**R948 Rumination for Mar. 26, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Continue Steadfastly** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *And* *they* ***continued stedfastly****…in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* Acts 2:42

The **T**hots:

**F**our activities the Early **C**hristian **C**hurch ***C****ontinued Steadfastly,* **F**aithfully **F**ollowing their **F**aith: Acts 2:42

***They continued stedfastly in…*** *the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

1. **The Doctrine of Faith – *they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine.***
2. They **S**earched the Scriptures: Jn. 5:39
3. *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me*.
4. *They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,*

*whether those things were so.* Acts 17:11

1. They **S**tudied the Scriptures: II Tim. 2:15

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,*

*rightly dividing the word of truth.*

1. They **S**tood fast in the Scriptures. Eph. 4:14

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and* ***C****arried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and* ***C****unning* ***C****raftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

1. **The Disposition of Faith** –***they******continued stedfastly…in fellowship***
2. It is Fellowship with the Father: *Truly our fellowship is with the Father…* I Jn. 1:3b

***B****ehold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us…we should be called the sons of God…*

***B****eloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:* I Jn. 3:2a

1. It is Fellowship with the Son: *Truly our fellowship is…with His Son Jesus Christ.* I Jn. 1:3c

*God is* ***F****aithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* I Cor.1:9

 *But we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.* I Jn. 3:2b

1. It is Fellowship with the Apostles I Jn. 1:3a

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us:*

1. It is Fellowship with one Another. I Jn. 1:7

*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,*

 *and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

1. **The Declaration of Faith –** ***they continued stedfastly in the Breaking of Bread*, the Lord’s Supper.**
2. **N**e**glect** **N**ot this Ordinance – *they continued stedfastly*
3. It was **I**nstituted by the Lord. Lk. 22:19-20

*And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying,*

*This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

*Likewise also the cup…saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.*

1. It was **I**nstructed by the Lord. I Cor. 11:23

*I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you…*

1. The **Subject** of this Ordinance is the **R**emembrance of the Lord. I Cor. 11:23-25
2. *The Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks,*

*He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you:* *this do in remembrance of Me.*

1. *After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*
2. The Obj**ect** of the Ordinance leads to the **R**everence of the Lord – cf. Mt. 2:11
3. *This do in* ***R****emembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:25
4. Leading to a **R**everence of Him –

Cf. *And when they* [the wise men]*…saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down,*

*and worshipped* ***H****im: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto* ***H****im gifts;*

*gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*

1. Do nor For**ge**t this Ordinance –
2. *This do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:26
3. *Continue steadfastly* in it. Acts 2:42
4. **The Deportment of Faith**, ***they continued stedfastly… in* Prayer**

*And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James,*

*and John...* ***These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication****, with the women,*

*and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.* Acts 1:13, 14

*Savior, from sin we Thee receive, From all indwelling sin,*

*Thy Word, we steadfastly believe, Shall make us fully clean.*

*Still we continue in Thy word, Our faith by works we show,*

 *Expecting to be as our Lord, And all the truth to know.* Charles Wesley

**POINTS TO PONDER R. 948**

1. One confirmatory sign of our genuine faith in the Lord is our **continuance** in the things He asks us to continue in. Thus, we read that the early Christians *continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*. (Acts 2:42)

In fact, soon after the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, we find His disciples gathering in the upper room to pray and supplicate:

*And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John...* ***These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication****, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.* Acts 1:13, 14

And later, we read the early church ***continued stedfastly in…*** *the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* Acts 2:42

It is not surprising therefore that that church became the starting point of Pentecostal Blessing, after having been empowered, and led by the Spirit to fulfil the commandment and commission of the Lord Jesus Himself before He left them for heaven:

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both* *in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and* *unto the uttermost part of the earth.* (Acts 1:8)

Is the church you are in today continuing *stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers* witnessing for the Lord *in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth?*

Of course, Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria today will apply to your home ground, your neighbourhood and then to fields afar even *unto the uttermost part of the earth?*

Are you a “Continuing” Christian steadfast in the Commands of the Lord?**REFLECT**

1. Yet, sad to say, towards the end of Paul’s third missionary journey after having fulfilled the commission of Christ he had to call the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus for him to warn them as follows:

*From Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church* (Acts 20:17)

*And he warned them:* (Acts 20:28-32): *-*

*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

They did not continue steadfastly in their first love for the Lord and the Lord Himself had this to say about them:

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;*

*or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.* (Rev.2:4-5)

Sadly, they never heeded the Lord’s warning and their testimony was removed.

They left their first love and their first works.

Can you hear the Lord’s voice today as He asked the question to Peter: John 21:15 (KJV)

*Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?* (Jn. 21:15) Is your love for the Lord as steadfast, if not greater, than when you first believed? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *The* ***R****ace is not to the one who is* ***F****irst, but to the one who* ***F****inishes!*