There is something about the heavenly presence of God that gives out light far beyond any luminous object in this earth.

When Stephen stood in the trial of the Jews, in the book of Acts 7 it tells us that they saw his face light up like an angel. You know why? He saw heaven. He says, "I see the Lord standing at the right hand of the Father." Only those who have seen the light of heaven, who have clothe themselves with the blue ephod would know the depths of heaven. The things of heaven are hidden from the eyes of this world. There are not enough people entering into the heavenly realm. We have enough Christians who are focusing on the earthly realm, and all thinking of *my problem, my this, and my that*.

There is something different in your life when you catch a hold of the heavenly light and heavenly vision of God. The things of this world grow dim. There is

something different about a Christian who has put on a blue ephod because they are no longer getting worried or upset about the things of this life. You have probably met Christians who sometimes get upset over physical and material things. When a little bit of their physical thing gets messed up they lose their temper and their whole day is spoiled. But when you catch a sight of the heavenly realm the things of this life become immaterial. No doubt we still take care of the earthly responsibilities - I don't mean that we care less about that - but you don't have any more ties with them. There are so many Christians who are tied to their earthly possessions.

Long ago when I was starting the ministry I met this guy who came in our evening service in the Baptist Church. One day he came with his tears running down his eyes. I asked him what happened. He said somebody has stolen his guitar. Through time I began to understand that there are too many Christians who don't have their blue ephod on. They are too tied to the things of this world. Sometimes it may not be your guitar; it could be your car. You just bought your car; it's nice and clean. You came to the church and you are one of the last one out. Somebody missed his bus and said to you, "Could you give me a lift to where I could get a bus." You look at him, his shirt stinks, his pants also stink. Maybe if you are over fussy you say, "Wait a minute. Let me borrow some cloth." You put the cloth all over your car. Then you say, "Now I am ready to take you."

There are things in this world that we are too tied to that we can't use them for the glory of God. Let's say if you go to heaven, you meet the Lord Jesus. Jesus doesn't care how new your car was. Jesus cares how much you use the car for His glory. See there is a difference in the way we evaluate on this life and the way God evaluates it. When you have put on the blue ephod there is a division between the things of this world and you. You do your best to maintain your earthly goods and fulfill your earthly duties but you don't get attached to them. If they get a little bit messy you are not hurt any more. If the matter still hurts you then you have not put on the blue ephod. But if it does not hurt you any more there is something that is done in your life. You have become heavenly minded and you see the things of this life as just tools to be used for God's glory. Never mind if the thing is mine; put it there if it can be used for God's glory. If it is lying there idle it would be of no use; leave it there to be used for God's glory. Let God's people benefit from it. See there is something that is released inside you. The blue ephod has increased your

level of relationship with God and you have entered a higher realm of holiness.

The Fourth Step : The 5 colored Ephod of Christlikeness

The blue ephod has a sash. Look at Leviticus 8:7 *and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod and with it tied the ephod on him.* According to Exodus 39:2 there is another ephod that is over the other ephod. In verse 5 *and the intricately woven band of his ephod that was on it was as the same workmanship woven of gold, blue and purple and scarlet thread and fine woven linen.* Now this second ephod is called *the intricately woven band of ephod* and it has 5 colors gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine linen. See the 4 pictures you have of Aaron is that after you see him in blue there is another intricately woven sash of the ephod that was put on him. And that sash is to hold the shoulder blades and to hold the breastplate. So they put the sash on him and you can see the golden colored added and there are 4 colors now.

Now you have moved into the realm where you become a representative of Jesus to others. You're not only the sign of a redeemed man. You now become Christlike to people where people could see Jesus in you. You have moved into the heavenly realm and now at the fourth stage you become like a representative of Christ. People could see Jesus in you. The heavenly nature is still there blue. The scarlet is still there the Blood of Jesus. And the purple the authority flows together. And then you have fine linen. They see you and they know it is you talking. But yet they hear the voice of Jesus speaking through you. Your likeness of God has taken a deeper realm. You are now what Jesus said in John 17 He is fully in you and you are fully in Him.

Let me express that differently. When Jesus was on this earth every thing that the Father wanted to do He did. And every thing He did was what the Father and the Holy Spirit wanted. The beautiful thing about the Trinity is that what the Spirit wants to do is also what the Father and the Son want to do. What the Son wants to do is also what the Father and the Spirit wants to do. And what the Father wants to do is also what the Spirit and the Son want to do. That's the beauty of the Trinity. Never once do you find them working alone. They always work together. There is a

tri unity about them.

And what has happened at this fourth stage is you have moved into a position where whatever God wanted to do is also what the Spirit wants to do and what Jesus wants to do and what the Father wants to do. And then what you want to do is also the Father wants to do and Jesus wants to do and the Spirit wants to do. All are in perfect union. They are one with the Father, with the Son and with the Holy Spirit. That is the higher level of holiness. You begin to receive a new revelation of holiness. See holiness is not just getting rid of sin. It talks about a degree of union with Jesus.

Even In Eph. 3 Paul prays for the Ephesians that Christ may dwell in their heart. Why, because there are degrees of Christ dwelling in us. There are degrees of union together. There are differences of union but the strongest binding union is that union of the Godhead with us where Jesus said that we dwell in God and God dwells in us. Wouldn't that be lovely when you are sleeping you are still in union with God. You could get up from your union with God and say peace be still. You wouldn't even need your devotion life because your devotional life is 24 hours. You don't compartmentalize your life anymore. Your whole life is a flow of divinity. Your whole life flows in God's will; you love the Word; you love to spend time with Him. Your whole life is a flow of praise and worship.

Jesus was sleeping on a boat and a storm was coming and the ship was sinking. They woke Jesus up. When Jesus woke up He did not say, "Let me do my devotion first." When some of you get up in the morning you have to take authority over some thing that make you don't feel like not doing your devotion. You have only just put on the white linen. Maybe you have just put on the blue ephod. You have not known the level of union yet. We should walk so closely with God that 24 hours your life belongs to God. I don't mean that you don't have devotional life. That is basic and you must go beyond the basic. You can get up, you haven't read the bible, you haven't even prayed in tongues yet but your life is in union with God. You get up and straight away you can say, "Peace be still." That same authority that flowed in Jesus also flows in you. Your devotion becomes your whole life.

Kathryn Khulman walked a little bit in God. People tried to pin point when she spend her devotional life they could not. When you hear her speak you could hear the union she had with the Lord. She had paid a price. When people like David Whickers was a young strong man who was following her around. He was panting away after following her for several days. He was getting out of breath and doesn't know how she gets all that strength. And they found out that she prayed all the time. When she sleeps she slept with that dream and vision of God. When she wakes up she wakes up with that dream and vision of that soul and her life ministry. You reach a stage where the will of God consumes you. And you die only for the will of God, which has consumed your being. The last thing on your mind before you sleep is the will of God. You wake up with the will of God. You have gone beyond the stage of the struggling and fighting. You are in union with God in the perfect wonderful relationship with God. Sometimes some of us reached that point and we pull out. God wants to train us where we reached that point we stay with Him.

I enjoy fellowshiping with people like Vernon Falls who have the miracle anointing in his ministry. One thing I like about him is that he is praying in the Spirit all the time. But its people like that who starts tapping into this realm that in the last days God is raising up. The church is not just going to walk at the side. The church is going to walk in the depths of God's presence. I present before you the will and the true purpose of God, where in waking or in sleeping you are in that union with God. It is built into you; it consumed you. You are not even thinking about whether you want to sin or not. You are thinking about God and God's will all the time. The perfect union with God and the key in it coming to pass is the love that you have for the Lord.

The Fifth Step : The Adornment of Union with the Godhead

The fifth and last area is union with the Godhead.

Lev. 8:8-9 And he placed the breastplate on him, and in the breastplate he put the Urim and the Thummim. And he set the turban upon his head, and on the turban, in front, he set

the golden plate, the holy crown, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Then he brings the pieces of jewels and placed them on the shoulder blade and the breastplate as adornment. And on his turban there is a crown that says *Holiness onto the Lord*. These are what I call the adorning since these are jewels. For Aaron it was the will of God. And a little bit of that can be seen here between Moses and Aaron. When Moses left the wilderness, he complained to God and told God he cannot speak properly. Then God said this to him, "Aaron shall be your spokesman. And you will be like God to him." There is a relationship there.

Now the adorning means that you begin to take on part of the authority, the anointing and the function of the Godhead. You begin to take on as a representative of God. You are in union with God. Now you take on a part of the work of God to the people. In Aaron's time when Aaron was the high priest you know what Aaron represented. Aaron represented God to the people. He was the high priest. He represented the people to God and he represented God to the people. What God wants is that the body of Christ reaches the point of holiness where they become consumed with the being of God. And where they began to bear the burden and the work of God.

A little bit of that can be seen in the life of Paul in Phil. 3 Paul says that *I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering being conformed to His death*. Fellowship of His suffering.

Acts 20:22-24 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what may befall me there; except that the Holy spirit testifies to me in every cities that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and the ministry, which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

I believe Paul lived only for Jesus. And he reached the point between just hearing

the Spirit, learning from the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit - he is being bound in the Spirit.

Jesus was at that point when He was at the Garden of Gethsemane and He said, "Father if it be possible take this cup from me nevertheless not my will but your will be done." He was intricately woven into the will of God. He was bonded to the will of God that whatever God wants Him to do He will be able to flow out and perform them. He was in union with God but that union now goes further. That union demands a sacrifice. And for Jesus He was willing to die to fulfill the Father's will.

Paul was willing to die for the Lord. Remember how they tried to stop him from going to Jerusalem. They say don't go but he says I am not only willing to go but I am willing to die for Him. Unless you are willing to die for the Lord you are not ready to live for the Lord. At that point you don't even consider yourself as belonging to yourself but you are like a pawn in the hands of God. If God were to deem it necessary for you to sacrifice your life to fulfill part of His will, would you be a ready pawn to be sacrificed by Him like Paul?

And in that realm of holiness that some reached God gave them a special crown called the martyr crown. And in this realm of holiness that is no longer when you get up what shall I do but when you get up what is the Lord speaking to you today. You are a bond slave to God. It's the depth of holiness and the most perfected stage of union where God could trust you to do certain thing for Him. Before God trusts you to do some thing He tests you to see your faithfulness. And you reached a point where God could entrust that job to you.

I remember somewhere in Philippines the headlines came out about a woman who was demon possessed. It came out in the papers, it came out on T.V. She was screaming and the marks appeared on her body. And Lester Sumrall was praying to the Lord. And the Holy Spirit said, "Son I want you to go to her house and cast the demon out." The whole nation was in an uproar because of that. And he said, "Lord please send somebody else." And he began to avoid it but the Holy Spirit kept

convicting him. See you don't just go to something that is a national news and do the work of the Lord. That was a great burden that took his heart. And he kept saying, "Lord send somebody else. I will pray." Then the Lord told him, "I have nobody else." When the Lord said, "I have nobody else" he cried and he said, "Lord I will go." And he went there finally after a few days. The first day the people laughed at him. He commanded but there was no manifestation yet. The manifestation started coming in the next few days. The first day the papers said, "Preacher is defeated." Finally when the demon left the Mayor of the town came and said, "Whatever you want we will give you." He said, "Give me a place to build a church." And today it's the largest church in Manila. The church started by Lester Sumrall.

See the Lord said, "I have nobody else." Why is that so when there are so many of His workers and ministers? It is because not all have reached the realm where they are bound in the Spirit. I wonder should the Lord have a mighty work to do. And the Lord looks down on this country and says, "I have this work to do. Whom shall I send?" Will the answer be: "There is nobody." Is there nobody who loves the Lord? No, everybody loves the Lord to some extent. If you are born again you love the Lord to some extent but how much do you love the Lord. Do you love the Lord to extend that you no longer belong to yourself but to the Lord 100%. Whatever the Lord tells you to do that it.

Have you reached that point of union? Have you put on your linen? Have you put on your ephod? Have you put on all those ornaments? So that now you are something crowned by the Lord. That the Lord could trust you in any area He desires. And that is the ultimate end of holiness. To be so much in God that God could use you. The cry of God is still going out, "Whom shall I send?" There are many who desire to do something but they are not committed enough for God to use them. There are not many that are bound to the Lord.

We just had a ministers' conference and I preached on the things of the Lord. A minister came to me and said after he has heard me speak about commitment to the Lord, he thought about the price to pay to hear the Holy Spirit. And he came to me and said he has a terrible habit. He always watches T.V. and he couldn't stop. As I fellowshiped with that minister I discovered that there are not only degrees of

commitment. I also discovered that God uses a minister not in proportion to their talent, but in proportion to how much a minister has really given himself to the Lord. Even among ministers there are different degrees.

When I was in Australia, a minister took me out for a meal. He stood in front of a T.V. and he saw me looking at him. He felt guilty and he said, "I need this for relaxation." It is not just one or two similar cases but there are many. Many who don't have commitment, who are not bound to the Lord. I wonder if the Lord Jesus stands here and says, "Whoever is willing to die for Me right now, please come here in this place." There may be only a few who would come even though there are many gathered here. Many would say, "I am willing to be a Christian but don't talk about dying for You here." If you are not willing to die for Him you are not willing to live for Him. How much is your commitment? I know we have families, we have this, we have children we have all these people who are dependent on us.

But when you love the Lord, the Lord will not accept any lesser commitment in love. Part of the holiness means the ultimate possession of your life by the Lord. The Lord is merciful. He will not deprive the young. He will not deprive you. But He picks people who are bound to Him so that He could send them to any place anywhere. If the Lord were to tell you to go to a place all alone for 10 years and minister to the needy, you would still go. We need that type of commitment from the ministers of God. And we also need that type of commitment from the disciples of Jesus Christ. People love the Lord but they don't love the Lord enough. He loved us so much but we love Him so little. Talk about spending time with Him 1 or 2 hours and people complain. Not many churches are willing to spend 5, 6 hours onto the Lord. You know what they tell me. People that are saved, born again, home in heaven, and God asks, "Please give me one day." They say, "No Lord 2 hours is enough." They don't love the Lord. They say, "We love the Lord" but their actions show they didn't love the Lord that much. Talk about commitment to the Lord and giving our life to the Lord.

The love that the body of Christ is showing to the Lord is despicable. After all He has given His best His Son and the Holy Spirit and we love Him that much. And holiness means completely clothed and adorned to this point when you and God

are like one unity. God in you and you in God. I wish to God that there were more. And in this life we pray to God that there may be more. And it is my hope and my faith in each one of you that God truly raise up some more people who would love the Lord to that amount that we really can say Lord we love you. The bride does not love the bridegroom enough. The bridegroom has loved so much but the bride does not love enough. Most of the time we are still tied to this world. We don't even have our blue ephod on. There are too many things in this world to take care off. What do you do in your spare time? You think about all your leisure and pleasures. You don't run to the Lord every spare moment you can. The love for the Lord is not enough in you for the world to see Jesus in you.