

## His name and seal

We read in the book of Ecclesiastes, 'Whatever exists has already been named, and it is known what man is'. The apostle Paul bowed his knees before the Father, 'from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name'. What a comfort and consolation it is that we are already known in Christ! It only remains for our name to be revealed. And we will be revealed with Him in glory. We will receive a name which no one knows except those who receive it.

When Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, He received the name above every name. Upon coming to Him and receiving His word, we are compelled to be baptised into His name. As the Father has set His seal upon the Son, so also He also has sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise. When we come into Christ, we receive His name and are sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of eternal life because He is bringing it to us according to the word which Christ speaks.

The living bread of the firstfruits offering is the substance of our sonship in Christ. As the Father has set the seal of sonship upon Christ, we have the seal of sonship when we are baptised into Christ and receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the sure guarantee of resurrection life. And He is bringing the firstfruits of resurrection power to us. The Holy Spirit is a genuine foretaste. Accordingly, we have tasted the powers of the age to come. Yes, He is the promise. But more than that, He is bringing us the life of that promise, here and now.

### References:

Ecc 6:10  
Phil 2:9  
2 Cor 1:22  
Eph 4:30

### Further Study

Eph 4:17-32

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 58

# I am the bread of life

It is significant that Jesus said 'I Am' on many occasions. He said, 'I Am' the good shepherd, the door of the sheepfold, the light of the world, to name a few. Even more starkly, Jesus said, 'Before Abraham was born, I Am'. When the servants of the high priest asked in the garden if He was Jesus the Nazarene, He plainly said, 'I Am'. The degree of offence to the Jews is beyond our comprehension, because He claimed to be 'I Am' whom their father Moses had met at the burning bush.

When Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life', He was declaring His diety as the pre-existent Son, that is, Yahweh Son. Abraham saw His day and rejoiced and Isaiah saw His glory. He was also revealing Himself as the Father's Son who had come to reveal the Father's zoe-life. This bread of which He declared, 'I Am', is the Father's life given as the sustenance and provision of the world. Remember that when He was referring to the world, He was speaking of all those who would receive and believe Him. It is not as though He became a supernatural provision for every mortal man. Many looked upon Him, but did not believe. It is self evident that they received nothing from Him. Indeed they grumbled and were offended by His amazing 'I Am' statements.

The Jews had a completely different expectation of the Messiah. They didn't expect that a humble carpenter, whose father and mother they knew, would be the bread of life. And they certainly didn't expect that He was Yahweh Son. Accordingly, Jesus asked, 'Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending to where He was before'.

## References:

John 8:58  
John 18:6  
John 6:62

## Further Study

John 8:12-58

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 59

## Receiving the word

We are encouraged by the supernatural provision of the bread of life. It is coming to us and feeding us when the word is preached. The messengers who proclaim the word are feeding us with living bread. The Father's life is being supplied to us and as we receive it, our sonship is being confirmed. Jesus is the living bread. As we receive the word, we are receiving Him. And indeed, we are receiving the messengers who are proclaiming the word. We are encouraged all the more, that as we receive Him, He is giving us the authority to be sons of God.

The bread of heaven is coming to us as a word. We'll recall the words of the apostle John, 'In the beginning was the Word'. When we receive the word, it is indeed giving us a beginning. It is birthing us as sons of God with eternal life. It is bringing to remembrance everything that has been foreknown and predestined for us from before the foundation of the world. Accordingly, John spoke of the word as 'what was from the beginning'. The word from the beginning defines every facet of our life as a son of God in this age and in the new heavens and new earth. It is the word 'we have heard' and it is defining our entire predestination.

When we receive the living word of God, the very zoe-life of the Father is living and abiding with us. It is bringing the substance of eternal life to us. We are receiving the capacity of our sonship. Everything foreordained for us is being made substantial as we receive the bread of heaven.

### References:

John 1:1  
1 John 1:1  
John 6:63, 68

### Further Study

John 5:34-44

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 60

## Fellowship in one bread

Having received the bread of heaven as a word proclaimed to us, we are compelled to obey the words of the apostle John. He wrote, 'What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ'. In receiving the word of life, we are never eating and drinking alone. We have been called into the fellowship of the Son. 'Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.'

The 'one bread' is the living and abiding word in the fellowship of the body. Paul calls it the new lump. We'll recall that the firstfruits were presented before the Lord as a loaf or a lump of dough. Hence, Paul said, 'If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also'. Christ the firstfruits is holy, and we are included in His body as we partake of the living bread. We are one body because we partake of one bread.

Indeed, the adoptive transfer is only effective for us when we abide in fellowship together. Only then can we truly participate in the bread of heaven, the one bread. We must continue to receive Him, so that we keep feeding upon the living bread of His word and growing by it. When we do this, the hope of the resurrection is being made substantial in us. And the life of Jesus is made manifest in our mortal bodies. When we fellowship in this way, we are indeed being built together, growing up as members of His body.

### References:

1 John 1:3    2 Cor 4:11  
1 Cor 10:17  
Rom 11:16

### Further Study

1 Cor 11:16-24

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 61

## Fellowship and hope

Our fellowship is most certainly established by His word coming to us and abiding within us. Accordingly, Peter said to Jesus when many disciples were leaving Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'. The word is the foundation of all fellowship. And by this living bread, we are called into the fellowship of 'one hope'; the hope of resurrection.

With this in view, we come to Christ, receiving and loving His word. He has the words of eternal life and these words are the substance of our eternal sonship. Accordingly, we come to love the messengers who preach and teach the word. They are indeed breaking bread to us, and thereby feeding us the bread of life. As we receive this living bread, it is becoming the very substance of our participation in the body of Christ. And it is likewise becoming the very power and authority of our own sonship. Hence, we receive the word with much joy and excitement.

The words of eternal life have brought hope to us. He has not left us without hope in the world. As we receive the bread of heaven, the life of Jesus is being manifested in our mortal bodies. Nevertheless, 'if we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied'. There is a hope laid up for us in heaven. Our hope extends to the new heavens and new earth. It is the hope of resurrection in the last day. This hope is by no means apart from the fellowship of the Son. But, if we continue to abide in Him, we have the hope of an incorruptible inheritance.

### References:

John 6:68    Eph 2:12  
Col 1:5       Eph 4:4  
1 Cor 15:19    Job 17:15  
1 Thess 4:13

### Further Study

Job 17

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 62