

<p>I . When we experience God as the blowing wind, the overshadowing cloud, the burning fire, and the glowing electrum, we become the four living creatures, a corporate entity expressing Christ :  <u>EZEKIEL1:5</u> And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.  <u>6</u> And every one had four faces, and every one of them had four wings.</p>	<p>A. In the Bible the number four is related to God’s creation and signifies man as God’s creature.                  B. The number four indicates that we are the people redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.                  C. The four living creatures are regarded as a group; they are counted as a single entity.</p>		
<p>II . The more we experience the cycle of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, the more living we become :</p>	<p>C. There is a twofold proof by which we can know that we are living creatures :</p>	<p>1. The inward proof is the sense of life in our regenerated spirit.                   2. The outward proof is that we engage in a number of spiritual activities :                   3. Every time we meet the Lord as the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, our inner being will be made alive, and we will become vital believers—those who are living and active.</p>	<p>A. Through the experience of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, we, who were dead, have been enlivened to become living creatures.  <u>JOHN 5:25</u> Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.                  B. If we continue to experience the cycle of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, we will become living and vibrant in our inner being                  a. The first of these activities is prayer. <u>1 THESSALONIANS 5:17</u> Unceasingly pray, <u>COLOSSIANS 4:2</u> Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving, <u>LAMENTATIONS 3:55</u> I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit. <u>56</u> You have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.                  b. Other activities that prove that we are living creatures include reading the Bible. <u>COLOSSIANS 3:16</u> 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. <u>PSALMS 119:15</u> I will muse upon Your precepts And regard Your ways. <u>140</u> Your word is very pure, And Your servant loves it.  <u>I CORINTHIANS 14:31</u> For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.</p>
<p>III. The four living creatures bear the appearance of a man and are the corporate expression of the man on the throne :  <u>EZEKIEL 1:26</u> 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.</p>	<p>A. The fact that the four living creatures bear the likeness of a man and that God on the throne also bears the appearance of a man indicates that God’s central thought and His arrangement are related to man. <u>GENESIS 1:26</u> And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.                  B. We need to have a proper appreciation of the Lord’s humanity, and we need to see how marvelous it is that we are men.                  C. In the Bible there are actually only four men: the first man, the second man, the new man, and the manchild; we were the first man; Christ is called the second man; we have become the new man by regeneration; and now there is the prospect that we may become the man-child.                  D. The Christ whom the church must express is the man on the throne.                  E. It is man who fulfills God’s plan, it is man who expresses God, it is man who defeats the enemy, and it is man who brings the kingdom of God into the human race; God needs a man.                  F. In Ezekiel 1 there are three crucial matters concerning the four living                  1. The living creatures are the means for God to manifest His glory; apart from their bearing the appearance of a man, God’s glory cannot be manifested.                  2. The living creatures are the means for God to move on the earth; God’s move depends on them.                  3. The living creatures are the means for God to                  a. God’s throne, the center of His administration, dominates everything on earth and everything recorded in Ezekiel.</p>		

	creatures' bearing the appearance of a man :	administrate on the throne :	<p>b. Because the living creatures bear the appearance of a man, there is the administration of God's throne.</p> <p>c. Man is the means of God's manifestation, man is the means of God's move, and man is the means of God's administration.</p>
<p>IV. The four living creatures have four faces :</p> <p><u>EZEKIEL 1:10</u> As for the likeness of their faces, they had the face of a man; and the four of them had the face of a lion on the right side, and the four of them had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four of them had the face of an eagle.</p>	<p>A. The face of a man indicates that the living creatures live in a proper humanity, the humanity of Jesus :</p>	<p>1. The glorious beauty of the Lord Jesus is manifested in His humanity.</p>	
		<p>2. The Lord's salvation is to make us proper human beings.</p>	
		<p>3. The more spiritual we become, the more normal, ordinary, and human we will be. <u>COLOSSIANS 3:4</u> When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory. <u>10</u> And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <u>11</u> Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all and in all.</p>	
		<p>4. We need to be human not by our natural humanity but by the humanity of Jesus; this is to be "Jesusly human."</p>	
		<p>5. In the Epistles we are taught by the apostles to be proper human beings, in particular how to be proper husbands, wives, and parents.</p>	
	<p>B. The face of a lion :</p>	<p>1. In the Bible a lion signifies boldness, vigor, strength, victory, and reigning. <u>PROVERBS 28:1</u> The wicked flee when no man pursues, But the righteous are as bold as a lion.</p>	
		<p>2. If toward sin, the world, and Satan we are bold like lions, God will be able to establish His reign through us. <u>REVELATION 5:5</u> And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.</p>	
	<p>C. The face of an ox :</p>	<p>1. An ox signifies one who is willing to labor, to bear the burden, and to sacrifice himself. <u>I CORINTHIANS 15:10</u> But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.</p>	
		<p>2. We all need to express the reality of serving others, of bearing responsibility, and of sacrificing our life.</p>	
	<p>D. The face of an eagle :</p>	<p>1. In the Bible an eagle signifies the powerful, buoyant, transcendent God. <u>EXODUS 19:4</u> You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.</p>	
<p>2. As believers in Christ, we have God's life within us; this life is transcendent and causes us to have an expression of buoyancy and transcendence : <u>ISAIAH 40:31</u> Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew their strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not faint; They will walk and will not become weary.</p>		<p>a. We have the divine and almighty capacity to express God in every human situation.</p>	
<p>3. We need to be like an eagle, not allowing anything to hold us, to suppress us, or to depress us; this means that we should be able to overcome both persecution and praise.</p>			
<p>b. We are indestructible, unconquerable, and invincible for the carrying out of God's economy</p>			
<p>V. The four living creatures are a corporate, fourfold expression of Christ, living out the life of Christ in a corporate way :</p>	<p>A. The four living creatures with their four faces signify a coordinated, corporate entity, the corporate Christ as the corporate expression of God among human beings. <u>1 CORINTHIANS 12:12</u> 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.</p>		
	<p>B. The four faces of the living creatures correspond to the four Gospels: Matthew—Christ as a lion, the King of God's kingdom; Mark—Christ as an ox, the Servant of God; Luke—Christ as a man, the Man-Savior; John—Christ as an eagle, the very God.</p>		
	<p>C. The four living creatures are a corporate entity expressing Christ in a complete way, exactly as He was in His living on earth.</p>		

**Experience ① Living creatures:** How can we prove that we are no longer dead but have become living creatures? There is a twofold proof, that is, an inward proof and an outward proof. The inward proof that we are living creatures is that we now have a feeling, or sense, of life. Living persons have feelings....A person who is spiritually living will have a deep feeling whenever he lives in a way that does not glorify God or that is not pleasing to Him. If our inner feeling, the inner sense of life, is sensitive, deep, and fresh, this is a proof that inwardly we are living and that we are therefore a living creature.

The second proof is outward and is related to our activities. A dead person is inactive, but a living person is very active....A Christian who is living, that is, who is a living creature, will engage in a number of activities. The first of these activities is prayer. Just as we cannot live physically without breathing, so we cannot live spiritually without praying. Prayer is a Christian's spiritual breathing, and it is often spontaneous....Other activities that prove that we are living creatures include reading the Bible, functioning in the meetings, serving God, and preaching the gospel.

**Business life model 1:** When various negative things happened in business, the minds of the team members tend to be negative as well. But no matter what circumstances, as a Christian, you can maintain the joy of having the Lord inside you. The Lord is your life that lives in you. Because the life of the Lord is the resurrection life, whatever the circumstances, it will provide joy within you. People with negative minds become increasingly weak as difficulties come to them, and they cannot escape from the passive situations. You need to have joy and move forward with a positive mind. That way, first you can get yourself out of darkness and then you can help the team members to come out of their darkness as well. By the guidance of the Lord you will be able to show the team a way to break free and minimize the risk. Also, in order to maintain the joy in the Lord, you should carry out praying and reading the Bible every day. The more you pray, the more you read the Bible, the more your sense of inner life, peace and joy will mount up. Hallelujah!

**② Face of man:** We experience the Lord as the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, but the issue of this experience is that we bear the face of a man. As living creatures, we are not angels but are very human. In fact, the more spiritual we become, the more normal and human we will be. The more we have of Christ as our life, the more we will bear the face of a man. In the Epistles we are taught by the apostles to be proper human beings, in particular how to be proper husbands, wives, and parents. God's salvation causes us to be proper men for His manifestation, move, and administration.

**Marriage life/Corporate life model:** You may be able to serve the Lord, but never become a person who cannot establish a correct marital relationship with your husband or wife at home. People who have growth in their life should become increasingly normal with their humanity. Especially between husband and wife, your true human nature will be exposed. Those who are lacking the humanity of Jesus are not able to build a normal marriage life, and there will be no strong testimony in their services as well. Jesus' humanity supplies you with compassionate heart, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

**COLOSSIANS 3:12** Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering; **13** Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive. **14** And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.

The will of God is not to make you an angel but to make you a normal person by Jesus' humanity. The same principle is also true for corporate life such as Brother's House and Sister's House. You should build a good relationship with your roommate.

**③ Face of lion:** We also need to bear the face of a lion. In the Bible a lion signifies boldness, vigor, strength, and victory. In our Christian life we first need to be a man. Wherever we may be—at our school, in our office, or among our neighbors—we should be a man. But we should also be a lion. If in the office you are a proper man, others will be drawn to you. However, those who are drawn to you may be “germs” that can corrupt you. Because they like you, they may invite you to participate with them in a certain kind of worldly amusement. At such a time you should behave not like a man but like a lion. This means that toward anything sinful or worldly, we must be as bold as a lion.

**School life (College student, Graduate student) model:** The Lord's salvation not only makes you a normal person but also makes you brave like a lion. The lion here is strong and courageous against sin, Satan, and this world. You are friendly to the approach of your friend, but concerning the temptation of sin from your friend, such as drinking party into late night hours, overnight karaoke, overnight gaming, mahjong betting, and going to movies related to fornication, violence and murder, you need to bravely and powerfully reject them. Without the lion's face, you will only care about what your friend thinks, and be terribly afraid of the relationship becoming bad and into the temptation of sin reluctantly.

**④ Face of ox:** The face of a lion is balanced by the face of an ox. If in your office you have the face of a lion that alone will not convince others. You need to be balanced by having the face of an ox. An ox is one who is willing to bear the burden, to do the work, and even to sacrifice himself. We all need to have such an appearance and to express such a reality of serving others, bearing the burden, caring for the responsibility, and even sacrificing our life. If as you are working in an office you are a proper man, you are as bold as a lion, and you are also faithful in bearing responsibility, you will make a good impression on others. In order to make such an impression, you need to behave not only like a man and like a lion but also like a serving, suffering ox. When the office needs to be cleaned, you should take the lead to clean, doing more than the other employees. In this way you will show your colleagues that you are willing to sacrifice, to help others, and to serve them. Then you will have the reality of the face of an ox. When others see you with the face of a man, the face of a lion, and the face of an ox, they will say, “This is a real Christian.”

**Business life model 2:** You should have a face of lion as well as a face of ox at work. The ox here means to labor and to bear responsibility. As a Christian you should not avoid the hard work people do not want to do. If it is a serious task and you cannot avoid it, you then need to work on that task and fulfill your responsibilities.

One of our sisters is working for foreign company and when she requested information from the US manufacturer, she received more than 10,000 pages of the information in English. The sister worked hard with the Lord, and was able to read through all and finished compiling the necessary information; both the American and Japanese colleagues were terribly surprised. Actually, such vast information from the U. S. colleague was sent as harassment. The salvation of the Lord will not only bring you the face of man, the face of lion, but also the face of ox, which will make you labor silently. Amen!

⑤ **Face of eagle:** We need to be like an eagle, not allowing anything to hold us, to suppress us, or to depress us. This means that we should be able to overcome both persecution and praise. Sometimes it is more difficult to overcome praise than it is to overcome persecution. Some can overcome persecution, but they are unable to overcome people's praise. This should not be the case with us. Whether we are persecuted or praised, we need to be able to fly away on eagles' wings.

**School life (junior high/high school student) model:** As a junior high and high school student, you need to learn to rise high with the wings of the eagle and transcend while you are young. People

get depressed if they were criticized, and they rise when they were praised. But the Lord's salvation will make you like an eagle and save you from losing your heart and proudness. As a Christian, you need to confess your sins, shortcomings, weaknesses, but never lose heart over anything. You also need to deal with the proudness and overcome the praising. From a young age by the salvation of the Lord, you need to have the eagle wings and have the transcending experience.

One sister was interested in singing and learned the singing skills by participating in the singing lessons. After that, she also took part in the service of singing and recording hymns with the newly saved and the brothers and sister for the enjoyment in the church. The sister's beautiful voice was praised by the many brothers and sisters who heard the recording. The sister was pleased by heart, and she got a little bit proud. However, shortly afterwards, the sister had dealt with her proudness under the light of the Lord. As a result, her proudness inside had left and she was able to recover the peace in her heart. This is the experience of eagle's wings overcoming the praise and pride. Do not be proud just because your grades have gone up a little. In the midst of success you should pray as follows;

Lord Jesus, I am nothing but sin. Apart from You, I really can do nothing.

But in You, with You, and for You, I can do all things.

In my business life (or student life) I work (or study) in You, with You and for You.

Thank you Lord, and praise the Lord! Amen!

キリストを享受する——その霊として  
248 (英 1142)

- 1 いま、主は生ける霊、主は実さい。  
たん純に主呼べば主、享受する。  
(復)イエスは生ける霊といまさけぶ。  
御名を呼ぶものに主はゆたか。
- 2 自由あとう主、うちにいま生きる。  
あじわい見よ、主のすばらしさ。
- 3 いま、主は生ける霊、主はことば。  
いのり読みにより、主に触れる。
- 4 せい徒にながれる生ける霊は、  
いのちのまじわり、いちとする。
- 5 生ける霊、ゆたかな主のしゆく宴。  
からだ享受すれば賛美ながる。

Experience Of Christ - As The Spirit

- 1 Jesus is the living Spirit,  
Our reality;  
We enjoy Him just by calling.  
In simplicity.  
© Jesus is the living Spirit,  
We must now proclaim;  
He is rich unto all men  
That call upon His name.
2. He is living now within us,  
Giving liberty;  
He is good and He is gracious  
As we taste and see.
- 3 Jesus is the living Spirit  
And the living Word;  
When we touch Him by pray-reading  
We receive this Lord.

4 Jesus is the living Spirit  
Who among us flows;  
Fellowship of life in spirit  
Unity bestows.

5 Jesus is the living Spirit,  
He is our rich feast,  
As the Body now enjoys Him,  
Praises are released.