

# Food

## Part 5

Again food should not be the focus, we eat to live and not that we live to eat. When God is not becoming the focus in our lives our hearts and minds will become fixed on earthly things and we will endeavour to satisfy our earthly and flesh desires. And one of the manifestations of such things is the love for parties and food banquets.

7- **“Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” (1Corinthians 10:7)** That Scripture is quoted from *Exodus 32:6* **“So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.”** It happened this way, **“When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”** <sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, **“Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.”** <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, **“These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”** <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, **“Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.”** <sup>6</sup> So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. **Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” (Exodus 32:1-6)** Moses was the leader and the people they feared him, so as long as he was with them they worshipped the Lord but as Moses was late from coming down from the mountain the people got corrupted and their hearts led them to sin against the Lord and they asked Aaron to do for them an idol to worship. They did this because they were no more focusing on heavenly things but on earthly things that is why they requested for an idol to be made for them to be worshipped. Truly an idol was done to them. And the bible says that **a festival to the LORD** was made and they presented **fellowship offerings**. So everything was done in the name of the Lord but it was idol worship.

Now a days when born again Christians got corrupted and start to desire earthly things they will start to spend their time and resources not in the direction that God want them to go and make disciples, but they go and make parties and many unnecessary banquets where God is not the focus but their earthly and flesh desire is the focus. **“Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.” (Philippians 3:19)** Such Christians they do parties and banquets, including birthday parties, are all done in the name of the Lord, and they will even pray before they will eat but sadly to say the focus is not on God but on their oneself.

Two birthday parties recorded in the bible: **1- Pharaoh Birthday:** <sup>20</sup> **Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials.” (Genesis 40:20)** The feast was given to glorify Pharaoh himself.

**2- Herod Birthday:** <sup>46</sup> **On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much <sup>7</sup> that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” <sup>9</sup> The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted <sup>10</sup> and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother.” (Matthew 14:6-11)** Herod did birthday party to glorify himself and it ended up by beheading John the Baptist.

Birthday and wedding anniversaries we can do it within the family context; husband and wife and children they will gather in their daily family worship and give thanks to God in memory for the birth of their children or in memory for the family that God gave to them. The word of God stress upon

family worship; the man as the head of the family ought to lead the family in prayer, reading the Scripture, singing to the Lord and kneeling down with the family members to give honour and glory to God and ask petition from him. Worship, prayer and reading the bible should be done daily in the family. Making parties and direct your money and time to cock and prepare food and gifts will waste the resources and crippled the family members from focusing on God and what He wants them to do for Him. If we promote parties and banquets inside the body of Christ then slowly we are moving out toward focusing on earthly things and end up in idol worship. Suppose every week one family will celebrate a certain occasion and will invite many people then how much time and money will be wasted on worthless things? As well as next week, another family will do the same, and the same losses will happen and that will be taken from the resources that God is giving to support the families. That will push the church backward from serving God and doing His will to reach the lost. If the church is not aware to stop such things then idol worship will be instituted in form that people are focusing to glorify themselves and second the resources that God is giving to sustain His people will be used up for unnecessary things and when the real need raise up the church has no money to do what is needful. The church should not be a restaurant or a place to find food, <sup>22</sup> **“Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!” (1Corinthians 11:22)**

Paul said in *1Corinthians 6:13* **“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food”—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”** When the focus is on food and stomach and not on God and His word and will, then another thing will be linked with food and that is sexual immoralities. Parties and food gathering will give rise to another problem; immoralities will appear on the surface.

Even if we have money still we don’t need to spend it in such a way that displease God and it will give a bad example for the new believers that they should not learn and follow. Someone may say that the early church they were eating together as we can read in *Acts 2:46* **“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”** They were eating together because they were living together. They were rejected by the society so they were living together, but they were not doing parties.

When food become the focus in the minds and hearts of people that will hinder the work of God from progressing forward. In *Acts 6: 1-2* there was a problem in food distribution as we can read here: **“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.”** The food problem had affected even the efficiency of the apostle to pray and to preach the word of God. When the members and the families of the church got involve much in the food preparation and parties that finally will affect the efficiency of the church ministries in preaching and teaching the word and affect negatively the life of prayer of the church.

**My Dear and Beloved:** <sup>47</sup> **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup> because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.” (Romans 14:17)** The people of God after they left Egypt God took them to be in the wilderness and He gave them the manna to eat. They wanted to go back in order to eat other things. That should not be the case for you. Life in Christ is not about food or parties. Your mind should be fixed on heavenly things to glorify God and to walk faithfully in His ways as you agree to pray

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I humble myself before and asking you to forgive all my sins. Lord I realize all my flesh shortcoming and my worldly desire to get indulge in food and parties. Lord I repent from that all. Receive me and mold me and use me to live my life for you to serve you and do your will, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*