

The Digging of Our Inward and Hidden Parts

Scripture Reading: Exo. 17:6; Num. 20:8; 21:16-18; John 4:14; 7:37-39; 1 John 1:7, 9

I. We need to learn how to have the flow of the Spirit in our inward parts:

- A. In Numbers 20 and 21 there is first a rock that had to be smitten for the living water to flow out, and then a well that had to be dug for the water to spring up— Num. 20:8; 21:16-18.
 - 1. The rock is Christ crucified on the cross, smitten by God so that the living water, which is the Spirit of life, may flow out into us—John 19:34; 7:37-39.
 - 2. The well is Christ within us (4:14); today Christ as the well of living water springing up continuously within us has much to do with the present process of digging.
- B. We ourselves must be dug, because even up to the present moment most of us do not have the free flow of living water—*Hymns*, #250.

II. There is much dirt within us that must be dug out; we must follow the Lord's light to dig away the dirt in your conscience, heart, mind, will, and emotion—*Hymns*, #1214:

- A. We need to dig the conscience; perhaps at this very moment some accusations that we have not confessed to the Lord are still on our conscience; these accusations are the dirt that needs to be dug away—1 John 1:9; Acts 24:16; Heb. 9:14.
- B. We need to dig the heart; after dealing with the accusations in our conscience, we must also dig away the many things condemned by the Lord in our heart; we must go to the Lord to dig away all the things other than Christ in our heart—Matt. 5:8.
- C. We need to dig the mind; the heaps of dirt in our mind are simply the many thoughts, imaginations, and dreams, which must be dug away before the living water can freely flow—cf. 2 Cor. 10:5; 11:3.
- D. We need to dig the will; every one of us is stubborn; every one of us must dig his will; there are not many who are absolutely and utterly obedient to the Lord; we need to be more submissive in our will.
- E. We need to dig the emotion; when we are emotional, we are occupied with ourselves; we are under the control and bondage of our emotions; we need to deal with our emotion.

III. This digging is accomplished only by prayer; we need to spend more and more time with the Lord and pray according to His inner leading—*Hymns*, #250, stanza 3:

- A. Seek only the Lord's presence, and ask Him to bring you into His light—*Hymns*, #426.
- B. The digging prayer is more prevailing in privacy; it is extremely necessary to spend more private time with the Lord.
- C. We should go to the Lord again and again, even while we are walking along the street; we need to go to the Lord in our spirit and be dug in His presence.

Excerpts from the Ministry:

THE DIGGING OF OUR INWARD AND HIDDEN PARTS

In this chapter we will learn how to have the flow of the Spirit in our inward parts. In Numbers 20 the smitten rock, which typifies Christ as the One who was smitten and riven on the cross, flowed with living water (Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4). Then in Numbers 21 the well dug by the people of God sprang up with water (vv. 16-18). Therefore, in these two chapters of the same book there is

first a rock that had to be smitten for the living water to flow out, and then a well that had to be dug for the water to spring up.

If we read the Scriptures carefully, we will realize that both the rock and the well are types of Christ, revealing Him in two different aspects. The rock typifies Christ crucified on the cross, smitten by God so that the living water, which is the Spirit of life, may flow out into us (John 19:34; 7:37-39). The well shows a different aspect. Whereas the rock is Christ crucified on the cross, the well is Christ within us (4:14). For believers it is not a matter of the rock but of the well. Christ as the rock has already accomplished His work on the cross, which issued in the water of life flowing into us; but today Christ as the well of living water springing up continuously within us is a different aspect of Christ and has much to do with the present process of digging.

The purpose of this chapter is not to give further teaching but to encourage us to go to the Lord to be dug. We must not talk too much about doctrines, about circumstances, about future steps, nor about guidance concerning the Lord's will. We ourselves must be dug, because I believe that even up to the present moment most of us do not have the free flow of living water. Our prayers are not so free. Our testimonies are not so strong, and in many ways we have been defeated and are not so victorious. This is due to one thing: the flow of the spiritual life, or the spring of the living water, is not free within us. There is much dirt within us that must be dug out. You may ask, "What is this dirt?" It is the dirt in our conscience, our emotion, our will, and our mind. Our heart has much dirt that needs to be dug out, and even in our spirit there is some dirt that must be dealt with.

DIGGING THE CONSCIENCE

By using the word dirt, I mean that our conscience is not purified. Perhaps at this very moment some accusations that we have not confessed to the Lord are still on our conscience. These accusations are the dirt that needs to be dug away....If we would experience a free, inward flow of the Spirit, our conscience must first be dealt with and purified. We can dig the dirt away only by going to the Lord several times each day. I would suggest that during this week we go to the Lord again and again, even while we are walking along the street. We need to go to the Lord in our spirit and be dug in His presence. By the help of the Holy Spirit we must dig away all the dirt.

DIGGING THE HEART

After dealing with the accusations in our conscience, we must also dig away the many things condemned by the Lord in our heart. Not many brothers and sisters have a pure heart in seeking only the Lord Himself. On one hand, many are seeking the Lord and His way, but on the other hand, they are still seeking many things other than the Lord Himself. Their heart then becomes complicated and is not free and pure. We must go to the Lord once again to dig away all the things other than Christ in our heart.... There are many things still in our heart. All this dirt is frustrating the flow of living water within us and must be dug away. Since the day we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, He has come into us as the springing well of living water. But the problem today is that there is too much dirt in our conscience and in our heart.

DIGGING THE MIND

...How many imaginations are in the mind! When there is a great deal of dirt in our mind, how can the flow of living water within us be free? Since our mind has been blocked, the living water also has been blocked in our mind. The heaps of dirt in our mind are simply the many thoughts, imaginations, and dreams, which must be dug away before the living water can freely flow.

DIGGING THE WILL

The will also contains much dirt. There are not many who are absolutely and utterly obedient to the Lord. We need to be more submissive in our will. How many times we do not submit ourselves to the Lord's sovereign arrangement! ...Every one of us is stubborn. We may be the most stubborn brother or sister. Every one of us must dig his will. How easy it is to obtain more and more spiritual knowledge while we remain unchanged in our life, our nature, and our disposition. This is a situation of utter failure! If the living water is to flow in us, we must be dug. The flowing is the Lord's business, but the digging is our business. We need to dig ourselves.

DIGGING THE EMOTION

After digging away the dirt from our will, we need to deal with our emotion. I do not know how to illustrate how troublesome our emotion is. This trouble exists not only with the sisters but also with the brothers. When we are emotional, we are occupied with ourselves. We are under the control and bondage of our emotions. If we would spend some time with the Lord and open ourselves, we must begin by digging our conscience, then our heart, then our mind, and then our will. Finally, we will come to the point where we see how much we are still in our emotions. It is very easy for us to like one thing and dislike another. It is very easy for us to make friends with a brother but treat him like an enemy the next morning. It is not easy to change our will, but it is easy to have many changes in our emotions. Our emotions fluctuate even more than the weather.

My deep concern is not merely to give a message but to afford you a little instruction so that you will go to the Lord. Forget about your needs, your job, your future, and your circumstances. Seek only the Lord's presence, and ask Him to bring you into His light. Then follow His light to dig away the dirt in your conscience, heart, mind, will, and emotion. The more you dig away the dirt, the more you will be alive. You will be living, you will be strengthened, and you will be victorious. This is the key to solve your many problems. You must maintain the flow of living water, that is, the fellowship of life flowing freely within you. When the living water flows freely within you, there is victory. By such a flow all the problems will be solved spontaneously and even unconsciously. Although you may not know how to solve them, they will be solved by the flowing of the living water, the fellowship of life. This flowing of the living water is entirely dependent upon your digging.

This digging is accomplished only by prayer. We need to spend more and more time with the Lord and pray according to His inner leading. According to that leading, we must confess and dig away all the dirt within us. I believe that these instructions are clear; now we need to practice them. Sometimes we need to pray with others, but the digging prayer is more prevailing in privacy. It is extremely necessary to spend more private time with the Lord. All the dirt within our conscience, heart, mind, will, and emotion must be dug away by our prayer. You may say, "I am very busy." But although we are busy with the duties of the day, we can still touch the Lord and dig away the dirt. Many times while I am working, I apply myself to the exercise of digging. We should learn to pray, to contact the Lord, and to dig away all the inward dirt. (*CWWL, 1964*, vol. 3, "The Economy of God," ch. 10, pp. 227-232)

References and Further Reading:

1. *The Economy of God*, ch. 10.