



BEGUILING OF DEVOTED THINGS

Ephesians 5:25-26

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[a] her by the washing with water through the word,

In Ephesians 5: 25, 26, Paul writes that our Lord Jesus Christ is going to come to cleanse the church. He is going to come with a bucket of water and soap which is the Word of God to cleanse the church. He is going to cleanse His bride from all her filth and uncleanness. The Lord has also got a refiner's fire. So He is coming with fire and water to cleanse the House of God. The Bible says, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God." (1 Peter 4:17). Before He comes with His saints, in all His glory and majesty, He will first manifest Himself in His church the body of Christ—which is His bride, the temple of God.

Today, the church seems to be without hope. It is as though she has put on rags. There is no one to care for her. She looks poor and pathetic. But that is not what the Word of God says. Jesus says, "I will build my

church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mathew16:18). God does not intend His church to be without glory and power. He is coming back for a glorious body of believers. He is coming for a people who have grown into His full height and stature. How many believe that God is a God of restoration? Our God is a God of restoration. He says in His Word, *"I will restore to you the years that the locusts hath eaten"* (Joel 2:25). Let us see how the Lord is going to bring us to that place of maturity.

Before the Lord Jesus was lifted up He said that He would not leave the disciples as orphans, but that He would send them a Helper, the Holy Spirit. *"And then you shall receive power"* Jesus said. In the Gospels we see Jesus Christ with the disciples; in the book of Acts we see the Holy Spirit with the disciples. And in the Epistles we see the Spirit of God functioning and moving in the Body of Christ.

When Jesus was ascending into the heavenlies, the Word of God says, *"He gave some apostles and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some*

pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11). He gave everything He had for the band of people called the ‘apostles.’ He gave His Word to them. He gave His ministry to them. He gave them His authority. He gave them His power. And He said, “Go and do this work in the earth”. Paul gives more details about the five-fold ministries in chapter four of the book of Ephesians. Jesus said that we, in the church, need the five-fold ministries to grow and develop into the fullness of the Son, even unto His full stature. *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”*. (Ephesians 4:13).

GOOD SAMARITAN FELLOWSHIP
H2 / 22, Mahavir Enclave,
New Delhi 110045 INDIA
joythomas@oilnwine.org