

LIVING IN THE REALITY OF THE SHADOW

Bertie Brits

May 13, 2018

GREETINGS in the name of Jesus. It is a blessing for me to be with you. Today is going to be a special Service where we are going to talk about types and shadows and just go a little in depth to see how that pertains to Mother's Day. I know it is going to bless you.

PRAYER. Father, I want to thank You that we can be here together. I want to thank You for Your love and Your grace. I want to thank You that You love us and care for us. I want to thank You that You embrace all of us with an embrace that involves Your very life where You have conquered our sin and death, where You have come to bring us peace! I thank You, Lord, that as I preach Your beautiful Gospel today, that every person that hears this will be so impacted by Your life and that we can know that we are dealing with a word that produces life.

I also want to thank You, Father, that every mother that watches this and her children, husbands of wives that have kids, that they will just see the life that You have put inside women and how You see them in the light of typology. I thank You, Father, that people will be so blessed today. Amen

I would just like to welcome everyone who is watching this for the very first time. It is a blessing to have you here. The purpose of this Live streamed Sunday message is to provide a place where you can slot in and hear a message and get as much as possible that you can get of a family feel by the web. It's wonderful to know that I am sitting here today and I am preaching and that there are people sitting right now, live, at their computers or television, and they are watching this together and that we are one at heart. There is also our facebook pages where we create a platform where people of like mind can meet one another and those who wish to have fellowship or speak to someone or who needs prayer can make use of that. If you want to know more about our web church, please visit my website, BertieBrits.com or Dynamicministries.com and there you can just click on web church and find our all that you need to know about our internet church.

I also just want to welcome everybody that watches on a regular basis, thank you for allowing me to serve you again with this very Good News. For those of you who are in the United States, I want to bring to your attention that I will be visiting the United States very soon. Beginning next month and for three or four weeks I am going to be in the U.S. preaching the Gospel of Grace. Please go to my website and see where I will be. I would like to minister to you, meet with you. If you are in our web church, maybe you have never seen one another face to face, that would be wonderful just to gather in such a meeting where I am preaching in your area. Glory to God! I am looking forward to that trip to the U.S. and I am going to preach the message of the Resurrection, that which Christ has done, the Good News of how He has conquered sin and death for us and how He empowers us through the Holy Spirit.

COMMUNION: As our custom is, we have Communion together every Sunday. I want to go to Jeremiah and just tell you a little bit of a story here. If you read Jeremiah from chapters 25-27, he warns Israel. He reproves them and tells them, prophecies, that they are going into captivity, that they will be led out into exile but they refuse to give ear. They rather listen to false prophets and do their own thing and don't listen to God.

Then Nebuchadnezzar comes from Babylon and takes Israel captive and he leads them away and many die. It is a slaughter. The cities are full of blood. Corpses are lying everywhere. It is just a complete mess.

Then from this we find **Jeremiah 29**

:1 Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;

Here we find that they have moved from Jerusalem to Babylon. Looking at typology, Jerusalem talks about a place where you live in the grace of God. Then Babylon talks about Sodom, it talks about Egypt, it talks about slavery and all those kind of things where there is no life, no peace, no joy. What it talks about is being under the law. So, here they have been brought in under the law and they have been slaughtered. They've been murdered. They've been killed by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Then, in chapter 29, with that which has just happened, we can imagine Jeremiah walking the streets where the stench of the corpses is, where there is blood in the streets, where everything has died. The cities are left desolate. Jerusalem is just in a complete chaos and this is the word that the Lord gives to Jeremiah, verse 11 after it says in verse 10 that after seventy years, He will bring them back.

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. That is a verse that many of us have on a magnet on the fridge, on some bookmark somewhere, but we don't see the whole backdrop of this verse. They have just sinned. They have just gone out in exile. They have missed it. They are destroyed and what does God say? God says, "I will bring you out of this! I will bring you to the place where I have dreamt for you. Why? ***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

Then He goes on from verse 12-14 and what he does is he actually lays down the New Testament narrative, a story that talks about the New, where if you really read beautifully between the lines there, you see that he is actually talking about coming to a place where we ask of God our immortal bodies where the Romans 8 prayer that Paul prays. It is that prayer of the Holy Spirit that is inside us where creation and ourselves are in those birth pangs where we are birthed and where our cry and our prayer towards God is the confident expectation of the salvation of our bodies where everything is made new.

So, I want to say to you that if we look at the body and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are beholding the love that He has for humanity, how He cares for man, how He loves man, how He has come to make everything new. He has seen man drawn away into the law where man is in the law, his life is destroyed, his Nebuchadnezzar has a hold on him, he is in Babylon, he is in Sodom, he is in Egypt and the whips of slavery, the pain of disobedience of not simply relying upon the Lord but trying to do it in your own power, is destroying you! It's not God. It's the enemy!

But, in the midst of all of that, God is saying to you, "I know the thoughts I have towards you. Your circumstances is not the final word! I have the final word on you!" That is God's word for humanity.

You might be watching this and you might be going through a very difficult time. You might be saying, "But, I've messed up. Look at what I have done!" I want to say to you, as I break this bread, that body of death has been broken. Glory to God! The blood of the New Covenant, the New Testament, has flowed saying unto you that God has come and the covenant that He has made to bring immortality to man is now in the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

We see Jesus raised and we see that the expected hope that God has for mankind materializes in the resurrection of Jesus and so we are celebrating today as we are eating the bread and drinking the wine. Glory to God!

Let me read that passage again. I want to say this to you. You may be going through a very difficult time today. I want to read this:

Jeremiah 29:1

Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue (those who are left over, to the little bit that is left over, of the great destruction)

And this is what he says:

10 For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Even if we bring self destruction to us, there is still hope in the love of God. That is what we celebrate. The truth that we see here mirrored in Jeremiah, is in Isaiah, in Exodus, which is the whole Garden and we are seeing what God has said.

Father, I want to thank You for the blood of Jesus, the blood of the New Covenant, the blood of the New Testament wherein we are heirs of eternal life. It is where there is not something that we need to do where we can behold the expected hope, the expected end, because of Your beautiful thoughts towards humanity. We celebrate that together knowing that even if we have messed up, You will bring us out, even if we, for a season, experience the hurt that we brought upon ourselves.

Thank You, Lord, for Your love and Your grace for us! Amen! Let us enjoy the Communion together...

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

LIVING IN THE REALITY OF THE SHADOW

Bertie Brits

May 13, 2018

The title of this message is Living in the Tangible Substance of the Shadow. This title may sound a little “weird”, but I think it is going to be powerful and is going to impact your life in a great way. We have had a lot of shadows in the Old Testament and we know that the law points to shadows. We are going to look at some passages that talk about that.

Colossians 2:

16: Therefore, suffer no one to sit in judgment of you as to eating and drinking or with regard to a festival, a new moon or a sabbath.

17 These were a shadow of things that were soon to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

What it says here is clear. The substance, the real thing, is actually of Christ wherein all these things, the new moons and the Sabbaths and the eatings and the washings of your hands before you ate, and all those things, were just a shadow of the real thing.

If you read the passage in Colossians 2:16-17, and look into the historic background on what was going on there, it was actually a big problem because the Gentiles didn't have any written documents that they could refer to as pertaining to what God says. We need to understand that most of them were excluded from the reading of the Law. They had nothing to do with the Torah. In certain cases, there was in certain cases that the Gentiles could hear a little bit of it but that was not the practice. That was not what they were busy with. They were believing in all their false gods. They had their idols. The Jews had their own god which they said was superior to all the other gods which these people just thought that this was absolute rubbish.

Now, the Gospel was then preached in different cities where these Gentile people were. Then they stated to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. When they believed that Christ was raised from the dead and that He was also their Messiah and not just the Messiah of the Jew, but that He was the Savior of the world, they received the Holy Spirit and supernatural things started to take place. They started to pray in tongues. They had the power of the Holy Spirit. It looked exactly the way it looked when the Jews received the Holy Spirit. But the difference was that the Jews were sitting with the Bible. They had the whole Old Testament and the prophets and the psalms. They had all of that. They had the Torah. They had the writings. They had a rich history of God encountering with them as well as all the old shadows pointing to the substance which was Christ. It was a shock to me when I found that out.

When Paul went up to Jerusalem in Acts 15, this was about 20-25 years after the church in Jerusalem received Jesus for the first time or after the Resurrection. It was in about 50-55 A.D, we sit with the church in Galatia, the letter to the Galatians, and we pick up that Paul says, "I went to Jerusalem." This was, like I said, about 20-25 years after Jesus' resurrection. When they came there the church in Jerusalem were still following all of the customs of Moses! They were under the law. They were following all the Sabbath rules. They were going to the temple, following all the feasts, circumcising their children, continuing like they have always continued.

Then they were going and preaching the Gospel that Jesus is the Messiah and people are getting saved. What happens now is we find people in Colossae getting saved. When the Jews come and speak to them, what would they think? They would think that these Jews know better. In the meantime, most of them didn't know better! They still knew the law and then they brought the law system into the churches in the Gentile cities and towns. They thought that they were actually now brought under the judgment of someone else and this was the church. In many instances it was the church and in Galatia it was actually people sent from James and that is a big problem. And here Paul comes and he says, "Listen, all these things are shadows!" So we can now see that Paul comes and he sits with this thing of there was a time of shadows and now there is a time of substance but we find a time where it overflows into the other.

Let us look at substance mentioned in **Hebrews 8:**

4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

5 Who serve (This is the gifts according to the law) unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, says he, that you make all things according to the pattern shewed to you in the mount.

So, we see here that the tabernacle, everything inside the tabernacle, the mercy seat, the ark of the covenant, the most holy place which was a cube. I mean, everything there was a shadow of something true and something real. He says to him here, "Make everything according to the pattern that I have shown you on the mountain." Why? Because this pattern is a shadow of something that is true and real in the heavens. We have looked at it this way that there is a real physical temple in heaven and now this physical temple on the earth is just a type and a shadow of the temple that is flooded with more splendor and all those kind of things. There is some kind of a temple in heaven and now this is a type and a shadow of that temple. I have news for you! There is no temple building in heaven... at all!

Let me give you an example of what I am talking about: If we look at the new Jerusalem that comes from heaven and we read Revelation 21, we will see that the city is square. For the Jew that would read that and understand the old and has been enlightened, I want to say this to you: If you know the law and you know types and shadows, if you know the temple, it doesn't mean that you understand what it is all about. We are still going to get a little into that and we are going to see that many of those people didn't know what it was. It was actually a time of great confusion, a time of terror, when you live in the shadow and you think it is the substance and you don't know it is a shadow of something. So, there were hints of that like we would see here quoted in Hebrews 5.

The point that I am trying to make is that if we look at Jerusalem, the city of Jerusalem, it was a cube and the most holy place was also a cube. That means that this city is actually the most holy place. But we know that the city that comes from heaven Jerusalem is not a city. It is the very people of God! It is the Believer and inside that city there is no temple. Why? Because the Lamb and God is the temple and even in that city there is no sun and moon. Why? Because God has glorified man with the light of life which is immortality. So what it is actually saying is that most holy place cube in the temple and also in the tabernacle, was simply meaning one thing: that spoke of, in the end an immortal human being sitting in equality with God fellowshiping with God. When we look at what Moses saw on the mountain, what did he see? He saw that the Lord said, "I am the Lord, the Lord God. I am merciful and gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth." According to that patent of the person of God, God gave him instruction to build a tabernacle, a temple, which would be a type and a shadow of His very goodness. That is what it talks about and nothing else. The substance is the very person of God. That is what it is. It is God Himself and His relationship with man.

I am going to use two other shadows of the Old and then we will move over into the New and get into what I want to say about Mother's Day and relationship and the Church and the Lord.

Hebrews 9:28 *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

That is beautiful! It says that He will appear a second time and in that second appearing He will save us and He will appear without sin. What is 'appearance without sin'? It is appearance without weakness in the flesh. For you who follow these messages regularly, you will remember that in Romans 5:8-9, we established that sin is actually the weakness or the inability of the flesh to have the immortal, eternal, life of God, by the works of the Law. Now it says that Jesus will appear a second time. How will He appear? He will not appear in mortal flesh as He appeared the first time but He will appear in immortal yet physical human flesh and then He will save us from our mortal flesh. That's what it is talking about there. He will appear a second time. It says, ***So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.***

Verse 10:1 *For the law having a shadow of good things to come...* So what is the Law? The Law is the shadow of the very good things to come! If you read the Law, if you read any Old Testament passage, even the passage I've referred to now in Jeremiah 25 right up to 29:11 and even down to verse 14, when you read all of that, you have to read it from the perspective of seeing the good things to come which is Christ or you are not reading the Law correctly. It says, ***For the law having a shadow of good things to come...*** We can find no substance in that shadow. It is only a shadow of the good things to come. ***... and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.***

You might say, "What does this have to do with Mother's Day? What does this have to do with a Mum in the house?" I have a word for you and I don't want to jump the gun but I want to say to you that your wife who has given birth to children for you, your Mum, there is a certain type and shadow, there is something that she is a type and shadow of. As we start to see that and realize that, as we realize that in the beginning and we start to see that, it just brings closer to home what Christ has done. Amen

If we think of the people in the Old Covenant, they never thought that what they were doing, the temple that they were building, was a shadow of anything. They thought it was the substance. They didn't treat the slaughtering of a lamb as saying, "This speaks of God taking me out of the bondage of Egypt where I actually am!" It actually talks about is that God will deliver me from mortality and sin in the flesh and break this yoke of condemnation and death off my back and so give me a hopeful future of immortality because of a man who will carry my sin and die. They never thought that lamb spoke about the Lamb that God would give. They thought that THEY bring the lamb. In the meantime, it was a type and a shadow of God providing the Lamb. They never thought that they could actually never bring the Lamb that God wants but it was actually something that God would bring. They could never see that so they lived in the shallowness of applying and living in the shadow without having understanding. They made a substance out of the shadow actually not knowing what they are doing.

Imagine how empty the Sabbath days would have been. We can see the emptiness of that when Jesus was on the earth. Jesus would heal someone on the Sabbath day. He would know that man doesn't belong to the Sabbath but the Sabbath belongs to the man and the same with the temple and all those kind of things. He would heal. He would have understanding on what the rest of God means --- God bringing rest to His people or manifesting His kingdom for He has conquered the enemy. They didn't understand rest. That didn't understand what the Sabbath means. That is why on the Sabbath they would live in the emptiness of judging even Jesus, saying to Him, "Why are you telling somebody to carry his bed?" Do you see how empty that is?

But we, who understand what the Sabbath rest means and, sadly, many in the church to not understand that. We that understand the Sabbath in the light of Isaiah 40 where it says, "Go and tell your people that the war is over! You can now rest!" The Sabbath talks about a King who is at the end of his war where He is now establishing His kingdom because He has now conquered. It doesn't talk about Him not doing anything anymore. It talks about He is resting from war. He is sitting down in His throne and now His rulership is now being established in the world as what God has now entered in. We are already experiencing the first fruits of that rest and we will enter into that rest as well in our immortal bodies. There is a lot to say about that in Hebrews which I am not going to get into but we can imagine the emptiness you would have to live in if you don't know what that pillar of fire is. If you think it is only means heating me, you don't understand what those five pillars at the veil mean. You don't know what the veil means. You know nothing of that. You just live and think that is the substance and you are judgmental about that and it is powerless towards you.

Imagine what the people of the Old could have known if they could know what that would mean in the

future. If they could know what that would mean in the future, I think they would be more powerful in how they would have treated the shadow. Once the substance has come they would have nothing to do with the shadow anymore because now they would have received their blessed hope. That is what we are in in the New Testament in certain areas of our life.

Before we go to the New, I just want to show you the power of just another type and shadow of the Old. In Mesopotamia there were some that were called the Mesopotamian animation of the gods. They would take artists and craftsmen that are of the best. Then of the finest, best, materials, they would make an idol either out of wood or stone, overlay it with gold and silver and put in beautiful stones. They would decorate it beautifully and take a lot of time to make it very beautiful. Then they knew that this thing was actually dead but they wanted was their god with them. Then they went through a ritual, the animation or the bringing to life where they could actually say, "God was given to us of this idol."

They would take this idol and carry it away to what was called a sacred garden. They would lay down this idol in this sacred garden and leave the idol there overnight. Then the next morning they would believe that this idol was now birth unto life. They would take water and wash out its mouth like you would take the saliva from a baby's mouth when the the baby is born and clean out the eyes. They would clean out its mouth and wash out its eyes and then carry this idol and put it in the temple and say, "Behold! This is our god! This is then the image or the living god among us!" That's what they believed. And then, this is gross but this is what they did, they would ceremonially cut off the hands of the craftsmen in a ceremony. Then they would take all the utensils that this thing was made with and put it inside a sheet, throw it in the river and have it wash down a sacred river that was next to the temple.

Now you find the writer of Genesis comes and he writes a beautiful, wonderful, not a children's story, but a powerful, theological critique against these Mesopotamian way of thinking about the gods. He writes and says, "No! Look at our God and what He has done!" Now he is actually talking to us again about the shadow of Jesus. He is saying, "You guys know that it is not for man to make God. That is why that is your ritual. You cut off your hands and so forth. But let me tell you what actually happened. I want you to wake up. I want you to see what we believe and what the truth is. God came and He made an idol. This idol was put in a garden. That is what the word, image, means, if you go and study the word. We are the image of God. It actually means idol. God crafted a man from the dust of the earth and then He blew into him the breath of life inside this, may I say, sacred garden. He then let him stand up and He is actually saying, "You are the very image of God in the earth.

We can see the writer of Genesis has just a little bit of a hold on substance here and we sit with a writing that influences our life greatly. So how much more, today? I want to say this: I am not saying that we are idols in the sense that we must pray to one another. No, you are the idol of God. Jesus is the idol of God, put inside the temple of God from where God rules and reigns. We need to see that. Amen! Sadly, we used the first chapter of the book of Genesis to determine how old the earth is instead of seeing who we are and seeing that first Adam was actually just a type of the One that was to come. Even the whole Genesis story is also just a narrative and a story of what is truly to happen and how creation takes place in the resurrection. True creation, the one that God had in mind, didn't take place in Genesis. True creation, the one that God has in mind, took place the day Jesus was raised from the dead! Now, from that truth, we are experiencing the very life of God, as we believe upon that, and we will find how God fully matures and manifests this in us.

Now we get to what I want to say for today. I think we have to have a solid foundation to see the power

of all of this. The reason that I use so many different examples is, as you see the shadow and you see the substance, what happens to your heart--- “Wow! Beautiful! Wonderful! Hallelujah!”--- That's what takes place in your heart.

Now we are going to look at some shadows ordained by God that the church still has today. But, we are going to look at that shadow from the perspective of the substance and then we are going to find how we can treat this shadow with so much more respect and from the platform of understanding.

Ephesians 5:22-32 talks about marriage.

Ephesians 5:

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church

Can you see how He comes here with Christ now and he says that Christ is the head of the church. He talks about a shadow here and he also talks about a substance. So, the moment we start to see the family in the light of the substance and we actually draw our power and our truth from the substance, then while we are at a place of imperfection as pertaining to our mortality and our lack of seeing the fullness of what God has done, having the hope of the return of Christ, what will we do? We love on one another. We can now see, like the Communion, if you think of that bread and the wine, it is something physical, something you can touch. The bread and the wine is basically dead but what gives it power is what you connect it to. In the very same way, and this is how I use Communion, is when I take that bread and I think of the body of Christ and I think of Him saying, “This IS My!”, I know that bread is not supernaturally changed into the body of Jesus but all of a sudden there is something much closer when I think of that bread now being broken and I am saying, “This IS the body of Jesus!” It is still a type and a shadow but all of a sudden there is something sacred and holy to me about that and there is a power that flows from that realization because what is unseen comes into the scene now and we can enjoy and be empowered by that powerful reminder.

In the very same way, Paul comes and he is saying, “Husband and wife relationship is like that.” Now when the husband and wife see one another and deal with one another, all of a sudden it is, as you are holding your wife, you are actually saying, This is how the Lord Jesus is holding me.” The husband and wife can do that and as you love on your wife and hold her because you love her, you can feel what Jesus feels towards you as the husband for, in our relationship with Christ, we are the wife. And now the wife feels protected and safe and loved on. Then she can feel that is how the Lord feels about me. Amen! As a husband sees that his wife submits to him in certain things as he exercises love towards her and protection, provision and so forth, he immediately sees that this is how the Lord provides for me. This is how good He is for me.” We can see so many of these things.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

What he is saying here is that as you care for your wife it is actually pointing to a shadow of how Christ

with His words invokes your beauty and bring life to you. Amen!

Ephesians 5:32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Let me go on to verse 31 and explain how this mystery works. It says:

31 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

32 *This is a great mystery:*

Why was this a great mystery to Paul? In this Semitic culture, the Semitic tribal system, tribal world logic, that they lived in what they did was the husband never left father and mother and clung to the wife. No, the wife left her father and mother and then joined the clan, the group that had a patriarch leading it, joined that tribe. That is how it worked. If Abraham had children and their children, his sons married and then their wife left that group and came to them. They lived in, what we who live in Africa called, villages. That's how they lived with a wall around it, protected, safe. I don't want to go into much detail about it but that is how it works.

When we see, even in Genesis, we find the critique that was written to Mesopotamian or what we would call Babylonian thinking that was still having its residue in the Israelites who were in the desert. We find that it is said, "Listen, the way God deals is a bit different." To them it was always a mystery. What would this mystery be? The mystery is actually what God was saying from the beginning which is that the son would leave father and mother, God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It is not like you can leave them but we see the typology here and come and cling to His wife and be one flesh with her... become physical and immortal and then bring also with Him the power of what He had in that family and join it to this family and so have this whole family permeate with the life that is inside Him. Paul talks about this as a mystery. I believe that this must have been a mystery to the Jewish people.

32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Now it comes to mothers. When I was thinking about this message, Helena said, "Bertie, for Mother's Day I want you to minister a message on the Holy Spirit and could you share a little bit about that?" We have had our Mother's Day Service in Durbanville a week ago because we alternate between preaching in Durbanville and in Malmesbury. We wanted to have this and Helena said, "Let's just bless the ladies. Preach on the Holy Spirit and how this connects. I started to study this out and looked more into this. I went to **Genesis 3:20 *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.***

Out of everything I have said and we are looking at types and shadows here and we are looking at the shadow where we understand the substance which is family and church and marriage. That is not a shadow anymore like the Old Testament shadow where we live in the blindness of not seeing what it is all about. Now, in family, we can preach this shadow with much greater respect and we can actually treat it with understanding because we understand what this is all about. With that in mind we are going to look just at mother, the Mum. This is especially for the mums today.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

In Hebrew it is chavah which means life or living. If you read the Septuagint which is the Greek Old Testament, the Greek word for Eve is Zoe, or life. With that in mind, we think of scriptures like Jesus saying, "I am the way, the truth and the life. The word that He speaks is life and it is truth. He will give us eternal life. He has conquered death and the light of life has come and shone now towards us. That is what we have in mind.

So, I believe that when I look at my wife and when I look at my children and think of the fact that she gave birth, I think of the very Zoe of God, the very life of God right there where He saves me unto life. That is what it is. He has come to give me Zoe... Zoe in abundance, that immortality. So here we can see God and also through our mothers we understand the whole process. When I look at Helena, I think of her being the mother of the three living boys that I have, I see how everything works. She gave birth to them. She raised them. She cares for them. She loves them. She is the type and the shadow of the very Spirit of life of God, in our house. So when she is sitting there, working that computer right now, and I see her there and I think of her there, I am thinking of seeing a physical person in front of me which is now a shadow, which I can feel and touch and handle and embrace, of the very Spirit of God which is called Zoe.

Eve was called Zoe because she was the mother of all the living but she is also a type and a shadow of the church and a type and shadow of Christ and us. She is a type and a shadow of, I believe, the very Spirit of God Himself, the very core of life that through which everything takes place in our lives where we are born from God. We are not just born as babies and then left to ourselves but where that very Spirit comes and feeds that baby and cares for that baby, prepares food, loves, dresses, raise them up in the house, teach them in the customs of the house. The mother is the very spirit of the home. She is that warmth. A father can provide a house but the mother makes it a home. A father can give the food but the mother brings the meal. She is the life of that house.

Now, when we look at our wives that have children or we look at our moms, what do we see? You take your mom and give her a hug. Maybe your mom, like in my case, has already passed away. If I hug Helena, what do I do when I hug her? When I hold her I am thinking of the closeness of the very life of God. I can behold and think and touch like in the Communion. There is a physicality around the truth here and that is when I hold her, when I see her, when I hold her hand, what do I think, what is in my mind? I am seeing the Spirit of God how He gives the birth of life to me, how He brings life to our house, how it is a process how she brings it forth and gives life to us. Glory to God!

In ending this Service what I want you to do today is take Communion and the husband and the children, go to your mom and just take that bread and wine and serve her with it and just speak, declare this beauty and this gratitude that you have in your heart toward her for what she has meant to you. But then also do it from the perspective of as close as what she is, as what you can touch her right there and hold her right there. That is the closeness and the reality and the truth of the Holy Spirit, the very life of God towards all of us. Glory to God

Father, I want to come today and I want to come and thank You, Lord, that You have come and just through mothers and the shadow and the type that there is in what we see in our mothers, we can see Your closeness. We want to declare the value that they have for us but, even now, more so in that we can see and touch and handle and from understanding also deal in truth, this shadow of the truth.

Thank You, Lord, that mothers can also know that as a mother she is just a shadow of the truth and that she can never live in guilt or condemnation thinking that she is the substance which actually must do

the work of the Spirit but that she can only love with a love that is in her heart that is born from You... and that is it!

Thank You, Lord, that every mom, today, and child today can look at their mum and the mum look at herself never thinking that eternal life flows from the mum putting them under a pressure, putting expectations that are not supposed to be there on themselves or on their mums, but where they can just say, "We are all beholding the glory of God."

Father, as we think of the Holy Spirit we are thinking of Jesus being raised from the dead where He was vindicated, where He was declared as the Son of God with power and authority, without sin, conquering death, raised by the Spirit. We are thinking of the Zoe, the very life of God, that was given to us when the Holy Spirit was poured out for the Spirit is called the Spirit of life. Thank You, thank You, thank You. The new man, the breath of life. It doesn't help to have breath but we don't have life. Thank You, Lord, that You have come to give us that life and we see this truth in our mums. Thank You, Lord. Amen and amen

I want to thank all of you for watching this and I trust this message has been an eye opener to you as to the power of seeing the finished work of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, the power of the resurrection and how close it is to us. How God comes and how He doesn't speak from out there between the clouds but how He has a language that is much deeper than just written words where He comes and speaks inside the parameters of our very being, our family and how we relate to one another. So many times we want to hear the voice of God in such a difficult way but it is right in front of us. Glory to God!

I want to say to all the mothers: You are special! You are loved! Thank you for who you are and we look at you in a completely different way and it is beautiful to us. Amen!