

Church of God, The Eternal

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A Foretaste of the Kingdom of God As Pictured in the Feast of Tabernacles

October 1979

Dear Brethren:

When you receive this letter, the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement will have just passed. Next comes the Feast of Tabernacles, followed by the Last Great Day. A time when many of the faithful people of God can be together for eight glorious days. What a thrilling blessing, for those whose spirits and minds are right before God! What a privilege to know, appreciate, and respect the commands of God! Truly, the converted of God love His laws and statutes. They do not find the observance of any spiritual command grievous, cumbersome, or problematic. Their faith—the faith of Christ in them—is not daunted by physical problems which could create doubt and misgiving. God is greater than all people, conditions, or circumstances. The faithful thrill to the exercise of faith, trust, and belief.

God says that His laws and commands are not grievous. Considering this, is it not true that most who turn from the revealed way of life begin to denigrate and manifest contempt for God's Holy Days? The Word of God explicitly tells us, the carnal natures with which we are born are not subject to His Law, and neither indeed can be. Therefore, defiance against God's Law—and the feeling of contempt for His way—is living *proof* of carnal motivation rather than the Spirit of God.

We can correctly judge ourselves on the basis of our dedication to God's laws and way of life. If we are truly spiritual in attitude, we will manifest a love and respect for the laws, judgments, and statutes of God. On the other hand, if we are yet carnally oriented, we will manifest a feeling of misgiving and doubt about the Law of God.

Brethren, what is the *purpose* of the Feast of Tabernacles? Of all the axiomatic statements, none is so true as this: *God does nothing without a purpose*. Why, then, do the called and chosen people of God keep the Feast of Tabernacles?

By effecting a simple-yet-thorough analysis of the Holy Days, it is plainly obvious to all called and converted that the Holy Days represent *specific* stages and events in the awesome plan of God. Can anyone deny the relationship between the Passover and the

death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Only the foolish (those spiritually ignorant) would even attempt to deny the relationship between the Days of Unleavened Bread and overcoming—putting out sin, mastering the self, and resisting carnal proclivities. The Spirit *did* come on the Day of Pentecost, did it not? It is most obvious God knew there was some *agreement* between the promise of the Spirit and the Feast of Pentecost. Further, that agreement has to extend to the initial harvest of spiritual lives—the harvest of the firstfruits. Is not that the reason for the gift of the Holy Spirit? Anyone who understands the times of salvation knows that there is more than one time of opportunity to enter into life—even though each individual is given but one chance. Pentecost pictures, then, the early harvest of souls.

What is the most significant event to transpire at the last trump? And when is the last trumpet sounded? None other than on the Feast of Trumpets. What about Atonement? Specifically, it deals with a time when Satan—man's archadversary—will be restrained. A time when man will be freed from the influence of evil spirits and given an opportunity to inherit everlasting life. Therefore, Atonement signifies the time of worldwide change—when Satan will no longer be the god of this world. Atonement is a prelude to the advent of the Millennium. Therefore, the Feast of Tabernacles logically follows Atonement. It is a time of great benefit to humankind. Also, it is a time when the resurrected—at the coming of Christ—will assume their designated responsibilities.

The Feast of Tabernacles, to the truly spiritually illuminated, is a time to experience a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. It is a time to come to KNOW the will of God, to restrain the carnal self, and to live the abundant life.

Thus, if the Feast of Tabernacles is a living foretaste of the soon-coming Kingdom and the millennial reign, it would seem imperative to know what that government will be like. For we can live only what we know, understand, and have willed to perform.

What the Kingdom Will Be Like!

Man is a created being of intelligence. He has mind capacity and intellectual power. As such, he is subject to stimuli which precipitate thought, rationale, and logic. But all these capabilities and powers must be evaluated on the basis of some standard. What is that standard?

Only the Truth of God Taught

The premise of all correct and true judgment will be the Word of God—the laws, statutes, judgments, and writings. That way, only, will be taught, learned, and practiced. It is the perfect way to peace, character development, and the abundant life. It is the way to achieve and obtain everything man has really wanted but which has eluded him because he insists on the "right" to pursue his own way.

That way of life is revealed. Despite the fact it is now found in codified (written) form, it cannot be understood except by specific revelation to each individual. Each must be called—given an open mind and the Holy Spirit, by which to comprehend—before he can truly see the Truth. How many times does the Bible dogmatically state, the called KNOW the Truth and they KNOW God? The very principle of conversion is to KNOW God and His Truth—not to guess or think it may be so.

In the glorious reign of Jesus Christ, the *ETERNAL* Truth will be taught—the same way of life which Christ practiced while here on earth in His own fleshly body, the same way He lived in the lives of the patriarchs of old. For Him to live any other way would make Him a liar, at best. For, He said the way of God is unchangeable and eternal, and that He and God the Father change not. And what was Jesus Christ? The eternal Word of God made flesh—the Christ who lived and walked on earth for 33-1/2 years.

No other way will be taught during the Millennium. If we are to have any functional purpose—aiding and helping Jesus Christ in the millennial reign—then we must learn that way NOW.

Let us live comprehensively God's way of life at the Feast this year. Then, let us continue to live it, day by day, from the Feast forward—until the return of Christ. With that monumental event, living that way will be automatic by virtue of being born into that glorified, eternal family—as the sons and daughters of God the Father.

The Earth Will Be Inundated With the Truth!

The earth literally will be covered with the eternal knowledge of *THE* Truth. Truth *is* singular. Logic and reason tell us there is only *one* absolute Truth. For example, if a city has exactly 100,000 people residing within its boundaries, no other figure will give the precise truth. Neither 99,999 nor 100,001 is the absolute. Any variant from that figure, on either the plus or the minus side, only widens the gap of error. So, Truth is absolute. It is

true mathematically, scientifically, and—much more meaningfully—philosophically. Second-guessing or approximating does not establish that Truth. There is *one* way which is right before God. And that way can be known only by *revelation*. Presently, it is given—in part—to those called of God. Even though known only in part at this time, what is revealed and KNOWN *is* absolute. When God adds to our present fund of perfect knowledge, that additional revelation does not destroy the initial revelation. We progressively are rooting out the error which we have carried with us all along. Eventually, then, the totality of Truth will be made known.

Imagine the day—the Millennium—when that ageless TRUTH will be the only concept taught. And by whom? Those presently learning and practicing it are the ones who will be established in absolute perfection at the time of Christ's return—just prior to being installed in offices of responsibility as kings and priests over all humankind.

That day, the Millennium, is when trust and confidence in spiritual guidance can be implicit. Would it not be marvelous to experience a foretaste of that condition at this year's Feast—and to sustain it for the remainder of our time here in the flesh? No one attempting to espouse heresy. No one agitating for himself, in any way.

The chaos of the present time has become bewildering and troubling, yes. But, you were once called and given faith. That true way does not change. You can count absolutely on it as a guide.

Let us make the Feast of Tabernacles of 1979 a rare experience—a genuine foretaste of the Kingdom of God. It is a time when only the revealed Truth should be freely expressed and taught. To do otherwise is to taint the concept of God's Kingdom. Surely, we are not looking for a Millennium in which human arrogance or stubbornness exists. We want only peace. Perfect peace is gained by implicit obedience to the revealed way of life—that perfect way which will be taught for all eternity. A way of life which literally will inundate the whole earth.

There Will Be No Wars

"From whence come wars and fightings. . . ?" asked the Apostle James. The answer: They come from our own lustful and unbridled natures. The abrogation of war, then, requires a complete change of the carnal natures with which we were born.

Tragically, all the gigantic, devastating, and injurious wars which are fought do not just happen. They are the result of some underlying cause or causes. And God says the real cause is our own nature. Therefore, the abolition of war is accomplished by changing the carnal nature.

If we are to live into the Millennium and later teach others how to have peace, we must learn peace now. How will such a utopian condition be achieved? Since the cause of war is the unbridled conduct of human nature, we must master that nature. As God said to Cain: ". . . if you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it" (Gen. 4:7, *RSV*).

Imagine the beginning of peace—worldwide—by the mastery of our own warlike, selfish natures now. Each one of us has the unparalleled opportunity—by virtue of call and conversion—to commence the peace process *NOW*. And where do we begin? At the Feast of Tabernacles—this year! Remember, the Feast is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. What will exist in the soon-coming Kingdom is precisely what we must live *NOW*. God requires proof. Nothing which hurts, injures, destroys, or defaces the Kingdom of God will be allowed to enter. Our living proof, then, is the manner in which we conduct our lives—in this specific case, at the Feast. How can we hope to become a part of the soon-coming Kingdom of God if we do not put forth the effort to effect character *NOW*?

Weather Will Be Perfect

Tragedy after tragedy is occurring today. Hundreds of lives are being lost to violent and unsuspected turns of weather patterns. Billions of dollars are lost annually as a result of these violent storms. But, the worst has not yet come. Much more violent and erratic weather patterns lie just ahead!

Why? What is the cause of all this fury and ensuing human misery? Regardless of all human rationalization and attempts to explain scientifically, the real cause lies at the feet of rebellious man. He has created the conditions for his own undoing. While he deludes himself into believing the laws, statutes, and judgments of God are not valid today, he is pummeled at every turn of the road for failure to obey God. Those conditions will only become more aggravated as God allows the fury of nature to reap its toll because of what men are doing to their habitation—the earth.

Safety should prevail where God's people are congregated. God has promised such intervention. Any real difficulties would seem to indicate a need on our part—a need to

repent and draw closer to God. Therefore, if all of us set our hearts to know God; to perform faithfully and acceptably before God; to honor, love, and respect one another; and to annihilate and crush every carnal tendency of the self; we can be blessed with awesome, Kingdom-like blessings of God.

The Feast of Tabernacles should be a foretaste of the Kingdom. If we are servants of faith, we should be the recipients of God's blessings. We should enjoy inspirational, refreshing, and beneficent weather as determined by God. And if we do not, don't blame others. Look to your own personal life—it could happen for the very purpose of revealing a need. Change can be effected only when the need is recognized and admitted. When the need no longer exists, neither does the necessity of trial. It is then that the adversity of trial can be removed.

Brethren, if we have recognized ourselves for what we really are, if we have sought an honest and deep relationship with God, if we have truly and fervently prayed to God, and if there be no need for the severity of trial, we can and will experience God's great blessing of perfect weather which will characterize this time as a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. It is up to us. Can we keep ourselves under control? Judge only the self? Live honest and exemplary lives? Control the tongue? Will to be happy, jubilant, energetic, and purposefully obedient in all respects? We are a part of the called, now chosen, sons and daughters of God. Let us have all confidence that the will of God will surface and that we will be blessed beyond our wildest expectations. And these blessings can come to us internally, although we are living in the tragic end-times externally.

No Aches, Pains, or Diseases

One of the meaningful *personal* blessings of God can come in the form of the absence of diseases, bodily imperfections, and all forms of suffering. Such occurrences indicate, again, a need on our part. Not always are these things experienced because of personal problems. In some cases, the suffering may be for others—remember the example of Christ. Usually, though, the problem is ours. We should always look to the self first, in attempting to ascertain causes. The wise will want to understand. A mistake which we, as converted Christians, can make is to adopt the common assumption that time and chance happen to all people. Though this may be true generally, those called and chosen of God should experience supernatural intervention, just as God promised. The natural should not be the rule. What should be obvious is that we are the recipients of unusual intervention on the part of God. When, for our own good, trial or punishment becomes necessary, it is kindly administered. The intent is that we correctly evaluate ourselves, come to understand (if

possible) the cause or causes for punishment, and then make the necessary corrections in our lives—that we may again, finally, become the recipients of God's blessings.

Physical conditions are natural indications. They will greatly help us to understand our spiritual condition and the urgent needs. But they are of little value if we do not read them and then act upon them.

Conversely, when all the good things—blessings—are being poured out, we can be reassured we are right with God. Therefore, if we are truly right-spirited and honest before God, we should be coming before our Maker to experience a foretaste of the Kingdom. We should be blessed greatly. The Feast of Tabernacles is not the picture of our time of trial, but a prelude to the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

Come to Seaside as perfect as possible in spirit and attitude! Come in the perfect love of the Truth. We will continue to be blessed greatly of God, as we have been every year. We have seen the hand of God each year. Why should this one be any different? With the help of God, those of us who seek to improve will grow in the perfection of God.

Natural things such as unbecoming attitudes or conduct are, likewise, a revelation. And revealed things are not hidden—they are seen. To use any form of self-justification is deceptive. We must not. We can only apologize to God and will to do better next time.

Brethren, God will give us a marvelous Feast—a foretaste of the Kingdom—without past comparison. Let us all joy and thrill in the full assurance of God's blessings and love.

Satan Will Be Restrained

Man's adversary, Satan the Devil, has been most aggressive in pursuing his course of deception. Regardless of the appeal, his ultimate ambition is to completely destroy man whom he hates.

Thank God, the day is coming when the primary forces of evil are going to be restrained. That day is the Millennium. Since the Feast of Tabernacles is a picture of that soon-coming Kingdom, it too *must* be a time when Satan and his cohorts are restrained.

Is it not interesting that the very time which pictures this restraining is also the time when the demons become most active, injurious, hateful, and obnoxious? But our God is much greater. If we will call on Him and have faith in His promises, the evil spirits should

be restrained completely. They should have no access to the spiritual limit of the Feast, unless we as individuals invite them in by virtue of attitude or other human problem.

Let us see the fulfillment of God's promise this year! Let us have the right spirit and see the demons completely rebuked and denied any access to the Church of God convention—the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles at Seaside, Oregon.

As a foretaste of God's Kingdom, we should experience this freedom this year. And there is evidence God has already begun to fulfill that promise—the promise of restraining Satan and his demons. Above all, let us all pray daily for the success of the Feast in this regard.

A Time of Plenty: No Want or Famine

The Bible makes it clear, the nation of Israel as a physical people—and the Church of God established by Jesus Christ as a spiritual people—are to come before Him in obedience to a solemn command, and they are to rejoice in the abundance God has supplied as a blessing for obedience and diligence. The Feast of Tabernacles is an expression of thankfulness and gratitude for the abundance of God's blessings. In exactly the same way, inheritance of the Kingdom—or the millennial rule of Christ—is the result of *faithful obedience*. It will be a time of thankful expression and manifestation of gratitude. Only those who have been obedient and diligent in the conduct of their lives will be able to manifest such gratitude and appreciation.

Those who have labored and performed acceptably before God will have all the resources and special blessings whereby they can perform those duties which alone produce joy and happiness. Any other way would put a premium on indolence, indifference, laziness, and a hateful spirit and attitude—a premium on the way of flesh and evil. But God does not bless disobedience and indifference.

The Earth at Peace

Envision a world at *total* peace! No one envious of another's possessions. No one aggressive for selfish purposes. No one protecting the self and thereby reinterpreting things which affect him on the basis of emotion or personal desire. All people taught the way of peace—the Law of God (Ps. 119:165). The personal incentive to crush the carnal nature—a nature which has enslaved, obsessed, and virtually destroyed man.

The whole of the new society is predicated upon the foundation of peace. And with this peace, all the fruits of uninhibited freedom manifest themselves. No fear or want! No frustrations, doubts, or misgivings! No lacks or deficiencies—in health, needs, or requirements. All are at peace! All living confidently. All totally repressing the self, because men have recognized the way of sorrow and regret is the carnal pursuit.

God says the way of the transgressor is hard. We are abused by our own natures. But God again says that if we love, honor, and respect the eternal, spiritual laws of life, even our enemies will be at peace with us.

How tragic is man's present state! Even those called to understand the Truth undo, hurt, and upset themselves. Why? Because far too many feel it essential to protect and defend the self. But this was not the way of Jesus Christ—the one who, by His life, set a perfect example for us all. Though acquainted with sorrows and griefs—those placed upon Him by our many mistakes—He said: "My peace I leave with you." By this example, it is most obvious that fundamental peace does not commence with *external* factors. On the contrary, real peace begins *in the heart and mind of the human being desirous of achieving it*. External factors can only augment peace, not initiate it. Yet, this seems to be a most difficult outlook to achieve. Why? Because no man willingly surrenders his "rights." Therefore, he fights issues most of his life. Husbands fight wives. Wives are at odds with husbands. Children and parents oppose each other. Individuals oppose obedience to groups or organizations. Workers and businesses are at odds. All these problems prevail because we do not recognize the absolute authority of God's Word—for, God's Word is the *only* absolute standard.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. It is the time for us to *live* the Christian principles—*eternal in nature*—which, hopefully, we have been learning.

In God's Kingdom nothing which defiles, injures, or generates hate and contempt will be permitted. But in this present foretaste at the Feast, we can only accept what God allows as trials for our own good. It is the eternal Father who allows Satan to make his subtle appearance. And Satan will flee only if we resist him by practicing the very principles of peace. Otherwise, brethren, he can make definite inroads by generating unrest, hate, contempt, distrust, and every other potential difficulty.

Are we going to try hard to live the life of perfect peace—the foretaste of God's Kingdom? Can we so will for ourselves, that nothing shall offend or distress us? Rest assured, brethren, that we do not intend to be upset and distracted from fulfilling the real

purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles this year! Let us *ALL* make this resolve. Let us determine to experience an eight-day period of time during which total and absolute peace will prevail. It will depend *NOT* on whom or what we can isolate from us, but totally on how we cope with every situation which God may allow to arise. We must prove ourselves to be the masters—not allowing the volatile reaction of carnal emotions, but rather manifesting an exemplary spiritual posture *at all times*. In the Millennium, perfect peace will come to the whole world because Satan will be restrained by God. Today, peace is achieved by *our* restraining Satan—resisting all carnal influences. Remember, the only one we can—and have any right to—control is the *self*. What a Feast we can have, if each makes himself a committee of one to control his worst enemy—himself!

No Financial Reversals

We live in a world built around economics. For the most part, men generally realize the end result of whatever they put into their endeavors. Some few, however, are the recipients of adversity over which they have no control. And in another sense, the majority of mankind is repressed and held under bondage—although they do not generally see or understand it—by a small minority.

Despite all the unorthodox manipulation of money, God has promised that the faithful will be greatly blessed for obedience. And God is still Ruler Supreme—whatever happens is by His express will or allowance. Therefore, if we are not blessed as God promised, it is evidence of some major wrong in our lives. The Old Testament (Hebrew) word used for "trial" or "punishment" is frequently the same word which means "revelation." Adversity or trial is the evidence—the revelation—of a need. Why?

With regard to the Feast of Tabernacles, God promised major economic blessings throughout the year—whereby we can fulfill His express command to *come before Him* at His appointed place *and REJOICE*. Such joy and freedom from mental doubt and frustration cannot possibly come except in the absence of economic strain.

As inheritance of God's Kingdom requires spiritual preparation, so does the *type* of that Kingdom—the Feast of Tabernacles—require work and preparation throughout the year. There all the requisites of satisfaction, sublime joy, and contentment will exist. God says the food and sleep of a diligent, persevering, hard-working laborer are sweet—meaningful and rewarding.

We have labored for the rich blessings of God. Now let us thoroughly enjoy the Feast. It is God's gift to us—even though we worked hard for it. Why should we rob ourselves, at the eleventh hour, of the joy, happiness, and satisfaction for which we have labored eleven months and three weeks?

The abundance of God's blessings, enabling us to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles, is a very real picture of the abundance of *all* things in the Millennium. The peoples of the world are to be blessed greatly. Our abundance is a picture of that state of affairs. A picture of the time when labor, turmoil, and trial are past. A picture of a world at rest—productive, confident, happy, and secure in the knowledge of God's will.

How can we believe in the true picture and meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles unless we fully, genuinely, and rightly live the principles now? As God created the whole, vast universe from His storehouse of power, so can those who are called to understand—and those only—create happiness from whatever circumstances prevail! By this action, those who know and comprehend the fruits, of both the Spirit and the flesh, can determine the underlying spirit of influence—the Spirit of God or the spirit of Satan the Devil. Do men gather grapes from a fig tree? Can both sweet and bitter waters flow from the same well? Remember: wrath, contempt, bitterness, resentment, heresy, division, and ugly moods cannot come from the Spirit of God.

Brethren, the Feast of Tabernacles is a time to foretaste the Kingdom of God. Satan must be restrained. Let us restrain him by resisting all of his evil influences. The Feast will be precisely what we make it. Like Joshua, let us say, "As for me and my house, we intend to live the complete and full foretaste of that Kingdom which it represents. We desire to live the will and peace of God."

Human Nature Under Control

Here, little needs to be said specifically. Human nature is involved in all the concepts mentioned above and those to follow. But a few generalizations are in order.

One cannot fight or overcome an unknown and/or unseen enemy. To wrestle effectively with such an enemy requires knowledge. Therefore, the first step in mastery is careful evaluation and admission of error. Then, once the enemy is known, target him for control or destruction. This is the second step in personal mastery. The third, and last, is the most important of all. Keep him in sight (Jas. 1:22–25)—and will, with undaunted courage, to destroy him. Mere knowledge is inadequate. One must act on that knowledge—the understanding of God's Word.

The Kingdom is a time when carnality will be expunged—obliterated. To bring it, with all its force and will, to the Feast of Tabernacles is to deny the whole purpose of the Feast.

Now is the time to live the purpose of the Feast! Will any of us be enemies in the camp of God? You alone, individually, can make that determination. Is there any set of factors, conditions, or circumstances which would deter you from inheriting the Kingdom of God? You can *know*! Just evaluate your mental outlook, behavior, and response during the upcoming foretaste of that Kingdom.

Physical Fears Eliminated

How much of this mundane, physical existence revolves around fear? Fear to leave home, lest intruders avail themselves of your absence! Fear to travel—regardless of mode—because of a fear of death and/or suffering. Fears which accompany virtually every human action.

Are such fears normal and natural? Every dimension of man's existence is fraught with fear. Fear of darkness. Fear of light. Fear of height. Fear of depth. Fear of water. Fear of fire. Fear is a terrible, demoralizing, and exacting human emotion. It has been exploited by the unscrupulous. It has been the nemesis of far too many people who have been injured or altogether destroyed emotionally, mentally, or physically.

Fear is the antithesis of love and faith. It manifests a distrust of God and His power. Perfect love casts out fear. Perfect faith in God is the basis of truly living, not merely existing humanly.

Today, regardless of the times in which we live, we are by those very conditions afforded the opportunity to manifest trust and faith in God. One of the most vital ingredients for a successful Feast is faith. By it, the whole gamut of fear is eliminated. We trust God to protect our homes and possessions. We can confidently leave the total realm of physical worry at home. God has promised. And being devoid of the debilitating influence of fear, we can truly obey God—we can rejoice, be happy and free of carnal misgivings.

The Kingdom is entirely devoid of fear. Fear is a very specific evil to be eliminated. To truly observe the foretaste of the Kingdom, we must rid ourselves of all inhibiting fears!

How?

Pray and draw close to God. Trust Him with everything. He sees all and has *all power*.

How can we live a foretaste of the Kingdom—in which exists no inordinate fear at all—and carry all our human, carnal proclivities to the Feast with us? Remember, brethren, this year we desire to make the observance of the Feast a true representation—a foretaste—of the Kingdom of God. Eliminate fear by replacing it with faith and confidence. Confidence generated by a close walk and communion with God.

Crime of All Types Under Control

Crime is sin! Perhaps none of us would take serious advantage of another human being. We wouldn't deliberately murder, would we? But hate—regardless of what our deceptive natures call it—is murder.

Lusting and envying are cardinal sins. They are sins even though we do not translate the emotions into action. The Kingdom is a time, place, and sphere of influence in which sin does not exist.

Is it not logical that the foretaste of the Kingdom is to be a time, place, and sphere in which SIN does not prevail? How is it possible for us to achieve such an ideal goal?

Under no circumstances is it possible for us to master carnal tendencies by setting unusual and fearful attention upon them. On the contrary, we best eliminate sin by replacing it with the opposing fruits of the Spirit. For hate, love. For bitterness, appreciation. For distrust, faith. A spiritual void is hard to maintain. We must replace weaknesses with good and acceptable traits.

Since criminal activity often begins with small, "harmless" antics, it is imperative for the Christian to eliminate these human traits, regardless of how "harmless" they may seem. Exaggerating is lying. Failure to carry out one's word is a SIN. To hate is to murder. To idolize one's opinion is sacrilegious. And the list goes on and on.

If we believe the Feast is a foretaste of the coming Kingdom, we will live the principles which are to prevail in that Kingdom. Live the life of Christ! Manifest the fruits

of the Holy Spirit. Let us be examples to one another and to the whole world. Let us will to show the world there is a true way of peace, health, happiness—everything man has ever wanted!

Requirements Innate Within the Solemn Command of God

"Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord shall choose: because the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice" (Deut. 16:15).

To be faithful, we must rejoice. We have seen the basic ingredients required for real joy. But, knowledge is one thing. Now we must live it—live it abundantly and enthusiastically, for the duration of the Feast.

Second, to be faithful we must manifest oneness—" . . . keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord shall choose." Independence has no part in the fulfillment of this command. All must act as a unit—doing the will of God from the heart. The revealed Word of God is the authority and guide.

Third, the gathering together produces a conclave. Therefore, good and refreshing fellowship is mandatory. That fellowship is in God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ—and with one another, as members of the Body of Christ. By that fellowship we certify our love and affection for God and Christ.

Within the framework of the revealed Truth—the life of Jesus Christ, for He is the Word (the Truth)—let us enjoy one another. Let us fellowship—a principle completely opposite to individualization. The fellowship is in Christ, the Word—and the Word is one, singular.

Fourth, let us joy in the presence of God. Wherever the people of God are gathered together within the expressed will of God, there God is. Let us never forget. Our walk for the specific eight days of the Feast is with God. What a deterrent to carnal manifestations!

Fifth, innate within the command is assurance of divine protection. Let us be aware of God and His providence. How? By trusting Him.

Brethren, if we will act on the above words, we will be the blessed beneficiaries. Knowledge is of no value except as it is applied. Apply it and have the most memorable

Feast you have ever had. Good things (joy, peace, excellent meetings, etc.) do not just happen—they are brought to pass by effort. Happy endeavor for Feast of Tabernacles '79!

May we commend you into the full love of God.

In deep love and respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond C. Cole