

A. The Cleansing Of The Bride of Christ.

1. Christ's Desire - Intimacy.

Ephesians 5:25-32, NIV – (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, <u>cleansing</u> her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a <u>radiant</u> church, <u>without stain</u> or <u>wrinkle</u> or any other <u>blemish</u>, but <u>holy and blameless</u>. ...

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A. The Cleansing Of The Bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-32, NIV — ... (28) In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — (30) for we are members of his body. (31) "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (32) This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church.

A. The Cleansing Of The Bride of Christ.

2. Christ's Process - Cleansing.

Ephesians 5:25-27, NIV – (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, <u>cleansing</u> her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a <u>radiant</u> church, <u>without stain</u> or <u>wrinkle</u> or any other <u>blemish</u>, but <u>holy and blameless</u>. ...

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A. The Cleansing Of The Bride of Christ.

- 3. Christ's Commitment Making Us Holy.
 - "Cleansing" = "cleansing or purging".
- "Washing" = "immersing in water like taking a bath".
 - "Stain" = "any place of defilement".
- "Wrinkle" = "a wrinkle or a folding of skin" (hiding part of us).
- "Blemish" = "infection, especially of infections in our character".

A. The Cleansing Of The Bride of Christ.

4. Christ's Expectation - Cooperation.

Revelation 19:7, NIV – (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

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B. The Present Purifying Storm.

1. The Shaking.

Hebrews 12:25-27, NIV – (25) See to it that you <u>do not</u> refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who <u>warns</u> us from heaven? (26) At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "<u>Once more I will</u> shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ...

B. The Present Purifying Storm.

1. The Shaking.

Hebrews 12:25-27, NIV – ... (27) The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

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B. The Present Purifying Storm.

- 2. The Last 18 Months Shaking The Church.
- 3. The Next 12 Months Exposing The Church.

Mark 10:18, NIV – (18) ... "No one is good — except God alone."

C. The Top Things God Is Shaking.

1. God Is Shaking Pride.

Deuteronomy 8:14, NIV – "(14) ... then your heart will become <u>proud</u> and you will <u>forget the LORD</u> your God."

James 4:6, NIV – (6) ... "<u>God opposes the proud</u> but gives grace to the humble."

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C. The Top Things God Is Shaking.

2. God Is Shaking Fear.

1 John 4:18, NIV – (18) ... <u>The one who fears is</u> not made perfect in love.

Romans 8:15, NIV – (15) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear ...

C. The Top Things God Is Shaking.

2. God Is Shaking Fear.

John 3:20, NIV – (20) Everyone who does evil ... will not come into the light for <u>fear that his deeds</u> will be exposed.

C. The Top Things God Is Shaking.

3. God Is Shaking Hypocrisy.

Mark 7:6, NIV – (6) [Jesus] ... replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

D. Consequences Of This Purifying Storm.

- 1. Weakening Or Turning From Faith.
- 2. New Persecution Against The Church.
 - 3. False Rumours And Accusations.

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E. Our Right Response.

1. Fix Our Eyes Firmly On Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2, NIV – (2) <u>Let us fix our eyes on</u>
<u>Jesus</u>, the author and perfecter of our faith, who
for the joy set before him endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right
hand of the throne of God.

E. Our Right Response.

2. Deal With Every Personal Issue That God Reveals To Us.

2 Peter 3:14, NIV – (14) ... <u>make every effort to be</u> <u>found spotless</u>, <u>blameless</u> and at peace with him.

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E. Our Right Response.

3. Rejoice That Jesus Is Getting Ready For His Prepared Bride.

Revelation 19:7, NIV – (7) <u>Let us rejoice and be glad</u> and give him glory! For <u>the wedding of the Lamb has come</u>, and <u>his bride has made herself ready</u>.



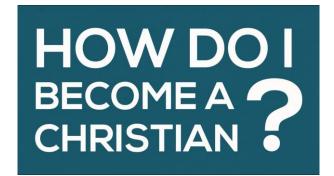
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Our Response Right Now:

Make the choice today to not refuse Him who speaks, but instead, deal with every personal issue that He reveals to us.

Our Response This Week:

Develop an aggressive strategy to deal with every issue of pride, every fear, and every hypocrisy in our lives.



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Becoming A Child Of God

- A Admit that Jesus is indeed the only way to salvation, and that your life is completely lost without Him.
- **B Believe** that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, and rose from the dead for your freedom.
- C Confess Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour, the new leader of your life.
- D Decide to follow Jesus daily, and invite Him to teach you how to live and how to love.

How Can I Pray To Become A Christian?

Jesus, I realize now that I am lost without You, and You are the only way that I can experience freedom.

Thank You for dying on the cross to save me from the penalty of sin, and rising from the dead so that I can be completely free.

I choose to confess and put my trust in You as my Lord and Savior. I give my whole heart and my whole life to You.

I ask for Your help so that I can do my best, to follow You each and every day.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!