

# Pastor Murray's 2022 Count to Pentecost



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## 1. Sunday, April 17th



**Murray Palmatier** 7:25 AM

Good morning everyone. After a very inspiring beginning to the Festival season these last three days, we now begin the daily process of counting to 50. We take our instructions from God Himself:

**Leviticus 23:15-16** *And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.*

So, today is Day 1 when the first cut was offered and ACCEPTED by God as the Firstfruits. This pictures not just the resurrected Messiah, but that He presented Himself to His Father and was ACCEPTED as the perfect sacrifice and Firstfruits.

After having already been resurrected for several hours, His journey was not yet complete:

**John 20:17** *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

Have a blessed day and remainder of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

## 2. Monday, April 18th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:30 AM

Good morning everyone. Today is Day 2 of Week 1 of the count. Even though Israel began their departure from Egypt with the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, it took all week for them to make the full trek out of the nation. Leaving our past lives of sin and bad habits takes time - and the bulk of the work happens after the spiritual high of days like Passover and High Holy Days. Keep on trekking, brothers and sisters.

**Numbers 33:5-10**

*Then the children of Israel moved from Rameses and camped at Succoth. They departed from Succoth and camped at Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness. They moved from Etham and turned back to Pi Hahiroth, which is east of Baal Zephon; and they camped near Migdol. They departed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, went three days' journey in the Wilderness of Etham, and camped at Marah. They moved from Marah and came to Elim. At Elim were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there. They moved from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.*

## 3. Tuesday, April 19th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:05 AM

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today is Day 3 of Week 1 of our count to 50. Following His resurrection and acceptance as the First of the Firstfruits, Christ spent 40 days with His followers. The Gospel writers take time to cover some of these events. After His resurrection at the end of the third day, we now find ourselves at the beginning of this 40 day period and this takes us up to the beginning of the final week of the count. Luke, at the beginning of Acts, gives us the reason behind these 40 days.

## Acts 1:1-3

*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

## 4. Wednesday, April 20th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:33 AM

It's a beautiful Wednesday morning here in the Hamilton area - hope the same for where you are - on this 4th day of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks. As we noted yesterday, the 40 days that Christ spent on Earth following His resurrection are full of meaningful interactions with those who would be witnesses. When reading through Luke 24, I cannot help but see the importance of the Hebrew Scriptures in understanding the fullness of the Gospel.

### **Luke 24:25-27**

*Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Then a miracle happened in **v.31**:

*And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.*

## 5. Thursday, April 21st



**Murray Palmatier** 10:42 AM

Good morning everyone! It is the penultimate day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (nice word, eh!) and today is Day 5 of the count to 50. Exodus tells us that God led the way, not Moses, out of Egypt with the pillars of fire and cloud. We see He was leading from the very beginning.

### **Exodus 13:20-22**

*And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.*

We get some additional details in later Books of Moses (e.g. Numbers 33), but in the real-time account in Exodus, this is the last we read of Israel until they come to the Red Sea at the end of the first week.

Have a very blessed end to the Feast when the high Sabbath arrives this evening.

## 6. Friday, April 22nd



**Murray Palmatier** 7:17 AM

...and just like that, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is over for another year...almost. We have one more day together on this high Sabbath day.

Today is **Day 6** of the count to 50, on this Last Day of Unleavened Bread. I hope this was a productive one for the Body of Christ. May the lessons you learned, the old habits you put off, the closeness you developed with God, Christ and the brethren propel you into a year of deep spiritual growth.

As we close the Feast this year, I am reminded of the words of Paul:

## 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

*Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

While this was meat in due season for the spring feast, it's truths hold fast year round. This is how we should govern our lives at all times. May today be edifying for His Body.

## 7. Saturday, April 23rd



**Murray Palmatier** 9:39 AM

What a blessing to be able to keep TWO Sabbaths, back to back. I hope your Feast of Unleavened Bread was impactful, that it reinvigorated you as we start out another year of Festival-keeping.

Today marks the end of the WEEK ONE of the Feast of Weeks. We are on Day 7 of the Count to 50.

Many years ago, we were encouraged to use Peter's list of seven Godly characteristics as a personal study point during the seven Feast of Weeks. We'll use the seven Sabbaths to review them. Let's start first by noting why Peter started his second epistle with this multi-faceted admonition.

### 2 Peter 1:2-4

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

This journey through these qualities represents the path to "godliness" - we may want to substitute the word "completion" or "telios" in Greek.

Peter then begins with an assumption that this requires "**faith**" to begin. An internalized belief that there is a mighty God, His Son is the Savior and Messiah, and that there is a need and a reason to give your life completely (with diligence) to them.

**V.5:** *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**.*

"Virtue" comes from the Greek word "arete" (G703) and means "moral goodness, moral excellence, or purity".

After beginning with an assumption of faith, why would Peter be led to begin the path to completeness with "virtue"? Something to consider as we come out of Unleavened Bread having focused on putting sin out of our lives.

Have a very blessed Sabbath.

## 8. Sunday, April 24th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:50 AM

It is a beautiful Sunday morning here as we begin Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 8 of the count to 50.

As I studied the concept of virtue yesterday, a couple of interesting things I'd like to share. The KJV version of 2 Pet 1:3 says that God called us "to glory and virtue". While that IS true, the Greek word for "to" is *dia* (G1223) and means "because of" or "on account of". Other translations render it a little better that He called us "**by** glory and virtue" - or as the Complete Jewish Bible states:

### 2 Pet 1:3

*God's power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, through our knowing the One who called us to his own glory and goodness.*

This reminds me of all the times in the Law and the Prophets that He tells us what He does that His Name might be glorified. This moral goodness we put on points people to Him and to Jesus Christ - as true covenant people are meant to do.

Secondly, the use of *arete* in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) always points to God's glory or praises. There are only 6, so feel free to check them out:

Isa 42:8, 12; Isa 43:21; Isa 63:7; Hab 3:3; Zec 6:13. (edited)

## 9. Monday, April 25th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:27 AM

Good Monday morning everyone! Today is Day 2 of Week 2, and Day 9 of the count to 50.

Let's go back to the Exodus account today and check in on the Israelites after finally and completely departing Egypt. They broke out into praise of the God of their Fathers and sung a hymn of worship acknowledging all that God DID for them. The verbs that are used are presented in a very active sense so that the message was clear - this was HIS victory. The opening verse of the hymn is repeated at the end.

### **Exodus 15:1 (and v.21)**

*Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.*

The verb thrown in Hebrew means to "cast, hurl, or shoot". As one commentary notes, picture God personally reaching down from heaven and casting each member of Pharaoh's army into the Red Sea. It is a magnificent hymn that points us to His greatness.

## 10. Tuesday, April 26th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:26 AM

Good morning on this 10th day of our count to 50 - Day 3 of Week 2. Staying in the Exodus account today (beginning at chapter 15, verse 22), we find the Israel three days out from the crossing of the Red Sea - that miraculous event they had just broke out in worshipful praise over. Recall their realization of the power of God through the previous week's events. How quickly one event sidetracked their faith and caused them to blame Moses for the situation they were in! God quickly reminded them of the power of His mighty hand with the healing of the waters for drinking. Then God presented them with an interesting if/then point to the covenant with Israel:

### **Exodus 15:26**

*And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.*

Faith to follow God wherever He leads in return for a promise to protect and/or heal against diseases

because of obedience (and v.25 called this a test)...food for thought!!! 🙄

## 11. Wednesday, April 27th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:31 AM

It's a little chilly here this morning on Day 11 of the count to 50. Today is Day 4 of Week 2. Let's go back to Matthew's account of the Feast of Weeks period for an interesting story when the chief priests bribed



the guards of Christ's tomb. Before we get to the consequences of their lies, let's notice the absurdity.

**Matt 28:13**

*"Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'"*

- So, you were all fast asleep, but you can absolutely attest to His body being robbed from the grave?
- You're also willing to accept a death punishment for your failure as guards and soldiers - check out other accounts of jail guards in Acts (e.g. Acts 12) whose lives were on the line for a lost prisoner. Yet, they accepted the short term profit of cash to attest to this absurdity. This was the origin of the lie that Christ was never resurrected - a hurdle the Apostles battled for the rest of their lives - and we continue to do so today.

**Matt 28:15b**

*"...and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."*

The chief priests, of all people, responsible for this lie that has plagued the Jews, and one we will need to overcome if we are to turn them back to Christ as Paul tells us in Romans 11! Have a blessed day. (edited)

## **12. Thursday, April 28th**



**Murray Palmatier** 6:27 AM

Busy day ahead so getting an early start to this 5th day of the 2nd week of the Feast of Weeks - overall, day 12 of 50. It's below zero this morning here - hopefully for the last time this spring!

The account in Mark of what took place during the Feast of Weeks is quite short. Following the resurrection, he recaps some of Christ's appearances which happen to be covered in more detail by other gospel accounts. He closes his gospel account acknowledging one of the main reasons for Christ's 40-day presence on the earth before ascending to The Father where He remains today.

**Mark 16:20**

*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

Confirming Christ's resurrection in light of all of the accompanying signs takes on more meaning with the passages we read yesterday. Cancel culture was alive and well even then with the elite of the time working hard and paying off people to claim the resurrection never happened. The evidence began with Christ's 40 days, and was communicated first by the Apostles and those like Mark who worked with them to preserve the Word! Have a very blessed day.

## **13. Friday, April 29th**



**Murray Palmatier** 8:43 AM

Sabbath is almost here once again - which means we are on Day 6 - of week 2 this time. Overall, this is Day 13 of the count to 50. Back to the Exodus account.

After witnessing another miracle by the hand of God when the bitter waters of Marah were made sweet, it did not take long for Israel to lose focus. We now come to the 15th day of the 2nd month - still a couple of weeks away. Having been a month into their journey, they started to miss the food of Egypt. Revisionist historians are not the most trustworthy of record-keepers...but they certainly influenced the entire congregation to support their complaints. So God miraculously provided quail for them in the evening and manna in the morning. We can delve into more on these items another day. Note what they were to reminded of each evening and each morning as they ate.

**Exodus 16:6-7a**

*And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath*

*brought you out from the land of Egypt: And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD;* Since they would have quail every night, there would be no need to long for the meat pots of Egypt...and they would remember that they are NO LONGER in Egypt...and to act that way! Secondly, the provision of manna each morning upon rising from their sleep was to be a reminder at the start of their day of the glory (splendour, honour, power, majesty) of God.

It seems, as God began to work with a people that were to be the shining example for other nations, that they were to see His power and presence in every waking moment of their day...at the beginning and at the end...attending to every need. How can it be that we so easily forget when there are so many reminders?

Have a safe day of preparation!

## **14. Saturday, April 30th**



**Murray Palmatier** 10:02 AM

Sabbath greetings to everyone as we come to end of Week 2. This beautiful Sabbath is Day 14 of our count to 50.

As mentioned last week, we'll take the Sabbath posting to focus in on Peter's progressive list of seven qualities to build in our discipleship.

### **2 Peter 1:5**

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue **knowledge**.*"

There are so many ways we can take this, but let's begin with context. This is not referring to general knowledge, trivia, or deep philosophies of this world. Rather, Peter is referring to the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ - and says so three other times between verses 2 and 8. Once you've decided to make this your way of life (through faith and a commitment to pure living), we build upon this by increasing our knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. This is such a deep subject that we'll spend a few days exploring. Before we can reach the more mature stages of understanding and wisdom, we must immerse ourselves in the knowledge of His Word. Beginning with the Torah, God outlines His expectations for true disciples of Christ to live their lives by. What key scriptures on *knowledge* come to mind? How about:

- **Proverbs 1:7:** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- **John 17:3:** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

I look forward to exploring this topic a little more deeply as we proceed through the week. Feel free to share your thoughts, and have a wonderful Sabbath.

## **15. Sunday, May 1st**



**Murray Palmatier** 11:32 AM

Good morning brothers and sisters as we begin the 3rd week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 15 of our count to 50.

Staying with this week's theme of *knowledge* from **2 Peter 1:5**, its placement near the beginning of Peter's progressive list, we can see why scriptures tell us to grow in grace and knowledge. They form the foundation from which we grow. The Proverb I recounted yesterday directly correlates knowledge with wisdom. Further on we see,

**Proverbs 2:6:** *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

This book of spends its first several chapters laying out the case for wisdom. In its most mature form, the Holy Spirit allows us to take knowledge (facts), develop a deeper understanding of what knowledge really



means (understanding) and then most importantly why it matters (wisdom). When we consider that The Bible is the source of God's knowledge, we cannot help but continue to study it daily so that the knowledge we glean, through the power of God's Holy Spirit, can become understanding and then wisdom. We see this hierarchy further explained for us.

**Proverbs 4:7:** *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

More to come on this fascinating subject - have a safe and blessed day. (edited)

## 16. Monday, May 2nd



**Murray Palmatier** 11:40 AM

Good morning everyone on Day 16 of 50 - today is Day 2 of Week 3.

I'd like to go back to Proverbs again today as we explore a little deeper this concept of knowledge (and by extension understanding and wisdom). Take a look at how the Complete Jewish Bible words the opening six verses to the book.

**Proverbs 1:1-6:**

*The proverbs of Shlomo (Solomon) the son of David, king of Isra'el, are for learning about wisdom and discipline; for understanding words expressing deep insight; for gaining an intelligently disciplined life, doing what is right, just and fair; for endowing with caution those who don't think and the young person with knowledge and discretion. Someone who is already wise will hear and learn still more; someone who already understands will gain the ability to counsel well; he will understand proverbs, obscure expressions, the sayings and riddles of the wise.*

Those with the wisdom of God are expected to be a resource for those who do not possess it. Additionally, the knowledge of God is described as the source of an "intelligently disciplined life". Before we can be a resource of how to live this way, we need to be actually living this way. This is part of the lesson of the Feast of Weeks and why working through Peter's progressive list is so helpful. Have a blessed day!

## 17. Tuesday, May 3rd



**Murray Palmatier** 11:51 AM

Good morning on this 3rd day of the 3rd week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 17 of 50 of the count to Pentecost.

When we consider knowledge, it has been pointed out the verse from Hosea that too often is only partially quoted - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge". Hosea 4 was covered last week on the Wednesday Bible Study. Let's read it again in full, and understand it in context.

**Hosea 4:6:** *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

God's controversy was first and foremost with Israel's leaders for their lack of leadership as the teachers of knowledge to God's covenant people. As this verse states, the rejection was of the priesthood for their failure, which resulted in the subsequent destruction of the people due to this lack of knowledge. So proper knowledge seems to be the key to safety and good life. As kings and priests in training, we must become immersed in the knowledge of God so that He can trust us to guide His covenant people back to Him - which Paul tells us all about in Romans 9 through 11 because God always keeps His promises! (edited)

## 18. Wednesday, May 4th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:50 AM

Good morning brothers and sisters - another rainy day here, but happy for spring! Today is Day 18 of our count to 50, corresponding to Day 4 of Week 3. The account in Exodus takes a break chronologically until we hit the middle of month 2 (in a couple of weeks). In Luke's post-resurrection account, we see Cleopas and his friend after they encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus. We saw a couple of weeks ago (on Day 4) how Christ expounded to them beginning at Moses and all of the prophets about the scriptures concerning Himself.

At the end of the amazing experience, they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven and those with them all that they had experienced.

**Luke 24:33-35:** *And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.*

I cannot help but be reminded of the number of times that the "breaking of bread" is central to learning, studying and building the body throughout the scriptures - even as far back as Abraham's interactions with God. "May the Fourth be with you" (haha).

## 19. Thursday, May 5th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:56 AM

Good morning - today is day 19 of 50 on our count that culminates in Pentecost. Today is Day 5 of Week 3 in the Feast of Weeks.

During last night's Bible Study (on Hosea 6 and 7), we heard about how the covenant people of God turned to other nations for solace, comfort and protection, rather than to God during times of trouble. Habakkuk tells us that this stems from the lack of the knowledge of God and His glory. He contrasts his present time (and we can certainly relate) to a future time when this knowledge of God will cover the earth. Something to consider this week as we ponder "knowledge". Will we be part of the solution?

**Habakkuk 2:12-14:** *Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity! Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

## 20. Friday, May 6th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:57 AM

Good morning everyone - another Sabbath preparation day is here, which means it is Day 6 of Week 3. Today is Day 20 of the count to Pentecost. As we work our way back to 2 Peter in anticipation of the next item on his progressive list tomorrow, I am drawn to a passage later in his 2nd general epistle. For brevity's sake here, we see in vs 16 of chapter 1 that "they did not follow cunningly devised fables" but were eyewitnesses to the the glory of the Father when they were with Christ on the mountain (during what is described as the transfiguration - found in **Matthew 17**). Verse 19 (of 2 Peter 1) begins with a very profound statement - "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed..." He goes on, but having the

prophetic word confirmed means they were students of it. The events they witnessed simply confirmed what they had studied...and it centred on the authenticity of Christ as Messiah and the Son of God. All of this begins with knowledge - reading the scriptures so that they would be ready for its explanation and impact in their lives. Here we see an example of the progression from knowledge to understanding and wisdom. But it begins with knowledge, as we have seen this week. Have a very blessed Sabbath.

## 21. Saturday, May 7th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:11 AM

Warm Sabbath greetings as we come to the 3rd Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks. We are so blessed to be able to come into the presence of God on this 21st day of the count to 50. As we turn our attention back to 2 Peter, we will see how the foundation of faith, virtue (moral goodness) and knowledge lay the foundation for growth. We mentioned earlier that knowledge precedes understanding (a deep understanding of what knowledge means) and wisdom (why it matters). Peter now takes it to the next level.

**2 Peter 1:5-6:** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance.*

Temperance, or **self-control**, comes from the Greek word *egkrateia* (G1466). It is defined as the quality of mastering one's desires and passions.

There is so much that can be unpacked from just this one word. As we look back on the covenant people of God, starting today, and going all the way back through the scriptures, from the early Church, back to the prophets and patriarchs, the ability to master desire has eluded us almost ad nauseum. Rather than look to the poor examples from the scriptures, let's get our heads around this concept as we transition from the 3rd to the 4th week. Having recently come through Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, do you remember the areas of improvement you identified? Hopefully we are diligently working on them. Self-control is key. More to come on this topic throughout the week. Please do feel free to share insights on this topic. There are scriptures a-plenty! Sabbath is a good reminder of the need for self-control, knowing that the entire day, not just the time we spend at services, is a convocation where we come into the presence of God. Have a blessed Sabbath.

## 22. Sunday, May 8th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:33 AM

Good Sunday morning everyone as we begin the fourth week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 22 of 50 on our count to Pentecost.

In **Acts 24**, Paul stands trial before Felix on the charge of sedition. Paul used the opportunity to defend himself by confessing *"that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets"* (v.14).

Following this defence, Felix imprisoned Paul under the eye of the centurion while he deliberated on his decision. Some days later, Felix came to see Paul where Paul continued to talk about his faith in Christ. He discussed three topics about this faith:

**Acts 24:25:** *Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."*

Self-control is such an integral part of the gospel that he included it in his defence of the charges of sedition. It had the desired effect Paul intended - he was less worried about his own freedom than he was about placing the mirror of the gospel in front of his accuser. What a mirror it was! His response indicates the message hit home - and to continue would be inconvenient for Felix.

I was fascinated by the thought that self-control was part of Paul's defence of the gospel, but it really does answer why we do (or should do) what we do. The Spirit should empower us to choose to obey God

rather than man - that is the essence of self-control. Have a blessed day with your families...and make sure to hug or call your Mom if she's still around - and not just because it's Mother's Day!! (edited)

## 23. Monday, May 9th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:30 AM

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 2 of Week 4, and Day 23 overall of the count to 50.

As we build each week using Peter's progressive list, let's go back to the Proverbs for a moment and look at another aspect of wisdom and see if we can connect it to yesterday's posting.

**Proverbs 1:20-21:** *Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words.*

Using the tool of personification, wisdom "raises her voice in the public square". This is the expectation of those WITH wisdom - mature disciples of Christ. If you read further, the unconverted (those without wisdom) are broken down into three categories: the simple, fools and scorners. Wisdom's message of repentance will be heard by some, and to those God will give His spirit to. However, the scorners (later referred to as those who mock) will NOT hear and repent - yet they must still hear the word.

The preaching of the gospel, which we saw yesterday, includes the message of self-control, are for those who will choose to repent, AND for those who openly mock and reject. To those in the latter group, this is the gospel being presented as a witness - so that they cannot say they did not hear.

It is amazing to see the preaching of the gospel covered in the very first chapter of Proverbs. Again, the thread continues to be woven through Law, Prophets, and Writings, which includes Proverbs.

Have a blessed day.

## 24. Tuesday, May 10th



**Murray Palmatier** 8:55 AM

Good morning on this 24th day of the count to 50. Today is Day 3 of Week 4.

Let's stay in the wisdom book of Proverbs this morning for today's reference.

**Proverbs 25:28:** *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

The Hebrew word for "rule" is *matsar* (H4623) and means "subjective control" or "restraint". So the ability to utilize self-control comes from within - i.e. utilizing the Holy Spirit, given by God at baptism to help make us more complete (*Gk: telios*) in Christ.

We can see what happens to nations fail to secure the boundaries of their borders. - chaos ensues. God's Law, written on our grafted-in hearts (**Jer 31:33**) helps guide us in this regard. It acts not as a shackle but more as a guardrail. We see this concept outlined for us in the Torah.

**Deuteronomy 22:8:** *When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet (low wall or guardrail) for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it.*

As we continue to build through this count, may we continue to seek after God and build the character required of kings and priests. Have a blessed day.

## 25. Wednesday, May 11th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:17 AM

Good morning again! We have reached the half-way point of the count, and not coincidentally, the mid-way point of the middle week (math has a way of making these things work out!) Time sure does go by fast! Today is Day 25 of 50, and Day 4 of Week 4.

As we contemplate the seriousness of developing self-control as we mature in Christ, Peter's fellow Apostle, Paul, certainly acknowledges that absent of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible. Mankind exhibits a profound lack of self-control because it is just not possible on our own.

**Romans 7:22-25:** *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

This is why the Feast of Weeks connects Unleavened Bread (the putting out of sin, the ingestion of Jesus Christ) with Pentecost (the coming of The Law and the distribution of the Holy Spirit). Peter's progressive list shows that becoming a fully mature, complete and perfect saint takes time, effort, and a commitment to live according to the example our Messiah set for us. Indeed, let us thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and with that mindset, serve Him! Have a blessed day.

## 26. Thursday, May 12th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:46 AM

Good morning everyone. Today is Day 5 of Week 4, and Day 26 of the count to 50. Another beautiful day outside, it seems. Hopefully you will be able to enjoy some of it today.

Let's go back to the Greek word for temperance or self-control - *egkrateia* (G1466). It is made up of the prefix *en* (G1722) and the noun *kratos* (G2904). A word study here provides some interesting insight.

*En* is used in cases where one is in a fixed state (not in motion). It can also be used to indicate something internal and in cases where one would "give themselves wholly to" something.

*Kratos* refers to dominion, power or strength. It is used most often in the gospels and apostolic writings to speak of the power of God, the power of Jesus Christ, and once for the power of the Word of God.

As we've discussed in previous days, disciples of Christ are expected to grow in His character through the power of the Holy Spirit towards completion (*telios*). Self-control, when seen through the lens of the Word of God, should ultimately bring us to the point where we have Christ-like power over the self.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7:** *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

We have it within us, as long as we use it. The Feast of Weeks is a time to practice using this power with purpose. Choosing to replace old habits with good behaviour is one way to build on the Feast of Unleavened Bread through these seven weeks. Have a safe and blessed day. (edited)



## 27. Friday, May 13th



**Murray Palmatier** 8:41 AM

Good morning! Sabbath is just a little over 12 hours away (at least from where I am writing). Today is Day 27 of the count to 50, and Day 6 of Week 4.

As we prepare to transition tomorrow to the next point in Peter's list, there is part of the preamble that we did not unpack. This morning, let's take a look at verse 4, which immediately precedes this list.

**2 Peter 1:4:** *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

The Greek word for "exceeding great" is actually superlative and is best understood as "the greatest promises". Coming to a deep understanding that there is nothing better that God can promise us gives us every reason to give the diligence required to make the character changes he proposes.

Secondly, the word "escaped" really means "to flee from". This nuance is important. We don't escape corruption by luck or without effort, but through a concerted effort to flee from it so that we may one day partake of these promises.

It is for that reason, that we may have the wherewithal to flee evil, that we consciously make the effort to address our own character flaws and shortcomings.

Have a very blessed Sabbath. (edited)

## 28. Saturday, May 14th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:13 AM

Beautiful Sabbath greetings to everyone! It is sunny and beautiful here as we conclude Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 28 of the count to 50.

**2 Peter 1:5-6:** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance **patience**.*

Oftentimes, our modern usage of words tends to affect how we interpret scripture. We know the phrase "patience is a virtue". I am sure we've all "lost our patience". While this is an important trait to have - the "ability to tolerate without getting angry or upset" - Peter's intent was much deeper.

*Hypomone (G5281)* means steadfastness, constancy and endurance. Peter's epistles were written in the context of pending persecution of the Disciples of Christ. As we work through these Feast of Weeks, the changing dynamics of this world in the lead up to Christ's return bring deeper meaning to these qualities we are working through.

Strong's has an interesting description of **hypomone**: *the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.*

More to come as we do a deeper look into this much needed quality. On a side note, this evening at sunset is the 14th day of the 2nd month. This is the time that God set aside for those who legitimately missed the Passover to take it. In our time of social media where we can follow the Passover online, it would be easy to overlook this merciful provision of our God. Passover is such an important event of the year, that God gives us time to take it if circumstances prevented us. You can read **Numbers 9** for these instructions.



## 29. Sunday, May 15th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:42 AM

Good morning everyone. Today we begin the 5th week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 29 of 50. As we consider this topic of perseverance, don't miss the various other scriptures that were posted here over the last couple of days by others. This interaction as we go through the Feast of Weeks helps us edify one another.

In Romans, Paul talks about this mindset of being part of a body (Christ's) that is beyond just ourselves. This is why we need to develop this nature of God, that His name may be glorified and that the Body of Christ may be blessed.

**Romans 15:1-6:** *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. -- Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through **patience** and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of **patience** and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Interesting that God Himself is described as the God of patience. This is what allows Him to remain true to His covenant promises. As often as His people disappoint Him and break covenant, He is "not swerved from His deliberate purpose and His loyalty". You'll recall this was one of Strong's descriptors of *hypomone* that we read about yesterday. Enjoy your Sunday! (edited)

## 30. Monday, May 16th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:41 AM

Good morning on what is the beginning of the work week for most! Today is Day 2 of Week 5 - Day 30 of the count to 50. We are 60% of the way there - hard to fathom since Passover does not seem that long ago!

The depth of the apostles' use of the word *hypomone* is found in the context of its uses in other passages. As we mentioned on Sabbath's post, it is so much deeper than simply being patient. Paul's introduction to his 2nd letter to Corinth is quite insightful. Here it is from the Complete Jewish Bible.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7:** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for **enduring** the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.*

As Christ's return draws near, sufferings will increase for the Body of Christ, as the Adversary wages war against it (us). This steadfastness we are to develop will help us rise above it, be inspired by it, and will help us help each other through it. We'll continue to see these traits of Divine Nature build on one another through these final weeks. Have a safe and blessed day.

## 31. Tuesday, May 17th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:39 AM

Good morning! Today is the 31st day of our count to 50, and Day 3 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. Chronologically, let's go back to the Exodus account. With the Second Passover behind us now, we now find ourselves where the Israelites were in leaving Elim and making their way to Sinai for Pentecost.

**Exodus 16:1-3:** *And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.*

Israel quickly became uncomfortable with God-led change - even though they had just sang praises to their God for His salvation just a month prior.

It is so easy to become comfortable with the status quo, even if it is not ideal, or even worse, against God's wishes. When God directs change, it requires perseverance. It may be hard to understand, it may challenge our norms, and it may take us outside of our comfort zone. This is where the "hope that endures all things patiently" helps.

Consider how the progressive understanding of Divine Nature (the traits we've studied thus far) helps to support our faithful journey following God wherever He leads.

## 32. Wednesday, May 18th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:29 AM

Good morning on this 32nd day of our count to 50. Today is Day 4 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. Back on Day 13, we covered the portion of Exodus 16 where God provided quail in the evenings to remind them that God brought them out of Egypt...and manna in the mornings so they would be reminded of His glory. The manna came with specific instructions on its collection, including how to collect it for Sabbath. When you consider the pillars of cloud and fire that also guided their every step, somehow as a group they came to a stunning conclusion:

**Exodus 17:7:** *And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, **Is the LORD among us, or not?***

It would be easy to look at their example with shock and conclude that we would never have done the same thing - not with all of that proof around us. However, have you considered our impatience when it comes to trials and prayer? How often do we continue to plead our case as if He has not heard, rather than "enduring all things patiently" waiting for Him to act?

When we consider the Lord's Model Prayer (**Matt 6:9-13**), the requests found in the last half are things that He has already promised to provide for those that seek Him - nourishment, protection and forgiveness.

Something to ponder as we seek His Divine Nature.

### 33. Thursday, May 19th



**Murray Palmatier** 8:18 AM

Good morning - today is Day 33 of 50, and Day 5 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks.

As Paul was coming to the end of his life, he wrote a final letter to one of his closest friends and protégés, Timothy. His letter was some final instruction and encouragement to stay the course as he grew in, and took up the mantle of, ministry from Paul.

He first provides his reasoning for all that he did - and note that the word "suffer" in the KJV here is "hypomone".

**2 Timothy 2:8-10:** *Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

I'll switch over to the Complete Jewish Bible to continue with the synopsis - I love how verse 11 begins:

**V.11-13: Here is a statement you can trust:** *If we have died with him, we will also live with him. If we persevere, we will also rule with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown.*

### 34. Friday, May 20th



**Murray Palmatier** 6:21 AM

Good morning! Today is Day 6 (Preparation Day) for the 5th Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks - and Day 34 of the count to 50.

Thank you to those who have contributed over the week to our discussion on patience (KJV), perseverance, steadfastness, endurance, and the hope that endures all things patiently. This pattern that outlines the Divine Nature of God is one that teaches us to build properly, one trait upon the other - "building according to code" as this sermon from several years ago

teaches: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxfUXiOkAX4&t=1575s>.

As we look forward to the next piece of the puzzle tomorrow, let's recap where we've come thus far.

**2 Peter 1:2-6:** *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience.*

Keeping working, keep adding, and may this Sabbath be a delight when it arrives.

### 35. Saturday, May 21st



**Murray Palmatier** 7:50 AM

Good morning brothers and sisters as we come to the 5th Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 35 of the count to 50.

Hopefully, as we work our way through this year's count, we are seeing the need to be progressing in our growth. We mentioned this at the outset as we used Peter's list of the qualities of Divine Nature. Rather than look at them individually, we see them as building on one another. We are now coming into more

mature qualities in the final weeks.

**2 Peter 1:5-6:** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.*

As we consider the foundational elements of faith and moral excellence, we then added knowledge (and by extension understanding and wisdom), then self-control and the hope that endures all things patiently. With all that in place, we then add *godliness*.

As with the other items, it bears some study as to what the writers intended in using *eusebeia* (G2150 - godliness). This quality refers to respect, reverence and piety towards God. Respect for God? That's easy, right? Why would this be listed as one of the higher traits of His nature. Isn't that really like faith? When we consider that we are talking about Divine Nature, internalizing a deep respect for God, His Laws, and His ways - this is Holy Spirit language - and hence the progression from Unleavened Bread to Pentecost.

Godliness should be easy, right? Consider the scriptures where Christ began with "If you love me..." or asked "Do you love me..." Using those as barometers for our *godliness*, it becomes understandable why this quality is listed where it is. Have a blessed Sabbath.

### **36. Sunday, May 22nd**



**Murray Palmatier** 7:18 AM

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 36 of 50 as we begin Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks.

In the 6th chapter of Paul's first letter to Timothy, the Apostle links godliness with contentment. Being content with what we have in this world helps us put our primary focus on striving after what pleases God first.

This is the essence of Christ's question to Peter in John 21 when He asked "Do you love Me more than these?". What do we strive after? The things of this world fitting God in where we're able? Godliness is quite the opposite. Have a blessed start to the 6th week.

### **37. Monday, May 23rd**



**Murray Palmatier** 8:41 AM

Good morning! Today is Day 37 of our count to 50 and Day 2 of Week 6.

As I contemplate what to write this morning from a hotel room after a very joyous day yesterday watching my son and his new bride join in marriage, I'm somewhat without words. It was a grand day we'll never forget.

As I consider respect, reverence and piety toward God, it is hard to match the godliness of two young disciples of Christ covenanting together with Christ in the presence of family, both physical and spiritual.

**Eph 5:31-32:** *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Have a very blessed day.

### **38. Tuesday, May 24th**



**Murray Palmatier** 6:59 AM

Good morning! Today is Day 3 of Week 6, and Day 38 of 50.

Let's once again go to Paul's first letter to his protegee Timothy for some insight into *godliness*. We saw a

couple of days ago how Paul linked it to contentment. We see today how behaviour and doctrine are once again tied together. You've heard that concept taught how "good doctrine drives good behaviour".

**1 Timothy 3:14-16:** *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

The truth of Christ, and that His coming in the flesh entails, is the essence of godliness...and how we behave as the Body of Christ reflects how much we have internalized it. Hence the need for *godliness* as one of the "higher level" traits of Divine Nature.

### **39. Wednesday, May 25th**



**Murray Palmatier** 8:32 AM

Good morning on this 4th Day of Week 6. Day 39 of 50 of the count.

Did you know that the phrase "The Fear of the Lord" found in the Hebrew Scriptures is often translated in the Septuagint as **eusebeia**?

**Proverbs 1:7:** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**Isaiah 11:2:** *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of **the fear of the LORD.***

**Isaiah 33:6:** *And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: **the fear of the LORD** is his treasure.*

Take time to read this in context, not just as snapshots copied here. This adds an incredible layer of depth to the inclusion and placement of "godliness" in Peter's list of traits of Divine Nature.

As we contemplate the tragedy in Uvalde, TX yesterday, what should our message be? Not just as a church organization, but you and me, as Disciples of Christ. The unspeakable events of the murders of so many innocent school children is the product of a sinful world completely devoid of a respect, reverence and piety of God and His Way. These ways are outlined for us in the Torah, cried out by the Prophets, explained by the Writings, and taken to the next level by Christ and the Apostles.

The answer isn't less guns (though there may be too many of them); it isn't more laws (let's try enforcing what we have to the letter, first); it isn't just the fault of the liberals OR the conservatives, nor just the Republicans OR the Democrats. We are led by godless people in a godless system that does not follow law and cries out for the return of Christ (which itself will be painful for many).

So as you process this tragedy, don't get caught up in the political rhetoric of politicians seeking to seize tragic moment for political gain. The answer is God's law, instituted and governed by the mighty hand of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. If you frequent social media, that is what we should share and comment on - regardless of people's reaction to it.

May this senseless tragedy cause us to look into the mirror of the Holy Word and reflect.

### **40. Thursday, May 26th**



**Murray Palmatier** 11:37 AM

Good morning! Today is Day 40 of the count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 6.

Today is a very significant day in the Feast of Weeks. We find it described in the introduction to the Book of Acts.

**Acts 1:1-5:** *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many*



infallible proofs, **being seen of them forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.

Another step in the redemptive plan of God was fulfilled on the 40th day of the count. The First of the Firstfruits departed earth and now we anxiously await His return. We'll spend some time in the Acts 1 from time to time over the next ten days as we tarry for Pentecost. In the meantime, today, I would like to invite your comments regarding Christ's departure on Day 40. Luke provides some reasoning for His stay in the passage - but why 40? Why not 50, or 25, or some other number of days? Is there significance to 40? What are your **thoughts**?

## 41. Friday, May 27th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:46 AM

Good morning on this preparation day of the 6th Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 41 in our count to 50.

As we contemplate Christ's return to the Father in light of the respect, reverence and piety toward God that the trait of *godliness* teaches us, how we show this reverence is important. Take note of the exchange immediately following Christ's ascension.

**Acts 1:9-11:** *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

The Complete Jewish Bible words it: *Why are you standing, staring into space?*

One would think standing in awe of the ascending Saviour would be the definition of reverence. The sharp comment by the duo in white apparel served to bring their attention back to earth where there was work to be done. They pointed them forward to His return, not back to His life here on earth.

True godliness and reverence for God is to do what He says to do - so they immediately left and devoted themselves in prayer while awaiting the arrival of Pentecost, after which the work for them really began!

## 42. Saturday, May 28th



**Murray Palmatier** 10:43 AM

Good morning on this 6th Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 42 of the count to 50.

Much like one who climbs a mountain, we have arrived at the last rest stop before reaching the summit. Peter's explanation of Divine Nature with the 7 attributes being added one upon the other to the baseline of faith really is like climbing a mountain. Each step is presents its challenges as we search within us for the will to keep climbing and do better. But, as each step and each level is attained, the view is more spectacular than where we left. Today, we move onto the penultimate trait of *brotherly kindness*.

**2 Peter 1:5-7:** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness.*

It is very important that we remember "context is key". Peter is writing specifically "to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ". So while it is good to show brotherly kindness to all, the Complete Jewish Bible translates it more accurately as "love to the brethren".

How we treat one another within the Body of Christ shows our Father where we are on our journey to completeness (*telios*). How do we speak to and about one another? How do we prioritize our time? How



do we handle conflict within the Body?

This is next-level thinking - and shows why the Feast of Weeks is a process from Unleavened Bread to Pentecost - where the Law of God and the Holy Spirit (which gives the ability to internalize His Law) are given to the covenant people of God. (edited)

### 43. Sunday, May 29th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:05 AM

Good morning Brothers and Sisters as we begin the 7th and last week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 43 of the count to 50.

Both the accounts in Exodus and Acts reflect the importance of preparing for the arrival of Pentecost. Of course, that is why we have been counting each day, and why God instituted the Feast of Weeks. However, the last week requires an increased focus on preparation for the arrival of the Holy Day.

It

is interesting that in preparation for both events, the leadership of the people was front and centre. In the Exodus account, Jethro counselled Moses to set up a system of judges to help ease the burden on him. In

Acts, as they prepared to go out and preach the gospel, Christ had taught them not to go it alone. Thus, they added Matthias as a 12th partner for the remaining eleven so that the "pairs" could be respected.

At the heart of this is "love for the brethren" - both those are serve and are served.

**Exodus 18:17-18:** *So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. **Both you and these people who are with you** will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself."*

### 44. Monday, May 30th



**Murray Palmatier** 11:27 AM

Good morning everyone. Today is Day 44 of the count to 50, and Day 2 of Week 7. Of particular note, at sunset this evening, the 3rd month of the calendar begins.

It is interesting to note that *philadelphia* does not appear in the Septuagint - the earliest Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. This too speaks to the Holy Spirit language that these last two traits represent - a culmination in growth towards full spiritual maturity, represented in scripture by perfection or completion (*telios*).

As Paul (or the writer of the epistle who I believe to be Paul) brings the book of Hebrews to a conclusion, he includes an admonition on "love to the brethren" as part of a larger list of bullet points. However, a more thorough examination shows us the importance of this. As he admonishes the reader to hear the voice of Christ as He leads His body of believers, there are stern words from the apostle.

**Hebrews 12:25-29** *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (this is how we defined godliness, don't forget!): For our God is a consuming fire.*

He then begins his concluding remarks with "*Let brotherly love continue*". It is this love for one another that will help us endure all that we will face...AND will keep us on the right side of that consuming fire! (edited)

## 45. Tuesday, May 31st



**Murray Palmatier** 11:55 AM

Good morning everyone on this 45th day of the count to 50. Today is Day 3 of Week 7, and the first day of the 3rd month of the calendar.

During the forty days that Christ spent with His disciples before going back to His Father, He taught them a lesson on what it means to love Him. We are all familiar with this account in John.

**John 21:15-17:** *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **Lovest thou me?** And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

It always intrigued me that the words for “love” are different in the Greek. After asking Peter twice if he “agaped” Him (we’ll get to that word later this week), the third time, Christ used *phileo*. With that question, Peter was asked if he loved Him like a brother. Christ is many things to us - Saviour, High Priest, King, Lord, Redeemer, just to name a few. He is also our older brother - the first of the firstfruits. Our personal relationship with Him should be to that deep level.

If the answer is yes, then notice that it comes with expectations - to do what He asks to do. Not all are called to teach like Peter, but we can all look after one another in the Christ-like spirit of brotherhood

## 46. Wednesday, June 1st



**Murray Palmatier** 10:29 AM

Good morning as we hit the midway point of the final week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 4 of Week 7, and Day 46 of 50.

As the soon-to-be 11 apostles waited with the other disciples of Christ for the promised arrival the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, they spent the last week in dedicated preparation for this historic event. The final recorded words of Messiah before departing were very specific:

**Acts 1:7-8:** *And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

The group that spent the final week together was not as small as you’d think.

**Acts 1:13-15:** *And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,).*

I’ve often thought about the upper room as just a little alcove where a handful of believers gathered. This is not the case. Most of us are never in a room with this many believers except for high Feast days.

Imagine spending the entire Feast of Tabernacles together in prayer and supplication around the clock. If you can’t, perhaps we need a little more of that *Philadelphia* we are studying this week!

## 47. Thursday, June 2nd



**Murray Palmatier** 11:22 AM

Good morning! Today is Day 5 of Week 7 -

Day 47 of 50. We are 3 days away from Pentecost. Rather than wait for the 50th day, let us climb the summit and spend a few days up here talking about the final trait of divine nature. This final trait really is the destination because it perfectly describes and consolidates all of Father's and Christ's character into one word - *agape*.

**2 Peter 1:5-7:** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness **charity (agape)**.*

The best description of this that I have heard is "sacrificial love". We will be complete when we have *agape* internalized and part of our own nature.

The fruit of the spirit (singular) is multi-faceted but begins with *agape*.

**Galatians 5:22-23:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Food for thought, relative to *agape* being the overarching catch-

all and ultimate destination of Divine Nature. Compare that list in Galatians 5 with the detailed description of *agape* found in 1 Corinthians 13 - and "agape" is described as all of those things.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7:** *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

## 48. Friday, June 3rd



**Murray Palmatier** 10:42 AM

Good morning brothers and sisters! Today is Day 48 of 50 and Day 6 of Week 7. Of note, this is Preparation Day for a double Sabbath. For that reason, let us go to the Torah for today's excerpt.

**Exodus 19:10-14:** *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.*

Commemorating the coming of the Law, when God came into the presence of His creation, is a privilege that we are allowed to have each year. The Law represents all that God is, all that He created, and all that awaits us. As we prepare for another Holy Day, don't dismiss the fact that we come into His presence on holy time. May we value this opportunity and prepare accordingly. Have a very blessed weekly Sabbath.

## 49. Saturday, June 4th



**Murray Palmatier** 9:22 AM

Good morning everyone! Today is one of the days we have been looking forward to! Much like those robin chicks we saw in last night's video - these last 7 weeks have hopefully been ones of growth. Today is Day 49 of 50, and the 7th and final weekly Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks.

By now, we are familiar with the list of the traits of God's Divine Nature, beginning with the foundation of *faith*...and culminating with *agape* -

noting that we are to ADD each one to the previous one. It is equally important that we understand WHY we need this. Peter explains in the subsequent verses:

**2 Peter 1:8-11:** *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:** For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

This is the recipe for success - for if we do THESE things, we shall NEVER fall.

Have a very blessed Sabbath today as we eagerly await for Pentecost tonight at sunset!

## 50. Sunday, June 5th



**Murray Palmatier** 8:30 AM

Warm Pentecost greetings to everyone! Today is the day we have been waiting patiently to arrive. Today is Day 50 of 50. Seven complete weeks have passed, and the Day of Pentecost, the culmination of the Feast of Weeks, has fully come.

This journey together this year has been memorable. Thank you for your participation in the count - those who have contributed thoughts here and those who have simply read and kept up. Each year presents an opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge so that we do not remain stagnant. Now, what we do going forward will be the ultimate test as to how these Spring Festivals will have impacted our growth both as individuals and as siblings

in the greater Body of Christ. For now, it is time to pause and commemorate this very special day when the Law of God was codified for His covenant people and the Holy Spirit was provided en masse to those who repent and accept the Son of God as Messiah and Saviour. Have a very blessed Feast day.

**Exodus 19:16-18:** *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.*

**Acts 2:1-4:** *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

## ***1. Monday, June 6th***



**Murray Palmatier** 9:31 AM

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 1 of 112 days until Trumpets! 😊  
However, since we are not commanded to count, I thought I would close out this year's count by letting you know how long until our next invitation to appear before God for annual time. Have a safe and productive summer!!