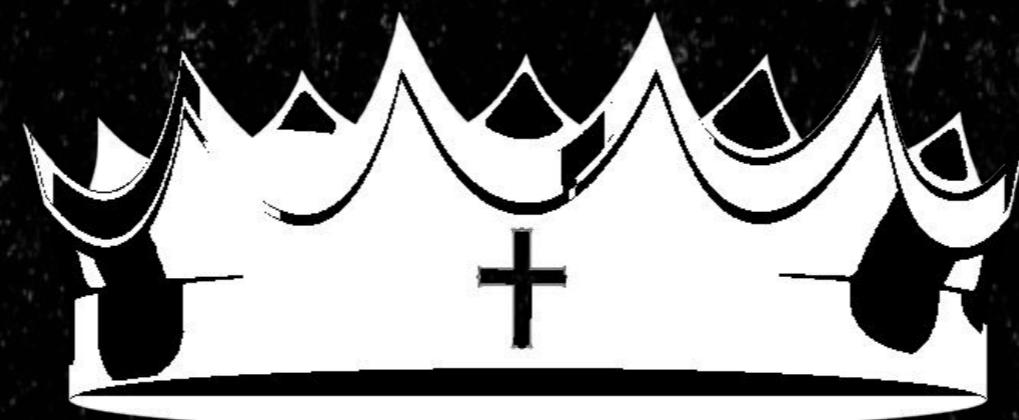


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RESET



BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

THE RESET

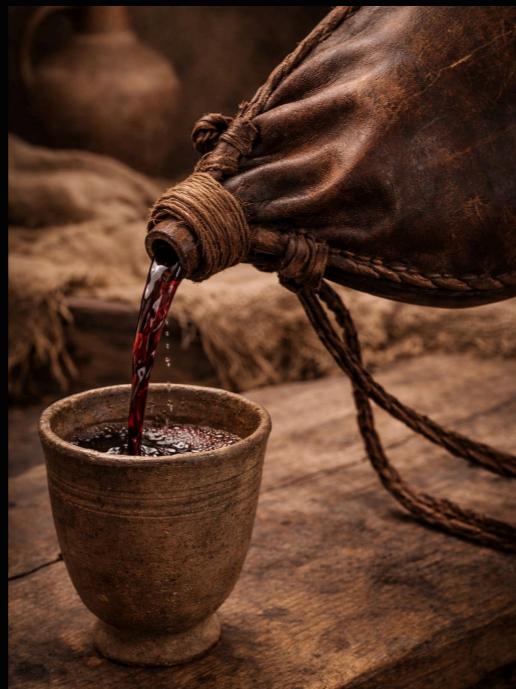


TOPIC: NEW WINESKIN

Scripture Reference: “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins” (Luke 5:37 NIV)

INTRODUCTION

A wineskin is a container made from animal skin that was traditionally used in the ancient world to store, transport, and ferment liquids especially wine.



THE RESET



The wineskins used in Jesus' day were containers made of sheepskin. When the wine was first put in, the skins were flexible and pliable (easily bent). They stretched easily and would yield without resistance as the wine expanded. However, as the years went by, the Middle Eastern atmosphere would dry out the wineskin, leaving it brittle and hard. Now if the wine was poured out and new wine poured in, the skin could handle neither the weight of the new wine nor any fermentation because it was rigid and brittle and would crack and tear easily.

To correct this problem, the old wineskin would be soaked in water for several days and then rubbed with olive oil. That restored the wineskin's flexibility and pliability.

THE RESET



In the Bible, wine is symbolic to God's presence. Paul says in Ephesians 5:18, "And do not be drunk with wine in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit". (NKJV)

While a life of drunkenness is clearly and adamantly condemned in the Scripture, wine can represent prosperity, joy, and the Holy Spirit. In the Book of Ephesians, Paul the apostle instructs the church to avoid drunkenness and instead to experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit:

The believer does not need wine to experience joy. Wine can only give unfulfilling counterfeits of what the Holy Spirit offers. The Holy Spirit is the wine of Heaven. In the Book of Acts, when the Holy Spirit came upon the New Testament Church, those who saw the Holy Spirit's influence on the believers assumed that they were drunk.

But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that" (Acts 2:13-15).

THE RESET



Of course, the Holy Spirit does not come to make us senseless and silly; He makes us sharp and bold. Many have abused those verses in Acts to defend bizarre and ungodly behavior.

The Holy Spirit is compared with wine, not because He brings foolishness and chaos, but because He brings boldness and joy. Just as people receive wine in celebration, so are we to receive the Holy Spirit with gladness. His presence, like wine, marks the occasion. Wine represents the joy, prosperity, and boldness brought about by the Holy Spirit. It too can be symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:26, “That He (Jesus) might sanctify and cleanse her (the church) with the washing of water by the Word” (NKJV).

The rubbing of the wineskin with olive oil for us is like spending time in God’s presence - that place of intentional, genuine and authentic intimacy. As we spend time with God, both in His word and prayer, our minds become renewed and we are no longer rigid in our ways and methods. We go where the Holy Spirit goes, and we do as the Holy Spirit says.

THE RESET



CONCLUSION:

Wineskins (You and I), on their own cannot generate or produce wine. The wine they carry needs to be poured from somewhere (ie. the presence of God). This wine is what will then nourish the souls out there in this dry, parched and weary world. Knowing this, as growing believers, we have that urgent and timely responsibility to continually be filled with His presence so that wherever we go, we have a rich supply of wine (God's presence) for all who hunger and thirst for Him. So pick up yourself, lay aside the old and embrace the new. It's time to quench the thirst of the perishing souls and bring life and light to all things!

"MAY WE BE VESSELS FOR THY NEW WINE THAT RENEWS ALL THINGS"

~EPHREM THE SYRIAN

THE RESET



QUESTIONS:

1. **What are some practical symbolisms of “new wineskin” in our everyday lives?**
2. **What are some practical steps one can take on a journey to rejuvenating the old wineskin to a new wineskin?**
3. **How does one ensure they are being filled with wine that flows from the presence of God?**
4. **How does one prevent their wineskin from going bad in order not to impact the quality of the wine they carry?**
5. **What will you do differently knowing that there is a demand on your life to always present yourself as a worthy carrier of His presence?**