

Stewardship Of God's Temple (Part Four)

God's Marvelous Gift of Water

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Last Friday, Julie and I succumbed to the Covid-19 virus. After testing positive, we immediately called one of God's ministers locally for anointed cloths. For many of God's people, the outbreak of Covid has been a grave sore trial. The Feast of Tabernacles, nevertheless, proved a most joyous event in spite of the threat of pestilence. Perhaps, God willing, in a few months we may arrive at the conclusion that even the affliction of the Covid virus may have been a blessing in disguise (a mighty well-disguised blessing, in the words of Winston Churchill) because, when we recover from this affliction, our God-given immune system provides us with natural immunity—far superior to the dangerous, hazardous, deadly jabs Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson are trying to inflict on us with tyrannical, brutal, dictatorial force.

When I was a youngster, I suffered mumps, German measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox. In 1946, our entire family was quarantined for Scarlatina (or Scarlet Fever) for three weeks. Once we recovered from those afflictions, God faithfully provided our immune systems with antibodies, so we never contract those diseases again. From January to August of this year, my physician (my dutiful niece-in law) has been trying to get me to take the Covid vaccine, at which time her crotchety, irascible, old uncle delivers a vituperative lecture on the evils of Fauci and Gates, insisting that they make Dr. Joseph Mengele look like a venerated saint in comparison. Now, when I return for my November blood draw, I will inform her that I have had Covid and am following the advice of a prominent medical doctor, with far more credibility than Dr. Anthony Fauci, namely Dr. Rand Paul, Senator from Kentucky who said that because he has already had Covid-19, he does not need to get vaccinated.

I think God's people who became afflicted at the Feast can now also boldly stand up to tyrannical government authority hell-bent on destroying His health laws. For various reasons I am suspending for the foreseeable future,

further commentaries on the Covid vaccines, but I first want to provide some links exposing the dastardly, unconscionable evils of the CDC, the NIH, and the WHO.

My first pastor in God's church (The Radio Church of God back in Minneapolis in 1965) the late Charles Sherwin McMichael, who was always cognizant of the dangers of giving medical, dietary, or legal advice, nevertheless, when he counseled publicly or privately, would emphatically say, "I wouldn't do this," providing a firm warning to the flock to desist from potentially hazardous behavior.

The first link which you might find helpful and informative is Sherwin McMichael's 1969 thesis from Ambassador College, "The Origin of Medical Practice," highly acclaimed by Herbert W. Armstrong, free and downloadable from the Herbert W. Armstrong Virtual Website at https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=get_acthesis&InfoID=1479043777&InfoType=MedicalPractice&page

The second link which provides accurate documentation and statistics, including a monthly update of the VAERS report (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) exposing the shameless hypocrisy of the mendacious NIH and the CDC is Vaccine Impact News, headquartered in Bastrop, Texas: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGlkFxFxSzNzScQBpkzTXkZKqPzTk>

Thirdly, Robert Francis Kennedy Jr's, website, ChildrensHealthdefense.org <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/>

I never thought I would ever find any common ground with any of the Kennedy political dynasty, but I am highly impressed with this young man's work on behalf of public health.

Fourthly, I highly recommend a website called LifeSiteNews, a Canadian Catholic site, exposing the grim truth about the Covid vaccine. Big Tech, under orders from the CDC, has tried to ban them but they have remained resilient in their fearless approach to the truth. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGlkPPHRnBfTcPCxwSkhrltptC>

Lastly, I highly recommend the website: [Americasfrontlinedoctors.org](https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org)
<https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/>

To be sure, the Church of the Great God does not endorse these sites any more than we endorse the many commentaries referred to in sermons and sermonettes, such as Barnes Notes or Adam Clarke, except as a specific point of reference for clarification.

In Hosea 4:6, we read, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” This warning applies just as sternly to the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16) as it applied to our rebellious forebears on the Sinai.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

God has certainly given us free moral agency and the power to choose, but, as Austin Del Castillo brought out in his Feast sermonette “For Love of Family,” God the Father looks continually down the road anxiously (like the father of the Prodigal Son) awaiting the return of His prodigal children (a role we all sadly succumb to), desiring to clothe him with a royal robe and reinstatement into the Family of God. God Almighty has given man the power to make choices regarding his ultimate destiny. As a free moral agent,

man has the awesome responsibility to choose between a hapless, physio-chemical existence with a dead end or a rich and rewarding eternity as a member of God's Family. Though the choice appears easy, the challenging road to the Kingdom of God dismays many because they are unwilling to undergo the rigors of the journey.

God has set before us the choice to obey or disobey, hoping we will choose obedience and giving us reasons and promises that persuade us to that end, but He wants us to make sure that it is our intention, without coercion or brainwashing on His part. It takes a free moral agent, making the right choices, to create the mind of Christ in us. Though He has a good idea as to how we will choose, God does not know what we will decide when given the choice. He will do all He can, short of rescinding our freedom to choose, to convince us to choose Him.

Among the many choices we make on a daily basis, is the choice to take note of a life-threatening danger, and to seek a way of escape. Proverbs 22:3 and Proverbs 17:12 teach that "a prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished."

I Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price: therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

In this fourth installment of "The Stewardship of God's Temple" (namely the tending and keeping of our physical bodies, which are indeed the temples of God's Holy Spirit), I wish to focus upon the topic "God's Marvelous Gift of Water" in both its physical and spiritual dimensions. Dr. Roderick Meredith, in his booklet, "The Seven Laws of Radiant Health," available from several locations on the Internet, states that under the heading of diet, we should also not overlook the health value of water. "Drinking water, and plenty of it, is

one of the greatest aids to eliminating body poisons and keeping the entire system clean. It is an aid in preventing or overcoming constipation—that source of so many bodily ills.”

So, drink water daily—preferably between meals, but never use it to wash food down. Rod continues “the total intake of all fluids—milk, soup, fruit juices, water—is generally a recommended six to eight glasses daily, or more for those who work in the sun.”

Since the publication of this booklet, several major studies have pointed out that more than eight glasses of water a day are needed to keep the body lubricated. No substitutions should be made for pure water—whether it be soup, fruit juice, milk, coffee, sodas, or tea. Brandy or Schlitz Malt Liquor are very poor substitutes for pure water. During the past 10 months, my physician has ordered me to consume a minimum of 3.75 liters or a gallon a day to combat kidney and pancreas issues. Water consumption, in essence, can be a life-or-death issue.

Revelation 21:1-7 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

I think that one of the most inspirational point events for me this year in Myrtle Beach was to accompany the festival choir performing “New Heaven-New Earth” by Charles Romer. When we got to the passage in verse 6 about

water, I felt compelled to supersize the arpeggios, making the streams of water flow with a little more sparkle and pizzazz.

Revelation 22:1-2 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [Pharmaceuticals will have no place whatsoever in God's Kingdom.]

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water freely."

This point event yet to happen in the future was prophesied by Jesus Christ to the woman at the well in John 4, beginning in verse 4.

John 4:4-15 But He [Jesus] needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" [The simple answer, of course, would have been yes.] [But] Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall

give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

Please scroll down to vs 23, where Jesus, introducing Himself to her as the Messiah, relates the living water to Spirit:

John 4:23 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Please scroll forward to John 7, beginning with verse 37.

John 7: 37-38 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus, of course, alluded to the passage in Isaiah 55:1, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.” We see that from the time of Creation, water has been inextricably connected with God’s Holy Spirit, serving as its most important emblem or symbol. Let us go back to the first mention of the pairing of God’s Holy Spirit with water in Genesis 1.

Genesis 1:1-7 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and

the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters,” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

In Revelation 14:6, the angel flies in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell in the earth, to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. Verse 7 proclaims with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” God Almighty has blessed His people with the free gift of life-sustaining water. Sadly, the CEO of Nestlé arrogantly proclaimed to a reporter that his company should be the sole custodians and distributors of the world’s drinking water, packaging it in plastic bottles, making it available for a modest price. When I lived in Hawkins, Texas, many of the locals expressed alarm that the Nestlé bottling plant was raising havoc with the aquifer below Hawkins and Big Sandy.

Greedy corporations, just as evil as big government, would like to rape our natural resources, exploiting them until they are exhausted and depleted. God’s gift of water, like His other gifts of fire and wind, have a multiplicity of uses, including to quench thirst, to purify, to provide deliverance, and it can also destroy evil and enemies as in the stories of the Flood (Genesis 6: 17) and the flight of Israel from Egypt (Exodus 14:1-15:21). Water, as the universal solvent, has the power to cleanse and scrub away all filth, schmutz, and dreck.

Ezekiel 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The Lord who has made us has promised to quench both physical and spiritual thirst for the descendants of Jacob, tying the physical and spiritual realities together.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring.

Isaiah 49:10 They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them.

Isaiah 58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Jeremiah 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed. “Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.”

Notice how Almighty God identifies His vital role as conduits for the fountain of living waters, the same role which God’s glorified Family will perform. As God’s chosen people, we are mandated to exercise stewardship over the gift of water that God has blessed us.

Back in 1992, an Iranian physician, Dr. Fereydoon Batmanghelidj, who migrated to Falls Church, Virginia, wrote a best-selling book titled, *Your Body’s Many Cries for Water*, a work currently available as a free downloadable PDF document from the Internet. I would encourage all God’s people to avail themselves of this valuable resource. Before his death in 2004, Dr. Batmanghelidj wrote several more books titled *How to Deal with Back Pain*, *Water: For Health, for Healing* in 2003, *Water and Salt: Your Healers from Within* in 2003, and his last work *Water Cures: Drugs Kill* in 2003.

Although his works received enthusiastic public acclaim, many duplicitous officials in the AMA, heavily invested in prescriptive drugs, claimed that his works bordered on quackery. In 1996, radio announcer Paul Harvey felt compelled to give Dr. Fereydoon Batmanghelidj’s book an endorsement in

his radio editorial titled “There’s No Money in Spinach.” I would like to quote this fascinating editorial in its entirety. Paul Harvey asks:

Doesn’t a ‘water cure’ sound more like a placebo than a valid remedy? It does indeed. Maybe it is, or maybe that’s why its significance has been overlooked. The science of nutrition has been retarded because there is no money in spinach. A patented pill that promises to relieve ailments gets widely distributed and lavishly advertised. A specific vitamin that promises to relieve some ailment has to be discovered by word-of-mouth hearsay because there’s no money in spinach.

Dr. Fereydoon Batmanghelidj of Falls Church, Virginia, is certain that much arthritis can be remedied “just by drinking water.” He is having to be his own missionary, promoting his idea with articles in professional journals and with a book called *Your Body’s Many Cries for Water*. Lloyd Palmer of Albert Lea, Minnesota, suffered from arthritis of the spinal column for 30 years. Gradually, the disease ankylosed. Ankylosing spondylosis is the kind of arthritis that leaves a patient so crippled, so “bent over” that Palmer described himself as “a walking comma.” But he read the Batmanghelidj book. He started drinking copious quantities of water (with some added salt). He is now pain-free, and his blood pressure is normal.

The book cites medical histories of individuals suffering ulcers, asthma, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, chronic fatigue, breast cancer, impotency, and depression who responded to increased intake of water, pure water (at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day). It is not easy to drink that much water. It is recommended that water be consumed between meals rather than with a meal. That makes it more difficult to many. But Dr. Batmanghelidj says water intake is intended to “help digestion rather than dilute it.”

The water remedy, as it applies to arthritis pain, presumes that chronically painful joint conditions of the lower spine of the joints of the hands and legs “is a sign of water deficiency in the area where the pain is felt. The pain occurs because there is not enough water circulation to wash out the local acidity and toxic substances. Cartilage is a gelatinous living tissue, the cells of which like to live in an alkaline environment. The alkalinity of the medium is dependent on the flow of water through its substance—water that

would wash the acid away.” Why added salt? “Salt helps to extract the acidity and carry it away from the medium.” The water prescription (at least 2 quarts a day) does not include coffee, alcoholic beverages, or caffeinated soft drinks.

The point is that “water is critically important to our health, fitness and long life.” Paul Harvey states, “I honestly don’t know that much about the added salt. I would only do this if taking much more water than his formula of ½ of your body weight in ounces of water.” Sea salt has good properties. Personally, I prefer Himalayan pink rock salt. Regular table salt is not the best choice.

Sadly, according to Dr. Fereydoon Batmanghelidj, the American medical community has never given water the honor it deserves, treating it as non-essential in combating disease and illness. To the medical community, the human body is even now regarded as a large “test tube” full of solids of different nature and the water in the body as a chemically insignificant “packing material.” In science, it has been assumed that it is the solutes (substances that are dissolved or carried in the blood and serum in the body) that regulate all the activities of the body. This includes the regulation of its water (the solvent) intake, which is assumed to be well-regulated. It is presumed because water is freely available and one does not have to pay for it, that the body has no business in falling short of something that is available!

Dr. Batmanghelidj, focusing on the SPS or thesis for his book, asserts that

[t]he simple truth is that dehydration can cause disease. Everyone knows that water is good for the body. But they seem not to know how essential it is to one’s well-being. They do not know what happens to the body if it does not receive its daily need of water. After this short book is read, you will have a clearer understanding of this issue. The solution for prevention and treatment of dehydration-produced diseases is water intake on a regular basis. This is what we will define in this book. We will discuss why, in a majority of cases, the conditions that will be mentioned are to be viewed as dehydration- produced disorders. If, by the simple intake of an added amount of water every day you can get better, you will

not need to worry. Far too many think they are responding to the body's need to quench thirst by waiting for the sensation of dry mouth.

Dr. Batmanghelidj warns that this a common error.

The dry mouth is the very last sign of dehydration. The body can suffer from dehydration even when the mouth may be fairly moist. Still worse, in the elderly, the mouth can be seen to be obviously dry and yet thirst may not be acknowledged and satisfied. There is more natural magic in a glass full of water than any medication you are brainwashed to use for the treatment of the conditions I have explained in this book. And I do not sell water!

Dr. Batmanghelidj proclaims

We are now at the dawn of a new era in medical science. It is chronic water shortage in the body that causes most of the diseases of the human body. The original design of the human body is more complete than you can imagine. If we have not known how to maintain it until now, it is our own fault. We have not stopped to think, if the body is mainly water, where will it get its top-up if we don't drink water on a regular basis? We now know when it is calling for its urgent intake. We need to dwell on this information. Pushing water is not a personal gimmick. There is no hidden agenda to its promotion. If you share this information with your loved ones, you are its beneficiaries. At present this book is the only source of easy-to-read-and-understand information on chronic dehydration. You need to read it a few times and understand the profoundness of the indispensable role of water in the human body. In this book, you will also get to learn that fluids and water are not necessarily the same. You will learn about the detrimental effects of diet sodas.

Dr. Batmanghelidj thoroughly alienated himself from the establishment AMA as well as the cash cows of Big Pharma by challenging their labeling conditions as degenerative disease when dehydration is the real cause. Among the conditions which are actually caused by chronic dehydration are:

Alzheimer's disease, allergies, anginal pain, arthritis, asthma, bulimia, colitis pain, constipation, dyspeptic pain, excess body weight, headaches, heart attacks, hiatal hernia, high blood pressure, insomnia, insulin-independent diabetes, muscle breakdown, pancreas malfunction, malfunctioning renin-angiotensin system, rheumatoid arthritis pains, stress, and depression. As Paul Harvey has wisely observed, "There's No Money in Spinach."

In his discussion of Alzheimer's disease, Dr. Batmanghelidj states that the primary cause of Alzheimer's disease is chronic dehydration of the body. In my opinion, brain cell dehydration is the primary cause of Alzheimer disease. Aluminum toxicity is a secondary complication of dehydration in areas of the world with comparatively aluminum-free water. But in the technically advanced Western societies aluminum sulphate is at times used in the process of water purification for delivery into the city water supplies. In prolonged dehydration, the brain cells begin to shrink. Imagine a plum gradually turning into a prune.

Unfortunately, in a dehydrated state many functions of brain cells begin to get lost, such as the transport system that delivers neurotransmitters to nerve endings. One of my medical friends took this information to heart and started treating his brother who has Alzheimer's disease by forcing him to take more water every day.

When the body is deprived of water, the brain takes absolute priority over all other systems. The brain is 1/50th of the total body weight, but it receives 18-20 percent of blood circulation. When the "ration masters" in charge of body water reserve regulation and distribution become more active, they also give their own alarm signals to show that the area in question is short of water, very much like the radiator of a car giving out steam when the cooling system is not adequate for the uphill drive of the car.

In advanced societies, thinking that tea, coffee, alcohol, and manufactured beverages are desirable substitutes for the purely natural water needs of the daily "stressed" body is an elementary but catastrophic mistake. It is true that these beverages contain water, but what else they contain are dehydrating

agents. They get rid of the water they are dissolved in plus some more water from the reserves of the body! Today, modern lifestyle makes people dependent on all sorts of beverages that are commercially manufactured.

Twenty percent of blood circulation is allocated and made available to the brain. This means that the brain gets to pick and choose from the circulating blood what is needed for its normal functions. The brain is the only part of the body that is constantly active. It processes all information from unusual parts of the body, as well as that which enters it from daily exposure to physical, social, and electromagnetic environment. Recently it has been discovered that the human body has the ability to generate hydroelectric energy when water, by itself, goes through the cell membrane and turns some very special energy generating pumps; very much like hydroelectric power generation when a dam is built on a large river.

Dr. Batmanghelidj's crusade to change the health care paradigm, saving the nation from exorbitant, confiscatory health costs, sadly has met obstinate, sustained resistance from the AMA, the greedy pharmaceutical manufacturers, and the irresponsible United States Congress, hell-bent on bankrupting all private health care providers, turning all of the citizenry into permanent wards of the state, accepting an inferior system of health care, resembling Cuba or Venezuela.

We have a mandate from Almighty God to submit to God's eternal health laws, including maintaining the body's equilibrium with consuming water, achieving that stability and safety suggested by David Grabbe in "Lessons from a Sandpile."

Since contracting Covid last Friday, my family and I have been consuming large quantities of water. I have a large plastic tumbler which is larger than ten ounces. I consume a minimum of 8 glasses a day, with one mixed with Himalayan rock salt. With every sip, I have felt a regulation of the fluids approaching a state of equilibrium. I highly recommend those who are still afflicted by Covid to try this protocol. Since contracting Covid last Friday, I have not listened to any political news, but have turned on our 24-hour classical music station KUSC, a station in which I became a lifetime

sustaining member upon moving to California. Except for the daily polka fixes from a station in Minnesota, we have kept the calming tranquil strains of classical music play 24 hours a day.

Physical laws always reveal spiritual insights about God's unseen spiritual laws (Romans 1:2). The insights which Dr. Batmanghelidj brought out in his book *Your Body's Many Cries for Water*, bring new grounds of comparison to the emblem or symbol of God's Holy Spirit.

This morning Gary Montgomery, in his Sabbath e-mail, wrote "I found it interesting that so many groups began the Feast with high numbers and by the end of the Feast half were hit by Covid. Some going home, some entering the hospitals. This happened all over the country. God is working things out, but at the same time giving us warnings. Just like Jesus' parable of the 10 virgins. Half were not ready when the groom came. I am not trying to read anything into it, just a thought that came to mind."

As Mark Schindler gave the last prayer on the Last Great Day, a vivid flashback came to my mind about the movie *The Greatest Show on Earth* in which the entire Barnum and Bailey circus troop were involved in a horrendous train wreck. When the performers, in casts and slings, performed again, the effect was inspiring and uplifting.

As our wounded soldiers in the greater church of God begin to submit to God rather than succumbing to crippling fear, God's church will again be fulfilling its purpose. My prayers go out for all who are suffering from this pestilence, asking for God to totally remove this scourge, but certainly not the lessons He wants us to take away from this affliction.