

13 December 1992, Morning Sacrifice      Londrina, Brazil  
One Spirit; Another Religion

We have had sufficient time this morning to examine ourselves so that we won't be going through a ritual this morning, but so that our sacrifice will be in reality. If we haven't examined ourselves, we are here in ritual. The epitome of apostasy is when right in the midst of the congregation, you fall away. You don't have to go anywhere. You can do it right here. But just so we won't merely go through the motions of making a sacrifice, we had this hour to thoroughly examine ourselves to see if it is going to please our Master who knows our hearts. We stand in His presence when we stand to make the sacrifice. In this age we cannot see Him. But we stand before Him and all of the attending angels. For this reason the women come properly dressed and covered and the men lift up their hands — holy dedicated hands without any wrath, any dissension, any difference of opinion. There is only one way to serve Him — with one heart and one mind — we are intent on the same purpose.

Our Master told His apostles-in-training to ask that His Father's name would be held in high esteem here on earth as it is in heaven. That is no small thing to bring about, for, can you imagine how hallowed, exalted, and respected His name is in heaven, where all the angels are coming and being sent out, and with all the true saints, the overcomers from the first church there with Him? Can you imagine? That is the way His name is supposed to be on earth. It is a great, high calling we have that from the rising of the sun to the setting His name would be made great (Mal 1:11). And not only that, but also that we would be in unity as the Father and Son are in unity. We cannot be any less 'one' than they are one, if our Master's prayer is to be honored. In order to bring that about we must be totally submissive to the Holy Spirit. No worthlessness, divisiveness, or disunity can come in, not one hint of anything that would come in to take us away. It is going to take everything we have to deny ourselves and live by the Spirit. That is what we are called for. And in order to fulfill that calling (Eph 4:1) we have to come to be completely humble. We must understand that this is what the word says. We have the grace provided for us if we go to the throne (Heb 4:16) to get it — doing what Eph 4:3,4 says (by being completely humble.) There is only one Spirit who dwells in all of us. One Spirit who dwells in all of us. One. One Body, one Spirit — and we are one if that one Spirit is in us. We enjoy the same spirit as the rest of the brethren. We have the same spirit therefore we have the same mind — one heart, one mind, one way — as the first church enjoyed in Acts 4:32. Abundant grace was on every one of them because they were going to the throne of grace. A restoration is going to take place, restoring the original condition of the edah. For the last 1900 years the Spirit does not dwell in what remains of the first church. It is obviously not the true church anymore because it is divided. The edah is only one. Christianity is not the church; it is another religion altogether, and we refuse to be called what the first edah would not even call themselves: we are not Christians and neither were they. That is what the outside world called them. We are disciples, followers of the way, we are the way, we are brethren, the edah, the faithful witness, the wife, the faithful followers, those who submitted, those who were intent on the same heart and the same purpose.