

EXPERIENCING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Part 4

I have been impressed of the Spirit to put in writing the dealings of God in my life since I have entered into Tabernacles. One such experience was some years ago when my natural father was still living.

Although I was raised in what we called a Christian home there were scars from my childhood that only God alone could heal. I never had a close relationship with my Dad, and I envied friends who adored their father and could go to him with any problem. Because of the problems between us, I had a love-hate relationship with him. I loved him because he was my father, but I didn't like him.

One day as I was contemplating the past and my relationship with him, the Lord showed me that I justified my rebellion against him because of his behavior. The Lord began to teach me that a rebel with a cause was still a rebel. The Holy Spirit said, "*You have always believed that what happened in your home caused you to rebel but I put you in that home to bring out the rebellion that was already within you.*" Although, it was a revelation to me about rebellion being bound up within, I felt no condemnation at all in what He had just told me, because in a flash of light the truth had set me free. He knew me from my mother's womb. He knew my down-sittings and my uprisings. He knew the frailty of my being. I began to see more than ever His sovereignty in all things concerning me. The only way we can truly judge ourselves with righteous judgment is when the light of God shines deep within our being and shows us what we cannot see on our own. I can say today that I have fully forgiven my natural father and hold nothing to his charge.

He gave me a simple picture to drive home the lesson. If I cut a lemon in half and squeeze out the juice I might say to the lemon, "What comes out of you is very sour." If the lemon could talk it might say, "It only came out because you put pressure on me." Then I would have to answer, "The pressure didn't make the juice sour, it only brought out what was already in you."