

# **2018 Thanksgiving Conference**

**THE REALITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

## **Outline & Scriptures**

## **Banners**

- ① **The Spirit as the reality of the Triune God is the reality of the Body of Christ; the Spirit of reality makes everything of the processed and consummated Triune God a reality in the Body of Christ.**
- ② **The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues.**
- ③ **If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts, and if we would live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to live in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.**
- ④ **The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ by living out and working out the New Jerusalem.**

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**Message 6: Building up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ**

**by living out and working out the New Jerusalem**

# Message One

## The Spirit of Reality

### Being the Reality of the Body of Christ

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13-14; 1 John 5:6; Eph. 4:12, 16, 20-21

- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

#### I. The writings of John reveal that the Spirit is the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6, 20:

- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

#### A. In the whole universe only One is real—the Triune God; only the Triune God is the reality—John 14:6; 1 John 5:20.

- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

#### B. In God's New Testament economy the Spirit has the attribute of reality—John 14:17; 15:26;

16:13:

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

1. Reality is the all-inclusive attribute of the Spirit of God, for it includes the Father, Christ the Son, and all the divine items and entities—1:17.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

2. The Spirit is the all-inclusive reality; reality, therefore, is one of the most marvelous attributes of the Spirit—1 John 5:6.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

3. According to the context, the reality in John 16:13 refers to all that the Triune God is and has.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

C. The Spirit of reality is the reality of the Triune God; that is, He is the reality of all that the Triune God is, all that He has accomplished, and all that He has attained and obtained—14:17; 15:26.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

D. Apart from the Spirit of reality, in our experience we cannot have the Triune God or any of the divine attributes; the reality of the Triune God and of all His attributes is the Spirit of reality—16:13.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

## II. The Spirit of reality guides us into all the reality—vv. 13-14:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

A. Only that which is in the Spirit of reality is spiritual reality—14:17; 15:26:

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

1. All spiritual things must be in the Spirit of reality before they can be real, living, and

organic—1 John 5:6.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

2. The Spirit of reality is the Executor of all spiritual things—John 16:13-14.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

B. The Spirit of reality guides the believers into all the reality of the Triune God and of all divine matters—2 Cor. 13:14.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. In John 16:13 the reality refers to what the Father has, what the Son has, and what the Spirit receives of the Son and of what the Father has:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

1. What the Father has is reality, what the Son has is reality, and what the Spirit receives is also reality—14:6, 17.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

2. What the Father has becomes the Son's, what the Son has is received by the Spirit, and what the Spirit receives is disclosed to us—15:26.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

3. The Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is transfigured to be the Spirit, and the Spirit is the reaching of the Divine Trinity to us—2 Cor. 13:14.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

D. Through the Spirit, the reality of the Triune God is transmitted into us; thus, the reality into which the Spirit guides us is the reality of the Triune God—1 John 4:13-14; 5:6.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

E. As the Spirit of reality guides us into the divine reality by transmitting this reality into us, the divine reality—the processed and consummated Triune God—becomes the constituent of our being—Eph. 3:14-17a.

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,  
 Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,  
 Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,...

F. The Spirit of reality—the full realization of the Son—guides us into all the reality of Christ, including all that He is and has and all that He has attained and obtained—John 16:13-14.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

G. The Spirit of reality guides us into the reality of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:4.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

### III. The Spirit as the reality of the Triune God is also the reality of the Body of Christ—John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:4:

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

A. The Body of Christ is the church, and all its reality is the Spirit of the reality of the processed and consummated Triune God; if there were no Spirit of reality, there would be no Body of Christ, no church—John 16:13.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

B. The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit whom we have received, experienced, and enjoyed in many aspects—7:37-39; 20:22.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

C. The Spirit of reality makes everything of the processed and consummated Triune God a reality in the Body of Christ—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 27.

- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- D. The All-sufficient God (Gen. 17:1; Phil. 1:19), as the Spirit of reality dwelling in our spirit to be joined as one mingled spirit (Rom. 8:10; 1 Cor. 6:17), is the secret to all that the processed and consummated Triune God is to the Body of Christ.
- Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; / Walk before Me, and be perfect.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- E. All that the processed and consummated Triune God experienced, including incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, is realized by the Spirit of reality to be the attributes and experiences of the Body of Christ in reality—Eph. 4:4-6.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- F. Only when we touch reality through the Spirit of reality can we live out the Body life—1 John 5:6; John 16:13-14; Eph. 4:4, 12, 15-16.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

#### **IV. If we would be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to have the Spirit of reality constituted into our being—John 14:16-20:**

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

A. The Spirit of reality has come into the believers to be the reality of Christ within them—15:26; 16:13-14.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

B. The all-inclusive Christ, who is the embodiment of the Triune God, is fully realized as the Spirit of reality who dwells within us; the indwelling Spirit of reality is the reality of Christ—14:10-11, 16-20.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

C. To be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to have the Spirit of reality wrought into us and constituted into our being—Eph. 3:16-21; 4:4-6, 12, 16.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.

Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

## V. The reality of the Body of Christ is “the reality...in Jesus”—v. 21:

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

A. The reality in Jesus is the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four

Gospels—v. 21.

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

B. The essence of the life of Jesus is reality—John 1:14, 17; 14:6.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

C. “The reality” in Ephesians 4:24 is the personification of God:

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

1. This reality was exhibited in the life of Jesus.

2. The human living of Jesus was according to the reality, that is, according to God Himself.

3. God was with Him, and He was one with God and expressed God; this is the meaning of the reality is in Jesus.

D. The way that the Lord Jesus lived on earth is the way that the members of the Body of Christ should live today—vv. 17, 20-21; 5:1-2, 8:

Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

Eph 5:1 Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children;

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

1. Our standard of living must be according to the reality in Jesus, the reality lived out by the Lord Jesus when He was on earth—4:20-21.

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

2. We need to learn Christ and be taught in Him to live a life of reality—vv. 20-21; 2 John 1; John 4:23-24.

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

2 John 1 The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in truthfulness, and not only I but also all those who know the truth,

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

3. As members of the Body of Christ, we should live a life of reality, as the reality is in Jesus—a life of expressing God—Eph. 5:30; 4:20-21.

Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

4. The reality in Jesus should be duplicated in His many members so that they may live corporately in the reality of the Body of Christ—John 14:19.

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

# Message Two

## The Spirit of Reality

### Being the Reality of the Body of Christ

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 1:8-9; Rom. 8:28-29; Phil. 3:10-11; 2 Cor. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:58

- 2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.
- 2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

#### I. In order to live in resurrection, we must see the unveiled truth concerning Christ's resurrection:

- A. Christ in His humanity was begotten by God in His resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God as the Head of the Body—Acts 13:33; Rom. 8:29b.
- Acts 13:33 That God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- B. All the believers of Christ were regenerated by God the Father through the resurrection of Christ for the producing of the church as His Body, His reproduction—1 Pet. 1:3; John 12:24; 1 Cor. 10:17.
- 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.
- C. Christ as the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit—15:45b.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- D. Without these major items of the Lord's resurrection (the firstborn Son of God, the many sons of God, and the life-giving Spirit), there would be no church, no Body of Christ, and no economy of God—cf. Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:4.

- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

## **II. The budding rod signifies that Christ, the resurrected One, should be our life, our living, and the resurrection life within us and that this life should bud, blossom, and bear fruit to maturity—Num. 17:8:**

Num 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

A. After the children of Israel rebelled, as recorded in Numbers 16, God commanded the twelve leaders to take twelve rods according to the twelve tribes of Israel and put them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony (17:4); then He said, “The rod of the man whom I choose shall bud”—v. 5.

- Num 16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took men
- Num 16:2 And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men.
- Num 16:3 And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?
- Num 16:4 And when Moses heard this, he fell on his face.
- Num 16:5 And he spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose He will bring near to Himself.
- Num 16:6 Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company,
- Num 16:7 And put fire in them, and put incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow; and the man whom Jehovah chooses, he shall be holy. It is you who take too much upon yourselves, O sons of Levi!
- Num 16:8 And Moses said to Korah, Hear now, O sons of Levi:
- Num 16:9 Is it a small thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the assembly of Israel to bring you near to Himself to do the service of the tabernacle of Jehovah and to stand before the assembly to minister to them?
- Num 16:10 Or that He has brought you near, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And do you seek the priesthood also?
- Num 16:11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against Jehovah; but Aaron, what is he that you murmur against him?
- Num 16:12 Then Moses sent word to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab; but they said, We will not come up!
- Num 16:13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but must you also lord it over us?
- Num 16:14 Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!
- Num 16:15 Then Moses became very angry and said to Jehovah, Do not regard their offering. I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them.
- Num 16:16 And Moses said to Korah, You and all your company be present before Jehovah, both you and they along with Aaron, tomorrow.

- Num 16:17 And let each of you take his censer and put incense on them, and each of you present his censer before Jehovah, two hundred fifty censers; you also and Aaron shall each present his censer.
- Num 16:18 So each took his censer and put fire in them and laid incense on them, and they stood at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting with Moses and Aaron.
- Num 16:19 Thus Korah gathered the whole assembly against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah appeared to the whole assembly.
- Num 16:20 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this assembly, so that I may consume them in a moment.
- Num 16:22 But they fell on their faces and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, will one man sin and You be angry with the whole assembly?
- Num 16:23 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 16:24 Speak to the assembly, saying, Get away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.
- Num 16:25 Then Moses rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.
- Num 16:26 And he spoke to the assembly, saying, Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing which belongs to them, or you will be swept away with all their sins.
- Num 16:27 So they got away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives and their children and their little ones.
- Num 16:28 And Moses said, By this you shall know that Jehovah has sent me to do all these works, for it is not of myself.
- Num 16:29 If these people die as all human beings die, or if what befalls all human beings befalls them, then Jehovah has not sent me.
- Num 16:30 But if Jehovah brings about a new thing, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have despised Jehovah.
- Num 16:31 And as soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them was split open.
- Num 16:32 So the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households and everyone who belonged to Korah and all their possessions.
- Num 16:33 So they and all that belonged to them descended alive into Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the congregation.
- Num 16:34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, The earth may swallow us up too!
- Num 16:35 And fire came forth from Jehovah and consumed the two hundred fifty men who presented the incense.
- Num 16:36 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 16:37 Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take the censers up out of the burning and scatter the fire about; for they are holy.
- Num 16:38 The censers of those who have sinned against their own lives, let them be made into beaten plates for a covering of the altar, for they presented them before Jehovah and they became holy. So they shall be a sign to the children of Israel.
- Num 16:39 And Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which those who were burned had offered; and they beat them out as a covering of the altar,
- Num 16:40 As a reminder to the children of Israel that no stranger who is not of the seed of Aaron may come near to burn incense before Jehovah, so that he does not become like Korah and his company, just as Jehovah had spoken to him through Moses.
- Num 16:41 But on the next day the whole assembly of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, You have caused the people of Jehovah to die.

- Num 16:42 But when the assembly gathered against Moses and against Aaron, they looked toward the Tent of Meeting, and there the cloud was, covering it; and the glory of Jehovah appeared.
- Num 16:43 And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 16:44 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 16:45 Get away from the midst of this assembly that I might consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.
- Num 16:46 And Moses said to Aaron, Take the censer and put fire in it from the altar, and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly to the assembly, and make expiation for them. For wrath has gone forth from Jehovah; the plague has begun.
- Num 16:47 And Aaron took it as Moses had said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And indeed the plague had begun among the people. So he put on the incense and made expiation for the people.
- Num 16:48 And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.
- Num 16:49 Now those who died by the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died on account of Korah.
- Num 16:50 So Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting when the plague had been stopped.
- Num 17:4 And you shall place them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you.
- Num 17:5 And the rod of the man whom I choose shall bud, and I will put a stop to the murmurings of the children of Israel against Me, which they murmur against you.

B. All twelve rods were leafless, rootless, dry, and dead; whichever one budded was the one chosen by God; here we see that resurrection is the basis of God's selection and that the basis of service is something apart from our natural life; thus, the budding rod signifies our experience of Christ in His resurrection as our acceptance by God for authority in the God-given ministry.

C. The principle to every service lies in the budding rod; God returned all the eleven rods to the leaders but kept Aaron's rod inside the Ark as an eternal memorial; this means that resurrection is an eternal principle in our service to God—vv. 9-10:

- Num 17:9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before Jehovah to all the children of Israel, and they looked; and each one took his rod.
- Num 17:10 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Put back the rod of Aaron before the Testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, so that you may put an end to their murmurings against Me, and they not die.

1. Resurrection means that everything is of God and not of us; it means that God alone is able and that we are not able—Phil. 3:10-11.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

2. What we can do belongs to the natural realm, and what is impossible for us to do belongs to the realm of resurrection; a man must come to the end of himself before he will be convinced of his utter uselessness—Matt. 19:26; Mark 10:27; Luke 18:27.

Matt 19:26 And looking upon them, Jesus said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Mark 10:27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God.

Luke 18:27 But He said, The things that are impossible with men are possible with God.

3. If a man has never realized his own inability, he can never experience God's ability;

resurrection means that we cannot make it and that God is the One who has done everything—cf. 2 Cor. 1:8-9; 4:7.

2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

### **III. In order to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ:**

A. The church is absolutely of the element of Christ, absolutely in resurrection, and absolutely in the heavenlies—1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:6; cf. Gen. 2:21-24.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

Gen 2:21 And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place.

Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.

Gen 2:23 And the man said, This time this is bone of my bones / And flesh of my flesh; / This one shall be called Woman / Because out of Man this one was taken.

Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

B. The golden lampstand, typifying the church as the Body of Christ, portrays Christ as the resurrection life, growing, branching, budding, and blossoming to shine the light—Exo. 25:31-40; Num. 17:8; Rev. 1:11-12.

Exo 25:31 And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand with its base and its shaft shall be made of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds shall be of one piece with it.

Exo 25:32 And there shall be six branches going out of its sides; three branches of the lampstand out of one of its sides, and three branches of the lampstand out of its other side;

Exo 25:33 Three cups made like almond blossoms in one branch, a calyx and a blossom bud; and three cups made like almond blossoms in the other branch, a calyx and a blossom bud—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand.

Exo 25:34 And there shall be on the lampstand four cups made like almond blossoms, its calyxes and its blossom buds;

Exo 25:35 And a calyx under two branches of one piece with it, and a calyx under two branches of one piece with it, and a calyx under two branches of one piece with it, for the six branches going out of the lampstand.

Exo 25:36 Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it; all of it one beaten work of pure gold.

Exo 25:37 And you shall make its lamps, seven; and set up its lamps to give light to the area in front of it.

Exo 25:38 And its tongs and its firepans shall be of pure gold.

Exo 25:39 It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.

Exo 25:40 And see that you make them according to their pattern, which was shown to you in the mountain.

- Num 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.
- Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
- Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

C. When we do not live by our natural life but live by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection; the issue of this is the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10-11:

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

1. We all need to be disciplined by the Lord to be divine and mystical persons, living the divine life by denying our natural life—cf. John 3:8.

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it goes; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

2. Anything that is carried out in the natural life, even if it is carried out scripturally, is not the reality of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 3:12.

1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

#### **IV. In order to live in resurrection, we must know, experience, and gain the God of resurrection—2 Cor. 1:8-9:**

2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

A. God is working through the cross to terminate us, to bring us to an end, so that we will no longer trust in ourselves but in the God of resurrection—v. 9.

2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

B. Although the living God can perform many acts on man's behalf, the life and nature of the living God are not wrought into man; when the God of resurrection works, His life and nature are wrought into man—4:16:

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

1. God is not working to make His might known in external acts, but He is working to impart and work Himself into man—Gal. 4:19.

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

2. God uses the environment in order to work His life and nature into us—2 Cor. 4:7-12; 1 Thes. 3:3.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

2 Cor 4:8 We are pressed on every side but not constricted; unable to find a way out but not utterly without a way out;

- 2 Cor 4:9 Persecuted but not abandoned; cast down but not destroyed;
- 2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
- 2 Cor 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
- 2 Cor 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.
- 1 Thes 3:3 That no one would be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed for this.

3. In order to live in resurrection and be constituted with the God of resurrection, we must be conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God through “all things”—Rom. 8:28-29; Heb. 12:10; Jer. 48:11.

- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Heb 12:10 For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness.
- Jer 48:11 Moab has been at ease from his youth; / And he is settled on his lees / And has not been emptied from vessel to vessel; / Nor has he gone into exile. / Therefore his taste remains in him, / And his scent is not changed.

4. The primary purpose of suffering in this universe, particularly as it relates to the children of God, is that through it the very nature of God may be wrought into the nature of man so that man may gain God to the fullest extent—2 Cor. 4:16.

- 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

5. As we pass through afflictions, there needs to be a continual renewing taking place in us day by day so that God can accomplish His heart’s desire to make us the New Jerusalem—Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:2.

- Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
- 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

C. In order to live in resurrection, we must be renewed day by day by being nourished with the fresh supply of the resurrection life—2 Cor. 4:16:

- 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

1. The real Christian life is to have the God of resurrection added into us morning and evening and day by day—Col. 2:19; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.

- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2. In order to receive the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection, we need to contact God, open ourselves up to Him, and let Him come into us to be a new addition into us day by day—Phil. 2:13; 3:10-11:

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

a. We are renewed by the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the word of God—2 Cor. 4:10; Titus 3:5; Eph. 4:23; 5:26.

2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

b. We need to be revived every morning—Matt. 13:43; Prov. 4:18.

Matt 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

c. We should come to the Lord's table in the principle of newness by forgiving others and seeking to be forgiven—Matt. 26:29; 5:23-24; 18:21-22, 35.

Matt 26:29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

Matt 5:23 Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you,

Matt 5:24 Leave your gift there before the altar, and first go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matt 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?

Matt 18:22 Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven.

Matt 18:35 So also will My heavenly Father do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts.

3. The killing of the cross results in the manifestation of the resurrection life; this daily killing is for the release of the divine life in resurrection—2 Cor. 4:10-12.

2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2 Cor 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 Cor 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.

D. Our natural strength and ability need to be dealt with by the cross to become useful in resurrection for our service to the Lord—Phil. 3:3:

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

1. After being put aside by God for forty years, Moses learned to serve God according to His leading and to trust in Him—Exo. 2:14-15; Acts 7:22-36; Heb. 11:28.

- Exo 2:14 And he said, Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us? Are you thinking to kill me as you killed the Egyptian? And Moses became frightened and said, Surely the matter is known.
- Exo 2:15 Now when Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh to dwell in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.
- Acts 7:22 And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and works.
- Acts 7:23 But when he was approaching forty years of age, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel.
- Acts 7:24 And when he saw one of them being wronged, he defended him, and he avenged him who was being oppressed by striking the Egyptian dead.
- Acts 7:25 And he supposed that his brothers understood that God through his hand was giving salvation to them; but they did not understand.
- Acts 7:26 And on the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting and tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, Men, you are brothers. Why are you wronging one another?
- Acts 7:27 But the one who was wronging his neighbor pushed him away, saying, "Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?"
- Acts 7:28 Do you want to do away with me the same way you did away with the Egyptian yesterday?"
- Acts 7:29 And Moses fled at this word and became a sojourner in the land of Midian, where he begot two sons.
- Acts 7:30 And when forty years had been fulfilled, an Angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a thornbush fire.
- Acts 7:31 And when Moses saw it, he marveled at the vision; and as he approached to examine it, there came the voice of the Lord:
- Acts 7:32 I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. And Moses trembled and dared not examine it.
- Acts 7:33 And the Lord said to him, "Untie the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.
- Acts 7:34 I have surely seen the ill-treatment of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. And now, come, I will send you into Egypt."
- Acts 7:35 This Moses, whom they refused, saying, Who appointed you a ruler and a judge? this one God has sent as both a ruler and a redeemer, along with the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the thornbush.
- Acts 7:36 This man led them out, doing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.
- Heb 11:28 By faith he instituted the Passover and the pouring out of the blood so that the one destroying the firstborn would not touch them.

2. After becoming a complete failure, Peter learned to serve the brothers by faith and with humility—Luke 22:32-33; John 18:15-18, 25-27; Matt. 26:69-75; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.

- Luke 22:32 But I have made petition concerning you that your faith would not fail; and you, once you have turned again, establish your brothers.
- Luke 22:33 And he said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.
- John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, as well as another disciple. And that disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest;
- John 18:16 But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door and brought Peter in.

- John 18:17 Then the maid who kept the door said to Peter, Are you not also one of this man's disciples? He said, I am not.
- John 18:18 Now the slaves and the attendants were standing there, having made a fire of coals, for it was cold, and they were warming themselves; and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.
- John 18:25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. Then they said to him, Are you not also one of His disciples? He denied and said, I am not.
- John 18:26 One of the slaves of the high priest, who was a relative of him whose ear Peter had cut off, said, Did I not see you in the garden with Him?
- John 18:27 Then Peter denied again, and immediately a rooster crowed.
- Matt 26:69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him and said, You also were with Jesus the Galilean.
- Matt 26:70 But he denied it before all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about!
- Matt 26:71 And after he had gone out to the porch, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.
- Matt 26:72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man!
- Matt 26:73 And after a little while those who were standing there came to Peter and said, Surely you also are one of them, for your speech also makes it clear that you are.
- Matt 26:74 Then he began to curse and to swear: I do not know the man! And immediately a rooster crowed.
- Matt 26:75 And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly.
- 1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- 1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

3. The sevenfold intensified life-giving Spirit honors only the things in resurrection; if we do any work that is not in resurrection, the life-giving Spirit will never honor it—1 Cor. 15:58; 3:12.

- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

## Message Three

### **Being in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Living in the Organic Union and in the Mingled Spirit and by Being Conformed to Christ's Death**

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: John 15:4-5; Rom. 12:4-5; 8:4; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27; Phil. 3:10

- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

#### **I. We enter into the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the organic union with Christ—John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 12:4-5:**

- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- A. The relationship that God desires to have with man is that He and man be grafted together and thus become one in an organic union—6:3-5:
- Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

1. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life; this oneness is an organic union, a union in life—a grafted life—vv. 3-5; 11:17-24.

Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

Rom 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,

Rom 11:18 Do not boast against the branches; but if you boast, remember that it is not you who bear the root, but the root you.

Rom 11:19 You will say then, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.

Rom 11:20 Rightly said: they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be high-minded, but fear;

Rom 11:21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.

Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

Rom 11:23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!

2. To believe into Christ is to receive Him as the divine life into us that we may have an organic union with Him in the divine life—John 3:15; 15:4-5.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

B. Romans 12 speaks of the Body from the angle of the organic union, from the uniting life, from a life that unites us together, not only with Christ but with all the other members of Christ—vv. 4-5:

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

- Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.
- Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
- Rom 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.
- Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope; endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer.
- Rom 12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.
- Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another, not setting your mind on the high things but going along with the lowly; do not be wise in yourselves.
- Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil; take forethought for things honorable in the sight of all men.
- Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.
- Rom 12:19 Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
- Rom 12:20 But "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing this you will heap coals of fire upon his head."
- Rom 12:21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

1. The focus, the center, of the Christian life is the Body, which is the high point of God's revelation and the ultimate item of God's continual working—1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30; Col. 2:19.

- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Eph 5:23 For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body.
- Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

2. We are one Body in Christ, having an organic union with Him—Rom. 12:4-5:

- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

a. In Christ always implies the fact of being organically one with Christ.

b. This union makes us one in life with Christ and with all the other members of His Body.

c. The Body is not an organization or a society but is altogether an organism produced by the union in life that we have with Christ—1 Cor. 6:17; 12:27.

- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

3. To be properly organic in the Body is to be organically united with Christ—Rom. 12:4-5:

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

a. The Body is something that is held together in the organic union with Christ.

b. The actuality of the Body is the remaining in the organic union with Christ—John 15:4-5.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

## II. We live in the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the mingled Spirit—Rom. 8:4; 1 Cor. 6:17:

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

A. God's unique purpose is to mingle Himself with us so that He becomes our life, our nature, and our content, and we become His expression—John 14:20; 15:4-5; Eph. 3:16-21; 4:4-6.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.

Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

B. The Body of Christ is the enlargement of Christ, the God-man, the One who is the mingling of God and man—Luke 1:31-35; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16:

Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of David His father,

Luke 1:33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:34 But Mary said to the angel, How will this be, since I have not known a man?  
 Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.  
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,  
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.  
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

1. We need to understand the Body of Christ from the perspective of the mingling of God and man—1 Cor. 6:17.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2. In the Gospels the mingling of God and man produced the Head; in Acts the enlargement of the mingling of God and man produced the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,  
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.  
 Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

3. The processed and consummated Triune God mingles Himself with His chosen people in their humanity, and the mingling is the genuine oneness of the Body of Christ—v. 3; John 17:21-23.

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:  
 John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.  
 John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;  
 John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

4. The church as the Body of Christ is a group of people who allow God to be mingled with them and who are mingled with God—Eph. 3:16-21.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
 Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.  
 Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.  
 Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,  
 Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

5. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by the God-men, who are united, mingled, and

constituted together with God by the mingling of humanity with divinity and divinity with humanity—4:1-6, 15-16.

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,  
Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,  
Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:  
Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;  
Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.  
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

C. The Body of Christ is absolutely a matter in the mingled spirit; thus, to be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to live in the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27; Eph. 2:22; 4:16, 23:

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.  
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,  
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.  
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.  
1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.  
1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.  
1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.  
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.  
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

1. The union of God and man is a union of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man (1 Cor. 2:11-16); the union of these two spirits is the deepest mystery in the Bible.

1 Cor 2:11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.  
1 Cor 2:12 But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;  
1 Cor 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words.  
1 Cor 2:14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually.  
1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.  
1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

2. The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus—Eph. 3:9,

5; 1:17; 2:22; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,  
Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,  
Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,  
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.  
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind  
Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,  
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

3. The implications of 1 Corinthians 6:17 are marvelous and far-reaching.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

4. To be one spirit with the Lord implies that we are in Him and that He is in us—John 15:4-5.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.  
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

5. We and He have been organically mingled, blended, to become one in life; we and Christ are one wonderful, living entity—1 Cor. 12:12.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

6. The divine Spirit and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live the life of a God-man, a life that is God yet man and man yet God; this is the reality of the Body of Christ—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.  
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.  
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ....

### **III. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ—3:10; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 27:**

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,  
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,  
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.  
1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.  
1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

A. To be conformed to Christ's death is to take Christ's death as a mold—Phil. 3:10:

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

1. The mold of Christ's death refers to Christ's experience of continually putting to death His human life that He might live by the life of the Father—John 6:57; 5:19; 4:34; 5:30; 7:18; 17:4.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.

2. The life of Jesus is a model for us, and we should be the mass reproduction of this model—1 Pet. 2:21; Rom. 8:29.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

3. Our life should be conformed to the mold of Christ's death by our dying daily to our human life to live the divine life—Luke 9:23; John 12:25-26.

Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

John 12:25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.

John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

B. In order to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be conformed to the death of Christ through the cross—Phil. 3:10:

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

1. The cross—the death of Christ—is the centrality and universality of our way to live the Christian life in order to fulfill God's purpose.

2. In our experience the turning point in living a life with Christ is the cross.

3. As Christ's continuation, we should live a crucified life every day—1 Cor. 15:31; 2 Cor. 4:10-11.

1 Cor 15:31 I protest by the boasting in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2 Cor 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

- C. Such a life of dying to ourselves and living to God is for Christ, the first God-man, to be formed in His many members, the many God-men, for the building up of His organic Body—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:12, 16.

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- D. We must be those who live a crucified life by continually taking Christ's death as the mold of our life; it is only by this kind of corporate living that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 2:2; 12:27.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Cor 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

# Message Four

## Blending for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12:24; 10:17; Lev. 2:4; Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:16; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

- 1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
- 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.
- Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- 1 Cor 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
- 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
- 1 Cor 13:6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1 Cor 13:8a Love never falls away. ...

### I. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ; the reality of the Body of Christ is absolutely organic—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5.

- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

### II. The Lord's recovery is for the building up of the Body of Christ; thus, to know the Body is the proper recovery of the Lord—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:16; Col. 3:15:

- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

- A. The church takes the Body of Christ as its organic factor; without the Body of Christ the church is lifeless and is a mere human organization—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.

- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- B. The Body is the intrinsic significance of the church; without the Body the church makes no sense and has no meaning—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4, 16.**
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- C. The elders should shepherd one another and love one another to be a model of the Body life; the elders need to love one another, their wives need to love one another, and they need to love one another's children—John 21:15-17; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a.**
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- 1 Cor 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
- 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
- 1 Cor 13:6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1 Cor 13:8a Love never falls away. ...
- D. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts; the reality of the Body is the inner experience of the indwelling Christ—Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:16; Col. 1:27; 3:4, 15.**
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

E. The Lord urgently needs the reality of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 5:27, 30; Rev. 19:7.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

F. The Lord needs the overcomers to carry out the economy of God to have the Body of Christ and to destroy His enemy; without the overcomers the Body of Christ cannot be built up, and unless the Body of Christ is built up, Christ cannot come back for His bride—Eph. 1:10; 3:10; Rev. 12:11; 19:7-9.

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

G. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem; in the church life we must endeavor to reach today's Zion—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rev. 14:1; 21:2.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**III. God has blended the Body together (1 Cor. 12:24); the word blended means “adjusted,” “harmonized,” “tempered,” and “mingled,” implying the losing of**

## **distinctions:**

1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

- A. In order to be blended for the reality of the Body of Christ, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit to dispense Christ to others for the building up of the Body of Christ.
- B. Blending means that we should always stop in order to fellowship with others; we should not do anything without fellowshipping with the other saints who are coordinating with us, because fellowship adjusts us, harmonizes us, tempers us, and mingles us.
- C. A group of responsible brothers may meet together often without being blended; to be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake.
- D. Such a blending is not social but the blending of the very Christ whom the individual members, the district churches, the co-workers, and the elders enjoy, experience, and partake of.
- E. The blending is for the building up of the universal Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23) to consummate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure (Eph. 3:8-10; 1:9-10).

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

## **IV. We need to follow in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; the apostle brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ—Rom. 16:1-16, 21-23, 20.**

Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Rom 16:2 That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.

Rom 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rom 16:6 Greet Mary, one who has labored much for you.

Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among

- the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- Rom 16:8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.
- Rom 16:9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- Rom 16:10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those of the household of Aristobulus.
- Rom 16:11 Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- Rom 16:12 Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved sister, one who has labored much in the Lord.
- Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine.
- Rom 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.
- Rom 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them.
- Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- Rom 16:21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, as well as Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.
- Rom 16:22 I, Tertius, who write this epistle, greet you in the Lord.
- Rom 16:23 Gaius, my host and host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus the brother.

#### **V. The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ:**

- A. We need to be in the local churches as the procedure to be brought into the reality of the Body of Christ as the goal.
- B. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can really, practically, and actually carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism.
- C. Paul's thought of the church being one bread (1 Cor. 10:17) was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament with the meal offering (Lev. 2:4); every part of the flour of the meal offering was mingled with the oil—that is the blending.
 

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.
- D. Hardly anyone speaks about blending because this is not only very high and deep but also very mysterious; it is not a physical matter; the significance of our blending is the reality of the Body of Christ.

#### **VI. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues.**

#### **VII. The reality of the Body of Christ is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ:**

- A. We use the word mingling because this living is still going on.
- B. Such a mingling living is in the resurrection of Christ, and the reality of this resurrection is the Spirit; this resurrection imparts the consummated God and releases the death-overcoming life into the believers.

**VIII. This corporate and mingling living by the perfected God-men consummates ultimately in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth as God's increase and expression for eternity.**

# Message Five

## Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Living in the Inward Parts of Christ Jesus

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:22-23; 3:16-17a, 19b; 4:16; Phil. 1:8

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,  
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.  
Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,  
Eph 3:19b that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.  
Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

### I. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:17a; 4:16:

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,  
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.  
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

#### A. The Body of Christ is built up by Christ as the Spirit entering into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire being—3:16-17a; 4:16.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

#### B. The reality of the Body of Christ is the inner experience of the indwelling Christ—Col. 1:27; 2:19; 3:4, 10-11, 15-16; 4:15-16.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;  
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.  
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.  
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,  
Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.  
Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.
- Col 4:15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house.
- Col 4:16 And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.
- C. It is only by the inner experience of Christ as life that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ—1:27; 3:4, 10-11; 2:19.
- Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- D. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God; this fullness is the church, the Body of Christ, as the corporate expression of the Triune God—Eph. 3:17a, 19b.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,
- Eph 3:19b that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- E. The reality of the Body life is the issue of the immeasurable Christ making His home in our hearts—vv. 17-18; 4:16.
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- F. The content of the church as the Body of Christ is the Christ who has been wrought into our being—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; Col. 3:4, 10-11.
- Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

## **II. If we would live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to live in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—Phil. 1:8; Eph. 4:16:**

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- A. As a man, Christ had the human inward parts with their various functions, and Christ's experiences in His inward parts were His experiences in His mind, emotion, will, soul, heart, and spirit, including His love, desire, feeling, thought, decision, motive, and intention—Luke 2:49; John 2:17; Matt. 26:39; Isa. 53:12; 42:4; Mark 2:8.

Luke 2:49 And He said to them, Why is it that you were seeking Me? Did you not know that I must be in the things of My Father?

John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "The zeal of Your house shall devour Me."

Matt 26:39 And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide to Him a portion with the Great, / And He will divide the spoil with the Strong; / Because He poured out His life unto death / And was numbered with the transgressors, / Yet He alone bore the sin of many / And interceded for the transgressors.

Isa 42:4 He will not faint, nor will He be discouraged, / Until He has established justice in the earth; / And the coastlands will wait for His instruction.

Mark 2:8 And immediately Jesus, knowing fully in His spirit that they were reasoning this way within themselves, said to them, Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?

- B. Paul was a person who continually experienced Christ in His inward parts—Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16b; Rom. 8:6:

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

1 Cor 2:16b ...But we have the mind of Christ.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

1. Paul was one with Christ even in His inward parts—in His affection, tender mercy, and sympathy—Phil. 1:8.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

2. Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ's inward parts as his:

a. Paul took not only Christ's mind but also His entire inner being.

b. Paul's inner being was changed, rearranged, and remodeled.

c. His inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ.

3. What was in Christ as truthfulness—honesty, faithfulness, and trustworthiness—was also in Paul—2 Cor. 11:10.

2 Cor 11:10 The truthfulness of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.

4. Paul's love for the saints was not his natural love but the love in Christ, which is Christ's love; thus, Paul loved the saints not by his natural love but by the love of Christ—1 Cor. 16:24.

1 Cor 16:24 My love in Christ Jesus be with you all.

- C. To live Christ requires that we remain in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—Phil. 1:21a, 8:

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ...

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

1. Paul experienced the inward parts of Christ; he was one with Christ in His inward parts in longing after the saints—v. 8.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

2. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ—Col. 3:12.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

3. If we would be those who are in Christ, we must be in His inward parts, in His tender and delicate feelings—John 15:4a.

John 15:4a Abide in Me and I in you. ...

4. To live Christ is to abide in His inward parts and there to enjoy Him as grace—Phil. 1:7; 4:23.

Phil 1:7 Even as it is right for me to think this concerning you all because you have me in your heart, since both in my bonds and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel you are all fellow partakers with me of grace.

Phil 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

D. In the book of Philemon we have a picture of the Body life lived in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—vv. 7, 12, 20.

Philem 7 For I had much joy and encouragement over your love, because the inward parts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Philem 12 Him I have sent back to you—him, that is, my very heart—

Philem 20 Yes, brother, may I have profit from you in the Lord; refresh my inward parts in Christ.

E. Paul lived in the reality of the Body of Christ by taking Christ's feeling as his own feeling; Christ's feeling for the Body became his feeling for the Body—Phil. 1:8:

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

1. Paul took the inward parts of Christ Jesus as his own inward parts in caring for the Body of Christ—v. 8.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

2. Like Paul, we should take the feeling of the Head as our own feeling; this is most necessary for our living in the reality of the Body of Christ—Col. 3:12.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

F. If we as members have the feeling of the Head in everything, we will consider the Body and care for the Body—1 Cor. 12:12-27.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.

1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?

- 1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
- 1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
- 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
- 1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- 1 Cor 12:23 And those members of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness,
- 1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
- 1 Cor 12:25 That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.
- 1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

### **III. The more we live in the inward parts of Christ Jesus, the greater will be our consciousness of the Body of Christ and the stronger will be our feeling for the Body of Christ—vv. 26-27; Rom. 12:15:**

- 1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- A. As members of the Body of Christ, we need to have the consciousness of the Body and a feeling for the Body; the Body is universal, and the consciousness of the Body and a feeling for the Body are also universal—1 Cor. 12:26-27; Phil. 1:8.
- 1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
- B. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be conscious of the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5, 15.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- C. The consciousness of the Body of Christ is the sense of Christ's life within us—Col. 3:4, 15; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5:
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1. If we exercise this sense, it will cause us to be conscious of matters related to the Body—v. 15.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

2. If we cultivate this sense, it will enable us to detect problems in the Body.

3. If we exercise this sense often and if we love the Lord and care for the church, this sense will become the sense, the consciousness, of the Body—2 Cor. 11:28-29.

2 Cor 11:28 Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.

2 Cor 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is stumbled, and I myself do not burn?

D. When others suffer or are blessed, we will identify with them and feel the same hardship or blessing if we have the consciousness of the Body—1 Cor. 12:26-27.

1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

E. We cultivate the consciousness of the Body of Christ by living in the inward parts of Christ—Phil. 1:8; Col. 3:10-12, 15; Philem. 7, 12, 20:

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Philem 7 For I had much joy and encouragement over your love, because the inward parts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Philem 12 Him I have sent back to you-him, that is, my very heart-

Philem 20 Yes, brother, may I have profit from you in the Lord; refresh my inward parts in Christ.

1. Since we are members of the Body of Christ, we need to have the consciousness of the Body and have a feeling for the Body by living in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—1 Cor. 12:26-27.

1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

2. By living in the inward parts of Christ Jesus, taking His feeling and view as our feeling and view, we will practice the church life in the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 1:8.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

# Message Six

## Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem to Build Up Zion as the Reality of the Body of Christ

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:19; Psa. 36:8-9; Rev. 2:7; 21:18-23; 22:1-5

- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;  
Rev 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.
- Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
- Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.  
Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
- Rev 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.  
Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

### I. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ by living out and working out the New Jerusalem:

- A. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city, Jerusalem, Zion typifies the overcomers as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, the beauty, and the reality of the church—Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 50:2; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.

Psa 48:11 Let Mount Zion rejoice; / Let the daughters of Judah exult / Because of Your judgments.

Psa 48:12 Walk about Zion, and go around her; / Count her towers.  
 Psa 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.  
 Psa 20:2 May He send you help from the sanctuary / And support you from Zion.  
 Psa 53:6a Oh that the salvation of Israel might come forth from Zion!...  
 Psa 87:2 Jehovah loves the gates of Zion / More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

B. The overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body of Christ in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem, the Holy of Holies as God’s dwelling place, in eternity—Rev. 21:1-3, 16, 22.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:16 And the city lies square, and its length is as great as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed to a length of twelve thousand stadia; the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

C. In the new heaven and new earth the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion, with all the believers as the overcomers—v. 7.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.

**II. To live out the New Jerusalem is to grow up “into the Head” by the mingling of God with man, and to work out the New Jerusalem is to function “out from the Head” for the oneness of the Body of Christ—Lev. 2:4-5; John 6:57; 7:37; 17:21, 23; Eph. 4:3-4a, 11-16; Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 3:6-12a; 10:3-4, 17; 12:12-13; Rev. 2:7; 21:9-11; 22:14, 17:**

Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.

Lev 2:5 And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

Eph 4:4a One Body and one Spirit, ...

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.  
 1 Cor 3:7 So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.  
 1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.  
 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.  
 1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it.  
 1 Cor 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.  
 1 Cor 3:12a But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones...  
 1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,  
 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.  
 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.  
 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.  
 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.  
 Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,  
 Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.  
 Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.  
 Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.
- A. God's desire is to gain the New Jerusalem through the precursor of the organic Body of Christ produced in the local churches—2:7; 12:5; 14:1-4.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.  
 Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.  
 Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.  
 Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps.  
 Rev 14:3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

- B. Eventually, the local churches will be over; only the Body of Christ will remain forever as the unique mutual abode of God and man so that God and man are married together, mingled and incorporated together, to be one entity, a great corporate God-man—1:11-12; 21:2-3, 22; 22:17a.

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! ...

### **III. Whatever is ascribed to the New Jerusalem should be both our personal and corporate experience for us to become the New Jerusalem and build the New Jerusalem by the mingling of God with man for the oneness of the Body of Christ to fulfill the eternal purpose of God:**

- A. The New Jerusalem is the totality of the overcomers; a remnant of the Lord's believers, the earlier overcomers, will be the bride of Christ for one thousand years (19:7-9; 20:4-6); then they will join the rest of the Lord's believers, the later overcomers, to be the wife of Christ for eternity (21:2-3, 7):

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.

1. The earlier overcomers, as the reality of Zion within Jerusalem, the reality of the Body of Christ within the church, have highways to Zion in their heart; they take the way of the church internally by being incorporated into God as their dwelling place through the crucified Christ, typified by the bronze altar as their nest for their refuge, and through the resurrected Christ in ascension, typified by the incense altar as their home for their rest—Psa. 48:2; 84:3-5; cf. Prov. 27:8.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.

Psa 84:3 At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; / And the swallow, a nest for herself, / Where she may lay her young, / O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God.

Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; / They will yet be praising You. Selah.

Psa 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Prov 27:8 Like a bird that wanders from her nest, / So is a man who wanders from his place.

2. To overcome means that we love the Lord more than our self, more than our soul-life; an overcomer knows and loves only Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10; 4:12; Rev. 2:4-5, 7; 12:11.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

3. The Lord is waiting for a group of overcomers to live out the reality of the Body of Christ in resurrection to become the bride of Christ to bring Him back and to usher in His kingdom age; for this we need to pray, “Lord, may I receive Your mercy and grace to be one of Your overcomers.”

B. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must hold on to this principle: God’s presence is the criterion for every matter—21:22; 22:4; Exo. 25:30; Psa. 27:4-5, 8; 31:20; 91:1:

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rev 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.

Exo 25:30 And you shall set the bread of the Presence upon the table before Me always.

Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

Psa 27:5 For He will conceal me in His shelter / In the day of trouble; / He will hide me in the hiding place of His tent; / He will raise me up upon a rock.

Psa 27:8 When You say, Seek My face, / To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.

Psa 31:20 You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence / Apart from the conspiracies of men; / You lay them away secretly in a shelter / Apart from the contention of tongues.  
 Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

1. The New Testament commences with the individual Christ as the God-man, “God with us,” and ends with the New Jerusalem as the corporate Christ, as the great God-man, “Jehovah Is There”—Matt. 1:23; Ezek. 48:35.

Matt 1:23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel (which is translated, God with us).

Ezek 48:35 It shall be eighteen thousand reeds all around, and the name of the city from that day shall be, Jehovah Is There.

2. The Spirit is the presence of Christ with our spirit; we must live and act in the person of Christ, in the presence of Christ, according to the index of His whole person, expressed in His eyes—2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 2:10, 13; Exo. 33:11a, 14-17; 1 Cor. 14:24-25; cf. Rev. 5:6.

2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;

2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

Exo 33:11a And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion....

Exo 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

Exo 33:15 And he said to Him, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

Exo 33:16 For how then shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, are distinct from all the other people who are on the face of the earth?

Exo 33:17 And Jehovah said to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name.

1 Cor 14:24 But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;

1 Cor 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

C. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must be under the throne of God, the ruling of God—22:1, 3:

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

1. Sin is lawlessness, a dethronement of God; we need to dethrone ourselves, humble ourselves, to live in our spirit, coordinate with the saints for God’s move, and maintain a

“clear sky” in our Christian life and church life in order to be filled with God’s ruling presence of reigning grace—1 John 3:4; Ezek. 1:13-16, 22, 26; Rom. 5:21; Rev. 4:1-3; 22:1; cf. 1 Kings 10:18.

- 1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness also, and sin is lawlessness.
- Ezek 1:13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches; the fire went to and fro among the living creatures, and the fire was bright; and out of the fire went forth lightning.
- Ezek 1:14 And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt.
- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- Ezek 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- 1 Kings 10:18 And the king made a large ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold.

2. To reach this point means that in everything we allow God to have the preeminence and are completely submissive to His authority and administration so that He can fulfill His eternal purpose in us, through us, and with us—Rom. 5:17; Matt. 8:9; Rom. 14:17; cf. Num. 17:8.

- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Num 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

D. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must have the flow and supply of life—Rev. 22:1-2; Hymns, #509:

- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

(Hymns, #509)

1. A flowing river and a tree, Eden's outstanding features are,  
Man to supply with food and drink That he may live fore'er.

(Chorus) God is in Christ to be my supply, God as the Spirit nourisheth me;  
If upon Christ in spirit I feed, Filled with His life I'll be.

2. The tree the glorious Christ does show As living food to man supplied,  
That he God's riches may enjoy, Thus to be satisfied.

3. The river does the Spirit show, Coming man's spirit to supply,  
That with God's riches he be filled, Holy to be thereby.

4. The Christ of glory is my life, He as the Spirit lives in mine,  
That I with God be fully blent And in His image shine.

5. I would exalt this glorious Christ, Ever the Spirit I'd obey,  
Making His glory fully known, Filled with His grace for aye.

1. The flowing river of life and the edible tree of life should be the outstanding features of our Christian life and church life for the enjoyment of God as our real Eden, our pleasure, entertainment, and joy—Gen. 2:8-10; Psa. 36:8-9; 43:4a; Neh. 8:10.

Gen 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:10 And a river went forth from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divided and became four branches.

Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

Psa 43:4a And I will go to the altar of God, / To God my exceeding joy;...

Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.

2. To drink one Spirit is to be mingled with the Spirit as the oneness of the one Body; this requires us to call on the Lord continually and draw water with joy from Him as the fountain of living water—1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:3-4a; Isa. 12:3-4; Jer. 2:13; John 4:10, 14; 7:37-39; Rev. 22:17.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

Eph 4:4a One Body and one Spirit, ...

Isa 12:3 Therefore you will draw water with rejoicing / From the springs of salvation,

Isa 12:4 And you will say in that day, / Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! / Make His deeds known among the peoples; / Remind them that His name is exalted.

Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.

- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

3. To eat the tree of life, that is, to enjoy Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life; to enjoy Christ requires us to love Him with the first love; loving the Lord, enjoying the Lord, and being the testimony of the Lord go together—2:4, 7; 22:14.

- Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

E. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must be full of the light of life—21:11, 23; 22:5; Luke 11:33-36:

- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- Luke 11:33 No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in the cellar or under the bushel, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter in may see the light.
- Luke 11:34 The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark.
- Luke 11:35 Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness.
- Luke 11:36 If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

1. The light of the New Jerusalem is God as the illuminating glory shining out through Christ the Redeemer as the lamp, and the entire holy city is the diffuser of the divine light; today this diffuser to spread the divine light is the Body of Christ—Rev. 21:23-24a; 22:1, 5; 21:11; Eph. 5:8-9.

- Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- Rev 21:24a And the nations will walk by its light; ...
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

- Rev 22:5      And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 21:11     Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Eph 5:8       For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light
- Eph 5:9       (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
2. Light is the presence of God; we enjoy Christ as our God-allotted portion in the light to deliver us out of the authority of darkness, the kingdom of Satan, and to transfer us into the kingdom of the Son of God's love—Col. 1:12-13; Acts 26:18; Rom. 13:11-14; cf. Mark 9:2-8.
- Col 1:12      Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Col 1:13      Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- Acts 26:18    To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
- Rom 13:11     And this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to be raised from sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
- Rom 13:12     The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.
- Rom 13:13     Let us walk becomingly as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in fornication and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.
- Rom 13:14     But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.
- Mark 9:2      And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up alone into a high mountain privately. And He was transfigured before them,
- Mark 9:3      And His garments became sparkling, exceedingly white, such as no fuller on earth could whiten them.
- Mark 9:4      And Elijah with Moses appeared to them, and they were conversing with Jesus.
- Mark 9:5      And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tents, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.
- Mark 9:6      For he did not know what to answer, for they had become extremely frightened.
- Mark 9:7      And a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!
- Mark 9:8      And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone, but Jesus only with them.
3. The light of God is in the sanctuary, God's dwelling place, which is our spirit (Eph. 2:22) and the church (1 Tim. 3:15); in our spirit and in the church we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems (Psa. 73:16-17, 22-26).
- Eph 2:22      In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 1 Tim 3:15     But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- Psa 73:16     When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight,
- Psa 73:17     Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end.
- Psa 73:22     I was brutish and knew nothing; / I was like a beast before You.
- Psa 73:23     Nevertheless I am continually with You; / You have taken hold of my right hand.
- Psa 73:24     You will guide me with Your counsel, / And afterward You will receive me in glory.

Psa 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.  
Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

F. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must partake of God the Father in His divine nature, typified by the gold as the base of the city—2 Pet. 1:4; Rev. 21:21b:

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Rev 21:21b ... And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

1. The one street of pure gold signifies that when we live and work according to the divine life flowing in the divine nature, we never “get lost,” and we are pure, simple, and uncomplicated—22:1; 2 Cor. 11:2-3.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

2. The divine nature is what God is; we must exercise our spirit to enjoy God as Spirit (the nature of God’s person), and we must remain in the divine fellowship to enjoy God as love (the nature of God’s essence) and as light (the nature of God’s expression)—John 4:24; 1 John 4:8; 1:5, 3.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

G. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must experience God the Son in His death and resurrection, typified by the pearl gates—Rev. 21:21a:

Rev 21:21a And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. ...

1. Pearls signify the issue of Christ’s secretion in two aspects: His redeeming and lifereleasing death and His life-dispensing resurrection—John 12:24; 19:34; cf. Zech. 13:1; Jer. 2:13.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

Zech 13:1 In that day there will be an opened fountain for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.

2. We must experience the death of Christ by the power of Christ's resurrection so that we may be conformed to His death and to the image of the firstborn Son of God—Phil. 3:10; 1:19; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 4:7-13.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,  
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;  
2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.  
2 Cor 4:8 We are pressed on every side but not constricted; unable to find a way out but not utterly without a way out;  
2 Cor 4:9 Persecuted but not abandoned; cast down but not destroyed;  
2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.  
2 Cor 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.  
2 Cor 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.  
2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

- H. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, we must experience God the Spirit in His transforming work, typified by the jasper wall with its foundations of precious stones—Rev. 21:18-20:

Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;  
Rev 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

1. By our growth in the divine life in Christ as the living stone, we are transformed into precious stones to have the same appearance as God—1 Pet. 2:4; 1 Cor. 3:12a; Rev. 21:10-11; 4:3; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2.

1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,  
1 Cor 3:12a But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, ...  
Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,  
Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.  
Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.  
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.  
Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2. The wall functions to separate, to sanctify, the city unto God from all things other than God, thus making the city the holy city; the wall also functions to protect the interests of the riches of God's divinity on the earth and the attainments of His consummation—Rev.

21:2a, 10b; cf. John 17:17.

Rev 21:2a And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared...

Rev 21:10b ...and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

- I. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ requires spiritual warfare; at the time of Nehemiah, “those who built the wall and those who carried burdens took the loads with one hand doing the work and with the other holding a weapon”—Neh. 4:17:

Neh 4:17 Those who built the wall and those who carried burdens took the loads with one hand doing the work and with the other holding a weapon.

1. There are three aspects of the attack of the enemy: the first aspect is the enemy’s mocking (2:10; 4:2-3); the second aspect is for the enemy to set up plots through the destroyers of the divine building asking for meetings and discussions (6:2); the third aspect is to cause us to be discouraged, weakened, spiritually sick, and in discord (4:10-12).

Neh 2:10 And when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard of this, it displeased them greatly that a man had come seeking the good of the children of Israel.

Neh 4:2 And he spoke to his brothers and the army of Samaria and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the dust heaps, though they are burned?

Neh 4:3 And Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, Even their stone wall that they are building, if a fox were to go up on it, he would breach it.

Neh 6:2 Sanballat and Geshem sent word to me, saying, Come; let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono. But they intended to do me harm.

Neh 4:10 And Judah said, / The strength of the burden bearers fails, / And the debris is great; / And we are not able / To build the wall.

Neh 4:11 And our adversaries said, They will not know, nor even see, until we come into their midst and slay them and cause the work to stop.

Neh 4:12 And when the Jews who dwelt near them came, they said to us ten times, They will come up against us from all the places that you turn to.

2. As a person who loved God, Nehemiah prayed to God to contact Him in fellowship; for the rebuilding of the wall, Nehemiah stood on God’s word, prayed according to it, and was aggressive to take action in a properly aggressive way in resurrection—1:1-11; 2:4; 4:4-9; 13:1-30.

Neh 1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital,

Neh 1:2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and some men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped, who were left from the captivity, and about Jerusalem.

Neh 1:3 And they said to me, The remnant who are left from the captivity there in the province are in an exceedingly bad state and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire.

Neh 1:4 And when I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and I mourned for some days; and I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven,

Neh 1:5 And said, I beseech You, O Jehovah the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments:

Neh 1:6 Let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant, which I pray before You now day and night, concerning the children of Israel, Your servants, while I confess the sins of the children of Israel that we have sinned against You. Indeed, I and the house of my father have sinned;

Neh 1:7 We have been most corrupt toward You and have not kept the commandments and the statutes and the ordinances that You commanded Moses Your servant.

Neh 1:8 Remember now the word that You commanded Moses Your servant, saying, If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples;

Neh 1:9 But if you return to Me and keep My commandments and perform them, though your outcasts are under the ends of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.

Neh 1:10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

Neh 1:11 I beseech You, O Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and to the prayer of Your servants, who take delight in fearing Your name; and cause Your servant to prosper today, and grant him to find compassion before this man. Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Neh 2:4 And the king said to me, What do you request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Neh 4:4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them as spoil in the land of captivity;

Neh 4:5 And do not cover their iniquity and do not let their sin be blotted out before You, for they made provocations before the builders.

Neh 4:6 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a heart to work.

Neh 4:7 And when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabians and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem was advancing, that the breaches were beginning to be closed up, they became very angry;

Neh 4:8 And all of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and cause confusion in it.

Neh 4:9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

Neh 13:1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and it was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should enter the assembly of God forever,

Neh 13:2 For they did not meet the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them; yet our God turned the curse into a blessing.

Neh 13:3 And when they heard the law, they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.

Neh 13:4 Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who had been appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, because he was related to Tobiah,

Neh 13:5 Had prepared for him a large chamber where previously they had put the meal offering, the frankincense, and the vessels, as well as the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the fresh oil, as commanded for the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers, and the heave offerings for the priests.

Neh 13:6 But during all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king of Babylon I went to the king; then after some time I asked leave from the king.

Neh 13:7 And I came to Jerusalem and perceived the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah by preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

Neh 13:8 And it grieved me much; therefore I cast all the household utensils of Tobiah out of the chamber.

Neh 13:9 Then I gave commands, and they purified the chambers; and I returned the vessels of the house of God, the meal offering, and the frankincense there.

- Neh 13:10 I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them and thus the Levites and the singers, who performed the service, had gone back, each to his own fields.
- Neh 13:11 So I contended with the rulers and said, Why has the house of God been forsaken? Then I gathered them together and set them in their stations.
- Neh 13:12 And all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the fresh oil to the storehouses.
- Neh 13:13 And I appointed treasurers over the storehouses, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and it was their charge to distribute to their brothers.
- Neh 13:14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not blot out my loyal deeds, which I have done for the house of my God and for its services.
- Neh 13:15 In those days I saw some in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on their donkeys, as well as wine, grapes and figs, and every kind of load, and they were bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I protested on the day that they sold food.
- Neh 13:16 And Tyrians who dwelt there were also bringing in fish and every kind of merchandise, and selling it on the Sabbath to the children of Judah and in Jerusalem.
- Neh 13:17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah and said to them, What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?
- Neh 13:18 Did not your fathers act this way, and did not our God bring all this trouble upon us and upon this city? But you bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.
- Neh 13:19 And when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors be shut and commanded that they not be opened until after the Sabbath; and I set some of my servants at the gates so that no load could enter on the Sabbath day.
- Neh 13:20 Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice.
- Neh 13:21 But I testified against them and said to them, Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath.
- Neh 13:22 And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and that they should come and keep the gates, in order to sanctify the Sabbath day. For this also remember me, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness.
- Neh 13:23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab;
- Neh 13:24 And as for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod; and none of them could speak the language of Judah, but they spoke the language of the respective peoples.
- Neh 13:25 And I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair; and I made them swear by God, saying, You shall not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.
- Neh 13:26 Did not Solomon the king of Israel sin in these matters? And among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel; yet the foreign wives caused even him to sin.
- Neh 13:27 Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God in marrying foreign women?
- Neh 13:28 And one of the sons of Joiada the son of Eliashib the high priest was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I chased him away from me.
- Neh 13:29 Remember them, O my God; for they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

Neh 13:30 Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign. And I appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his work,

3. We need to stand against the stratagems of the devil by fighting the battle in the Body with fighting prayers, praying at every time in spirit to put on the whole armor of God to build up the Body of Christ as the house of God for the glory of God and as the kingdom of God for the dominion of God for the complete fulfillment of the economy of God—Eph. 6:10-20.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.