

# Breaking Bread

## Newsletter –

The Brisbane Society of The New Church,  
Brisbane and South-East Queensland

**Aug, Sep, October 2020**



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

*...a soul in the other life is known among angels from his or her sphere, and that this sphere, whenever it pleases the Lord, is represented by colours, like those of the rainbow, in variety according to the state of each person...*  
(*Secrets of Heaven 1053*)

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## *Being Called Out By The Lord*

### *The Most Important Spiritual Step You Will Ever Take.*

One small spiritual step often missed, and yet, so power for affecting real lasting change in our lives.

**NOTE:** - *This is a recapitulation of the address given during our August Family Service.*

#### **THE SMALLEST THINGS MAKE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE**

We have missed something. It is not surprising. Small things are easy to overlook and yet, small adjustments can add up to a tremendous difference in our lives. It is also true that when we miss the small but important things, they can add up to a lot of unnecessary pain and suffering. What is this small ‘thing’ that we have missed? It is a little step that we all need to take and when we fail to do it, we become terribly stuck in life. Keep reading and I will show you what this little, often missed, step involves.

#### **ABRAHAM WAS CALLED OUT...**

Abram was called out of his home and family. That was the last thing he wanted - to be isolated from all his family, friends and resources. But it was the only way for God to set him free from his idolatrous heritage and establish him as the father of a new covenanted people of God. If Abram had failed to COME OUT there would have been NO third Church period- NONE.

### **MOSES WAS CALLED OUT...**

Moses was called out of Egypt. He was in the line of succession to become pharaoh - the known ruler of the World. The last thing Moses wanted was to become a nomad for forty years in the wilderness. If he had failed in this step, his people would have received no deliverer. They would have remained perpetual slaves in a foreign city and foreign land.

### **THE TWELVE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED OUT...**

Twelve men were called to leave behind their livelihoods as fishermen and public servants with uncertain futures and the inevitable fate of persecution, unfair judgment, and execution. If they had failed to take this step there would have been no Christian church.

### **EVEN THE LORD WAS CALLED OUT...**

And ultimately, the LORD was called to forsake any form of a traditional path in life for the sake of saving humanity from eternal destruction. If He had failed to take this step, the cost would have been inestimable...

### **AND THE CHURCH TOO IS BEING CALLED OUT...**

What are you being called to give up? You are certainly being '*called*' by the Lord whether you realise it or not. But what exactly is the Lord calling you to sacrifice or give up?

Do you consider yourself as belonging to the CHURCH of God? It is quite a privilege to be considered the PEOPLE of GOD. How can we be sure that we do belong to that company? What are the true signs of GOD's PEOPLE and what exactly *IS* the CHURCH?

Strangely, the word 'Church' cannot be found in the Bible. What do you mean by that? I am referring to the original language of Greek for the New Testament and Hebrew for the Old Testament. For our current definition of 'church', let us just stay with the Greek language spoken at the time of the first disciples of Jesus.

In the koine(common) Greek, the word used for the 'CHURCH' is '*ecclesia*' –

1. ecclesiastical - priestly, ministerial.
2. a congregation; church.

No one word in English captures what the word 'ecclesia' means and that is why scholars have used the word CHURCH. Ecclesia transliterated means – '*to be called out from amongst - to be set aside for a special use.*' It comes from two root words – '*ec*' from which we derive 'ex' and the word 'exit' and '*clesia*' which means 'to call'.

Thus, the word 'ecclesia'(CHURCH) when translated literally into English means – 'the Called-out ones'.

So, the next question is – '*What exactly are we being called out from?*

From the world? No, certainly not. In John 17:15, the Lord prays for exactly the opposite to that. He prays that we will be *in* the world, while at the same time not *of* this world.

The apostle John said it this way -

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them." 1 John 2:15*

In other words, we are being called out of '*worldliness*'. But even this is still a very ambiguous definition. No wonder that this small step of being '*called out*' is missed (or misunderstood).

Let's recap - the Lord wants us to be *in* this world, but He does not want us to be *of* this World. Therefore, running away from this life is NOT the answer. In fact, the Lord needs us here, to be actively engaged in this life. There really is NO OTHER WAY to make spiritual progress or become regenerate than by living this life to its fullest. And the more you engage, the greater and richer your opportunity for spiritual progress. Strange but true. Thus, this whole idea of NOT LOVING the world, what does this mean? Can we get some clarity on what exactly are we being 'called out' from?

## BEING CALLED OUT OF BABYLON...

Sorry for doing this to you, but I am going to add yet another term/definition to our already ambiguous list. Our new term is BABYLON or MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT (for the full title). This is one of those great Bible symbols or spiritual archetypes. I would go further by saying, it is probably one of the most important symbols found in the Bible right up there with ‘**the tree of life**’, ‘**New Jerusalem**’ and other such archetypes. Two whole chapters of the Apocalypse (17 & 18) are dedicated to this symbol along with many Old Testament prophecies (Genesis 10 & 11, Isa 13 & 48, Jer 32,46,50,51,52, Ezek 17 etc.).

In chapter 18:4 of the Apocalypse, we read these disturbing words –

*‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’*

What are God’s people doing in ‘Babylon’? How did they get there? And how do they/we ‘come out’ from this great city? These are important questions.

The Writings of Swedenborg have a lot to say about our Proprium/false ego – meaning the beliefs we have about ourselves and our sense of self. This ‘false’ ego can take many forms during this earthly life. Without generalising, keep in mind how the false ego can sometimes manifest in personality disorders. To this end, psychologists talk about ten specific types of personality disorders –

Type A – Weird (behaviour that seems unusual and eccentric to others)

- paranoid personality disorder
- schizoid personality disorder
- schizotypal personality disorder

Type B – Wild (behaviour that is emotional, dramatic, or erratic)

- antisocial personality disorder
- borderline personality disorder
- histrionic personality disorder
- narcissistic personality disorder

Type C – Worried/Weak/Wimpy (Anxiety and fear underlie the behaviours)

- avoidant personality disorder
- dependent personality disorder
- obsessive-compulsive personality disorders

Stop and give this some thought for a moment. The Bible is a spiritual book designed to map out our soul and all its inner landscape. The Lord has already revealed to us all the above-mentioned disorders (and many more). It uses the linguistic tools of symbols, archetypes, and correspondences to demonstrate to us in dramatic ‘soul’ language our ‘soul’ disorders. And that is exactly what ‘Babylon’ symbolises. It is our false ego (the proprium) dressed up in religious garb, all the while using virtue signalling to hide all the corruption, distortion and brokenness contained deep within. The Lord when addressing the religious leaders of His day confronted this very issue by saying – ‘*Blind Pharisee! **First** clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*’

‘Babylon’ is that same old lust/love of controlling others, only now it has found a new almost undetectable disguise in the pretence of holiness. Worse still, the false ego latches on to the Word of God and distorts its messages and meanings into all manner of corruptions in a colossal grab for power over others. The result is that all the genuine power contained in the Word is lost. That means the Word becomes ineffective for saving the soul of any individual under the influence of the ‘religious ego’. What a terrible state to be in – to think you have all the answers and that you are doing well when, in fact, the pride of the religious ego robs you of any real peace, happiness or spiritual transformation.

## **22 Signs of a religious ego (self-righteous spirit)**

1. Making people feel inferior.
2. Unashamed public self-promotion.
3. Hypocrisy - expecting a standard from others but not obtaining that standard in one's own life.
4. Hyper-critical - lacking compassion or empathy while always finding fault.
5. Unhealthy repulsion of people.
6. Craving praise and approval - *'people should be looking up to me'*.
7. Reminding others of one's worthiness.
8. Feeling entitled or deserving of rewards.
9. More important than others.
10. You know, understand, and believe things that others fail to identify.
11. Unable to identify one's own weaknesses or issues.
12. Feelings of self-pity or being harshly dealt with by the Lord.
13. Having a special or unique calling unlike anyone else.
14. Finding pleasure in the failures of others - tearing others down to elevate oneself.
15. Struggling to apologise for one's own shortcomings.
16. You don't have friends who challenge you, question you or disagree with you – surrounded by 'yes' people.
17. No self-reflection - when hearing something of conviction your thoughts always go to others.
18. Being right is more important than doing what is right.
19. Struggling with any form of correction.
20. Tradition is more important than people.
21. 'My way' is better than 'your way'.
22. Results/rules are more important than relationships.

## **Conclusion**

God's people are the only ones who can 'go' into Babylon because they are the only ones who have access to the holy things of God. Therefore, coming out of Babylon is a special challenge/calling set before anyone who truly has endeavoured to walk the spiritual path. Do not be discouraged if you find these 'ego traps' at work inside of you. It is a healthy 'signs' that you are on the path to heavenly life. Equally important though, is the need to discover/catch out these ego states when they are manifesting in our lives. There really is no other way to come into 'New Jerusalem' (chapters 20 & 21 of the Apocalypse) without passing through that 'great city Babylon' (chapters 17 & 18). Just don't camp there for too long. Oh and be wary of her 'wine'. It will put you into an everlasting sleep...

## **Final thoughts on Babylon...**

The true glories of the City of God (the heavenly ego) cannot be revealed let alone manifested within the heart and mind of the advancing soul until the illusions, deceptions and lies concerning the counterfeit city 'Great Babylon' (the religious ego) are both exposed and disposed from the affections and belief systems of the unregenerate mind. To this end, the Lord of lights guides the advancing soul along 'the Path' to one's eternal home - the City of Lights. The final camping grounds/test before arriving at New Jerusalem is the powerful illusionary world of false promises called the great city Babylon. Here and here alone, the advancing soul must confront the lust for power and control over others before this great

quest can come to its penultimate conclusion and the follower of the Lord can enter through those pearly gates to everlasting rest.

***YOUR SOUL WARRIOR QUEST...***

*This month be on the careful lookout for these three signs of self-righteousness -*

- 1. Do you ever feel superior to others because of being a church attender?*
- 2. You are quick to notice when your thinking/beliefs are 'right', and others are 'wrong'.*
- 3. You are struggling to forgive someone who has caused you harm.*

May your times of self-reflection and transformation go well,  
Rev Darren Brunne



**FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY LUNCHESES**

We are greatly looking forward to resuming our tradition of celebrating together over lunch following first family Sunday Services.

Once restrictions are lifted I will let everyone know via email etc.

Keep our services and our isolated friends in your prayers

Rev Darren Brunne

## **ABIDING IN THE VINE – MANIFESTATION SUNDAY – 100 VIRTUES**

I would like to make a special mention of our third Sunday Service. A little over three years ago we started the *Abiding in the Vine* project. Each month we study a different virtue and focus in, especially for that month, on manifesting more of this virtue in our lives. We just finished the virtue **Faithfulness** and in two weeks (16<sup>th</sup> August) we will be working on **Flexibility**. In total, we have moved through 34 of these studies with 66 left to go. These studies are proving incredibly fruitful and I regularly hear back from others on the positive effects. If you haven't had the chance to attend one of our Manifestation Sundays, I encourage you to do so.

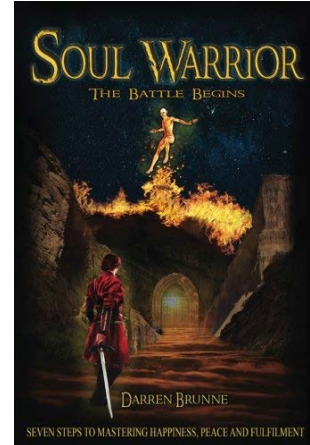
### **SOUL WARRIOR**

Late in the year of 2017, I completed the novel 'Soul Warrior' in which you, the reader, are taken on a journey of discovery into the practice of spiritual warfare. Follow apprentice Mathetis on his own awakening as he learns to use the whole armour of God. You will be introduced into all seven stages of the armour through a part story, part parable approach.

You can purchase the book through Amazon for \$15.99 US

[https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Warrior-Mr-Darren-Brunne/dp/1981445838/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514376979&sr=1-1&keywords=soul+warrior+darren+brunne](https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Warrior-Mr-Darren-Brunne/dp/1981445838/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514376979&sr=1-1&keywords=soul+warrior+darren+brunne)

or pick up a copy from our Brisbane Centre for \$20.00 when attending one of our services. Alternatively, you can contact me via [drbrunne@gmail.com](mailto:drbrunne@gmail.com) and I can post you a copy of 'Soul Warrior' for \$20 AUS + postage.



## **Birthdays**

*To all our friends celebrating birthdays throughout these months, we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.*

### August

2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Barns, 3<sup>rd</sup> Elijah Brunne, 6<sup>th</sup> Jenny Lee, 23<sup>rd</sup> Francis Fitzgerald,  
24<sup>th</sup> Josiah Brunne

### September

5<sup>th</sup> Diane Thompson, 16<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Chambers, 18<sup>th</sup> Ian Arnold, 21<sup>st</sup> Grace Brunne,  
23<sup>rd</sup> Isabella Lee

### October

5<sup>th</sup> Vivian Lawler, 11<sup>th</sup> Annabel Duff, 17<sup>th</sup> Mrs Evelyn Williams, 18<sup>th</sup> Sophia Barns, Mrs  
Muriel Barrett, 21<sup>st</sup> Alex Lee, 23<sup>rd</sup> Matthew Heldon,  
28<sup>th</sup> Ken Thompson, 30<sup>th</sup> Daniel Harry

## **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

Our services are held 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays, at 10.30 a.m. at our Centre – 1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park.  
Always check the last page of the Calendar for services.

**Pastor:** Rev. Darren Brunne, contactable on 0421 319 252

**Treasurer:** Mr Brian Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772

**Secretary:** Mr Darren Lawler, contactable on 0402 086331 or [darren@inneractivelearning.com.au](mailto:darren@inneractivelearning.com.au)  
Address: 53 Leslie Parade, Slacks Creek, Qld, 4127

**For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings** contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 0419 778 717

**Sunday School Coordinator:**

Bev Sheppard, contactable on 07-3844 7187 or [revshep@tpg.com.au](mailto:revshep@tpg.com.au)

**CALENDARS**

**Aug 2020**

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER**  
led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.  
*'Adventures in the Apocalypse'- Chap 18 – Coming out of Babylon*

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group via Zoom  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 11 am.*

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Abiding in the Vine** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Free for phone contact**

**Sep**

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER** led by  
**Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am**

*'Adventures in the Apocalypse'- Chap 19 - The Rider on the White Horse*

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group via Zoom  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 11 am.*

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Abiding in the Vine** led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for phone contact**

**Oct**

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE** including **HOLY SUPPER**  
led by Rev. Brunne at 10.30 a.m.  
*- 'Adventures in the Apocalypse Chapter 20 – The Great White Throne*

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.*

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group via Zoom  
*Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 11 am.*

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Abiding in the Vine** by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.  
Followed by the AGM at 11:15 am (To be confirmed)

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Free for phone contact**