

## *The Washing of the Feet*

***“1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; 4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. 6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. 10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” (John 13:1-17 KJV)***

Washing of the feet it was there from the ancient times; upon the coming of the guest to the house they honor him and show him hospitality by washing his feet, so he will feel good after he was exhausted by his journey, and comforted after his dirty feet washed and got clean. When the Lord visited Abraham; he offered Him water to wash His feet, as we can read what Abraham had said to the Lord, ***“4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.” (Genesis 18:4 KJV)*** Washing of the feet was also a symbol of holiness and cleansing as we can read what God ordered Moses to do to the priests who enter into the service, ***“21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.” (Exodus 30:21 KJV)*** In these two examples we found the people were washing their own feet.

Abigail when David sent for her to be his wife, let us read what she said to his servants, ***“41 And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” (1 Samuel 25:41 KJV)*** She was willing to wash the feet of his servants, which means that she was willing to serve his servants and to be a good wife to him. So here washing of the feet is humility and service.

In the New Testament we find the Lord Jesus Christ Himself washed the feet of His own disciples. ***Washing one another's feet it has a deep meaning and it is not a mere symbolic thing. Jesus had a purpose in doing it and He wants us doing it for certain spiritual reasons as He commanded us, “14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.” (John 13:14 KJV)***

Many who would pass through hardships and trials will try to avoid passing through the trials, or complain, or retaliate to deviate from passing through suffering. But let us look of how Jesus passed through suffering. Jesus faced the cross with prayer and fully surrendered His will to God and He was led to offer more love and service to His disciples by washing their feet. ***When you have the attitude to accept the trials that God ordained for you to pass through then you will go into prayer, kneeling down, surrendering your will to God and yielding your life and your heart unto Him, willingly to be a vessel to impart His love to the people around you, and to the disciples that God had placed in your life.***

What are the spiritual meanings of the washing of the feet and why the Lord commanded us to do it? Or in other word, when you are about to enter into a stage of suffering, then you will face that with the following:

***1. Love and show full extent of love: “1 Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” (John 13:1 KJV)*** Jesus was ready to give His life for His own. ***Always love is the right attitude towards God and His mission on earth. Love will lead you to do the right thing in facing trials.*** That is why the Word of God telling us the following: ***“37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 22:37-39 KJV)*** ***The same should be for us; as we wash one another's feet we ought to be ready to offer that sacrificial love for one another: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13 KJV)***

***2. It reflects our obedience to Christ example: “14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.” (John 13:14 KJV)*** We need to obey Christ in this direction not only in doing this action of washing one another's feet but also to apply its meaning in our lives; to accept, to love, to humble down, to serve, to teach, to correct, to admonish, and to build one another.

***3. It enable the spirit of humility to grow:*** It is very difficult to be prideful and haughty when you are involved in one of the most mean of task. Washing the feet of another person not easy to be accepted; the person who do that need to be humble; once he involve in such an act he ought to humble himself before God. The Word of God it teaches us the following, ***“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.” (Colossians 3:12 KJV)*** To be a true people of God humility should be there. God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble. ***God want us to be humble because good deeds could only be done if we carry humility in our lives. Also if you are humble, then God will teach you what to do in the difficult times of trials.***

***4. Action and not reaction: “2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.” (John 13:2 KJV)*** Even Judas would betray Jesus and would harm Him but Jesus did not retaliate and thought to harm him. Instead He was filled with God's love, and was willing to offer service unto God. ***Think not to harm but to do something that will bring God's love and service to others around you and to the people under your care and ministry. You need to overcome anger, “1 I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the***

wicked is before me. 2 I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. 3 My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue.” (Psalm 39:1-3 KJV) There were wicked people around David as Judas was around Jesus, but David when he wanted to burst he did not open his mouth and complain to man but to God, “4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am.” (Psalm 39:4 KJV) Jesus did not go and fight with Judas. Do also the same with the people who attacks you, have self-control, pray for them and be patient and wait upon God to handle them and vindicate you, “1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.” (Psalm 37:1, 7-9)

5. Have understanding: “3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God.” (John 13:3) Jesus knew from where He came and where He was going. The same is with you, you must know from where God had taken you and where He is bringing you; to Heaven. You must also understand that God had called you and you are the person that you need to comply with God’s will.

6. Have willingness: “4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.” (John 13:4 KJV) “He riseth from supper”, Jesus willingly and spontaneously risen from the supper. Serve God and do it willingly and joyfully! Humble down, and do it willingly as Jesus did; He humbled Himself and accepted the cross and no one forced Him. “8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:8 KJV) Jesus when He got up from the table the table was full of delicious food, but He was willing to leave the comfort zone in order to serve the people that God ordained for Him to care. He took the initiative and became good example for us. \* The same for you, if you want to serve God you need to leave food, tables, titles, positions, delicacies, feasts and pleasures of this world, and take the initiative and do as our Lord did. \* The Holy Spirit does not reside in titles, positions, or prestige, but in your willingness to be used as channel of blessings to convey the love to others. Be willing to leave your riches and whatever privileges you have and be willing to humble down in order to reach people who are in position less than you, “16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” (Romans 12:16 KJV)

Washing of the feet it means dealing with dirt, dust and mud, that hidden between toes, and it means cleaning of area that is dirty using our hand to rub and water to clean. In the Spirit, washing of the feet is offering service to clean from sin (sanctification). We need to do all what we can to convert people and bring them to Christ, “19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20 KJV) Using hands means praying and laying on hands that will bring healing to the wounds of the people. Laying on of hands, means casting out demons that reside in people, who give footholds for them to live in there. You must know that your love to the lost and your service will help the people to get delivered from demons. The water is the Word of God as we read here, “26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

(Ephesians 5:26 KJV) Use the Word of God to council the people: the Word of God brings healing and cleansing. The Word of God is a medicine. Sometime when you apply a medicine on a wound it may cause pain so we need to be careful and gently apply the Word of God to the people. Washing of the feet brings refreshment to those who had travelled long journey. And we are called to bring the Word of God and the message that brings joy, hope, revival and restoration into people’s life.

7. Do the complete work: “and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.” (John 13:5 KJV) Why Jesus wiped their feet after he washed them, so they will be not wet for if they are wet, they will take dust when they will touch with them the ground. In serving God we must do the complete ministry and finish our assignments well.

When the Lord was washing the disciples’ feet He treated the entire 12 apostles. The same for us we should do our part and show God’s love to everyone whom God put under our care. Even to people like Judas we just need to do our part and pray for them to repent and respond to God’s love and care.

When the Lord approached Simon Peter to wash his feet Peter did not understand the meaning of it. “6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” (John 13:6-8 KJV) Simon Peter was not willing that the Lord would wash his feet, but then Jesus explained to him that is mandatory, “If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” (John 13:8 KJV) Then “Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9 KJV) It was well explained to Peter; to accept and agree with what Jesus said and to do it; it means that Peter will be part of Jesus. To accept and follow what Jesus did it means to carry His same mind and thoughts, and to continue His mission. Willingly, we should have the compassionate heart and the love of Jesus to the lost and to do what He wants us to do in reaching them and disciple them.

The Lord discerned that the disciples might not understand fully what He was doing as He told them, “Know ye what I have done to you?” (John 13:12 KJV) The point we need to emphasize that the people or the disciples who are under our care may not grasp or understand what we are saying or doing, for that reason then we need to be patient and considerate till they are mature and can digest the Word of God and our actions.

When Peter realized the importance for him that the Lord Jesus should wash his feet he said, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9 KJV) But Jesus’ replied was this, “10 He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.” (John 13:10 KJV) Peter requested unnecessary thing to be done, and from Jesus’ reply we can learn the following:-

A. The church should not do anything unnecessary and wastes the resources without contributing anything to the real people’s needs. Churches now a day have many activities and programs but the main need and people’s sin and suffering are not met. The church should have discernment and act tactfully; not to give unnecessary things but to wash the feet and clean the dirty parts.

**B. \* The Church and Christ's disciples and workers should have the courage and the willingness to suffer in order to meet the need of the people and help them and deliver them. \* The church should not miss the wounds but to touch them with God's Word to clean them, sooth them and comfort them to be healed.**

**\* Speaking about washing of the feet is doing something that cost you to leave your comfort zone and your privileges and suffer for the sake that others will get the benefit of knowing Christ and follow Him. \* Most of the time such service with suffering might not be recognized by others or might not be appreciated by others, but that should not be a discouragement factor for you. Instead persevere and stand firm; be encouraged with God's Word, "15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked." (1 Corinthians 12:15, 22-24 KJV) What I want to say is the following: Your ministry is important. Others might have bigger achievement than you, but what you are doing they cannot do. So go on and praise God and appreciate the suffering that you are in; for you are bringing fruit that God desires and cherish.**

***My Dear and Beloved:* The Word of God tells us the following: "4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God." (Isaiah 49:4 KJV) \* No one can reward you for your service unto Him. Those who ignore you and not appreciate you, remember, even it is not in their hand to reward you. Even they cannot reward themselves. God will reward you for your labor and He will reward everyone according to what he had done. \* Therefore go forward and serve Him. Leave the comfort zone and get up from tables and the titles that does not bring glory to God and start to wash the peoples' feet and serve them. Go forward led by the Holy Spirit and instructed with His Word to reach the lost, the wounded and injured and help them with God's Word and extend your hands to them, serve them and wash their feet, and as written in *Isaiah 35:4*, "4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you." (Isaiah 35:4 KJV)**

Commit yourself to live according to the Word of God in this message; to love God and others and serve them, to humble down and be willing to suffer, willing to suffer for others and willing to wash other people's feet. Be willing to do the needful, doing the complete and perfect work; to forgive and not to revenge, to be willing to leave titles, tables, banquets and the comfort zone in order to serve God in reaching others for Christ, to serve them, to cleanse them from sins, to wash them with His Word, to lay hands on them, healing them, to drive demons, to help them to understand God's will, to set a good example for them in humility, love and service.

Renounce now your sins. Renounce pride, anger, unforgiveness, non willing to suffer, and non willingness to serve God by serving others. Renounce your love for tables and banquets, positions and titles. Renounce your selfishness and your bad example to others around you.

Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I am willing to forgive the following people and start to serve them \_\_\_\_\_ .

Lord I commit now my life to serve you and to start to do your will and your good plan in my life. Lord I am willing to leave my comfort zone and go forward to do this mission work \_\_\_\_\_ , willingly and in love to set a good example to others to follow and do the same.

Jesus said, ***"17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* (John 13:17 KJV)**

Let us start now to wash one another feet and be happy ...

While singing, praising and praying to God, engage now in actual washing of one another feet ....

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life.

*Lord thank you for Your Word that taught us about the ordinance of the washing of the feet, and how to serve you by serving others. Lord we commit ourselves to live in holiness, away from sin, to forgive those who hurt us, and to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, peace joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, perseverance, long-suffering, self-control, and humility to set good example to others that they may see Christ in us.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to you to go on and serve you and do the mission work that you entrusted to them. Lord protect them and provide for them to continue to serve you.*

*Lord bless us as a church and help us to implement fully your Word that we learn in this message in the life of your church. Lord bring healing and restoration in our midst. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and with your love so that we can go forward and do the mission work that you entrusted us to do. Lord lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, and make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord lead us to be service providers, and compassionate; serving and loving the people that we are reaching out. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Washing of the Feet. John 13:1-17. Genesis 18:4. Exodus 30:21. 1 Samuel 25:41. Matthew 22:37-39. Colossians 3:12. Psalm 39:1-4. Psalm 37:1, 7-9. Philippians 2:8. Romans 12:16. James 5:19-20. Ephesians 5:26. 1 Corinthians 12:15, 22-24. Isaiah 49:4. Isaiah 35:4.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God

United Arab Emirates  
Email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com)  
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: [www.churchofgoduae.com](http://www.churchofgoduae.com).

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:  
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)  
ACCOUNT NAME:  
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF  
ACCOUNT NO.:  
1576003753162014  
IBAN:  
AE380351576003753162014  
SWIFT CODE:  
NBADAEAACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com).