THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE FOOD!

October 20, 2019 Acts 2:42, 46 by Bob Branch What Makes A Great Relationship with God, part 4

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." Acts 2:42-47

BIG IDEA: The early Christians were not committed to food, but they were committed to connecting with the Lord and each other over shared meals together. It still works that way!

- Beginnings: Weekly Shabbat (Sabbath)
- **7 Festivals**! ¹ *Passover*, ² *Pentecost*, ³ *Tabernacles* (pilgrimages)
 - ⁴ Trumpets, ⁵ Day of Atonement, ⁶ Purim, ⁷ Lights
- Jesus & the Passover—ritual celebration, meal together.
- Early church shared meals and Communion
- "Love feasts"

1. Sharing a meal is an invitation to <u>SHARE</u> life together.

Jesus: "I will meet you as you share life together."

"he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." **Luke 22:19-20** (Mark 14:22-25; Matt. 26:26-29) Something is about to happen with his body and his blood that will fundamentally change how the universe works!

2. The Lord's Supper is an <u>INVITATION</u> into freshness each time.

"The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it... "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." **1 Cor 11:23-26**

- Look *back*—in remembrance (vv. 24, 25).
- Look *up*—in thanksgiving to God (vv. 24, 25).
- Look *round*—to make sure we are in a relationship of fellowship and love with God's people (vv. 17-22).
- Look *in*—in self-examination (vv. 27-34).
- Look *forward*—to Jesus' return, wedding feast (v. 26)

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him..." **Luke 24:30-31**

3. Jesus continues to <u>OPEN OUR EYES</u> to his wonders through breaking bread.