

Cooperating with God to Carry Out His Move in His Economy by Knowing This Age and by Knowing the Present Truth (Hymn 241, Sup. 508)

<p>I. In the book of Ezekiel God's economy and God's move in His economy are signified by a high and awesome wheel: <u>Ezekiel 1:15</u> And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.<u>16</u> 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. <u>17</u> Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went. <u>18</u> As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.</p>	<p>A. The hub of this great wheel signifies Christ as the center of God's economy, and the rim signifies Christ's counterpart, the church, which consummates in the New Jerusalem; the spokes of the wheel spreading from the hub to the rim signify the many believers as the members of Christ.</p> <p>B. The appearing of the wheels on the earth beside the living creatures indicates that God's move on earth follows the coordination of the four living creatures.</p> <p>C. God's move is the move of His economy in man to deify man to bring forth the one new man so that God in Christ may have His corporate expression and administration.</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. <u>Ephesians 2:15</u> Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,</p> <p><u>Colossians 3:11</u> Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.</p> <p>D. Every local church and every individual believer should have a high and awesome wheel with them</p> <p><u>Acts 13:1</u> Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <u>2</u> And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.</p> <p>E. The wheels following the living creatures indicates that the move of God's work depends upon our moving; it also indicates that if we move in faith, the Lord will follow our move</p> <p><u>Ezekiel 1:19</u> And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also. <u>2 Corinthians 5:7</u> (For we walk by faith, not by appearance) -- <u>4:13</u> 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.<u>18</u> Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. <u>Ecclesiastes 11:4</u> He who watches the wind will not sow, and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.</p> <p>F. The wheels follow the living creatures, and the creatures follow the Spirit, but the Spirit is in the wheels:</p> <p><u>Ezekiel 1:21</u> Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still; and whenever those were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up alongside them; for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.</p>	<p>1. This indicates that the move of the Lord in our move is in the principle of incarnation. <u>Ezekiel 1:20</u> Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went--wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.</p> <p>2. This is the Lord's move on earth today, and this is the Lord's recovery.</p>
<p>II. If we are going to cooperate with the Lord to carry out His move in His economy, we must know this age; to know this age is to know the age of today's Christianity in a particular way, especially in relation to the revelation of the Scriptures, the divine truths, and the genuine</p>	<p>A. Not one of today's theologies, including the Nicene Creed, Stresses adequately the following five critical points concerning the Spirit of God in the move of God's eternal economy:</p>	<p>1. The Spirit that gives life was not yet before the glorification (resurrection) of Christ. <u>John 7:38</u> He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.<u>39</u> 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.</p> <p>2. The last Adam (Christ in the flesh) became a life-giving Spirit (fulfilling John 7:39)—<u>1 Cor. 15:45b</u>; hence, <u>2 Corinthians 3:17</u> says that "the Lord is the Spirit," and the following verse uses the Lord Spirit as a compound divine title. <u>1 Corinthians 15:45</u> So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.</p> <p>3. The compound Spirit is typified by the anointing ointment (a compound of one hin of olive oil with four kinds of spices and their effectiveness) in <u>Exodus 30:23-25</u>.</p> <p>4. The Spirit of life, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, Christ Himself, and the indwelling Spirit in <u>Romans 8:2, 9-11</u>, all refer to the compound Spirit that gives life.</p> <p>5. The Spirit of God in the move of God's eternal economy is the seven Spirits (the sevenfold intensified Spirit, cf. the sevenfold sunlight—<u>Isa. 30:26</u>) of God—<u>Revelation 4:5</u> And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; <u>5:6</u> And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the</p>

and proper theology:	<p>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.</p>
	<p>B. The Catholic Church, the Protestant denominations, the Brethren assemblies, the Pentecostal churches, and all the free groups are held back by their imperfect and unscriptural theology from the central revelation of God and come short of the completion of God's eternal economy because of their missing, negligence of, and opposition to the above five critical points concerning the Spirit of God.</p>
	<p>C. God must have a people who are the God-men to be His overcomers for Him to accomplish His eternal economy concerning the church issuing in the Body of Christ and consummating the New Jerusalem.</p>
	<p>Revelation 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.</p>
<p>III. Second Peter 1:12 mentions the words the present truth: <u>2Peter 1:12</u> Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth. <u>2 Kings 22:8</u> Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of Jehovah. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.</p>	<p>A. All the truths are in the Bible, but through man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience, many truths were lost and were hidden from man; freshly revealed truths are not God's new inventions; rather, they are man's new discoveries.</p> <p>B. Every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is; we need to ask God, "God, what is the present truth?"</p> <p>C. We know that God's truths are cumulative; later truths do not negate former ones.</p> <p>D. All the past truths of God form the foundation of the truths today; what we see today are the cumulative revelations of God.</p> <p>E. When God opens our eyes to see this fact, we begin to realize that we are living in the tide of God's will; this tide is a continuation of all the past works of God in the previous ages.</p> <p>F. May God be gracious to us so that we do not become the castaways of "the present truth"; may we be watchful, and may we not allow the flesh to come in or the self to gain any ground; may God's will be accomplished in us.</p>
<p>IV.The present truth is both the central revelation of God and the Lord's present recovery:</p>	<p>A. If we are asked to explain what the recovery is today, we should be able to answer in one simple sentence: The Lord's recovery is God becoming the flesh, the flesh becoming the life-giving Spirit, and the life-giving Spirit becoming the sevenfold intensified Spirit to build up the church that becomes the Body of Christ and that consummates the New Jerusalem.</p>
<p>B. This is the full ministry of Christ in three stages (incarnation, inclusion, and intensification), and this is the central revelation of God and the present truth:</p>	<p>1. In the first stage, the stage of His incarnation, from His human birth to His death, He brought the infinite God into the finite man, He united and mingled the Triune God with the tripartite man, He expressed in His humanity the bountiful God in His rich attributes through His aromatic virtues, and He accomplished His all-inclusive judicial redemption.<u>John1:1</u> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<u>14</u> 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.</p> <p>2. In the second stage, the stage of His inclusion, from His resurrection to the degradation of the church, He was begotten by God to be God's firstborn Son, He became the life-giving Spirit, and He regenerated the believers for His Body. <u>Acts13:33</u> 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; this day have I begotten You." <u>1Peter1:3</u> 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,</p> <p>3. In the third stage, the stage of His intensification, from the degradation of the church to the consummation of the New Jerusalem, He intensifies His organic salvation, He produces the overcomers, and He consummates the New Jerusalem <u>Revelation4:5</u> And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;<u>3:12</u> He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.<u>19:9</u> 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.</p> <p>4. We need to do a work of three sections: a work in the stage of incarnation to produce redeemed people, a work in the stage of inclusion to produce the churches, and a work in the stage of intensification to produce the overcomers to build up the Body, which consummates in the New Jerusalem as the unique goal of God's economy.</p>

Experience: ① Act with eagle wings, calf feet, high and awesome wheels at workplace and generate growth, expansion, and multiplication of the church

Whenever a church is proper, expresses the Lord, and has the proper coordination with the fire going up and down, the move of the Lord will be with that church. However, if a church claims to be proper and yet has no move of the Lord, something is wrong. If there is no increase in number year after year and no growth in life among the members, there is no move with that church. With those in that church there is neither increase nor spread. This indicates there is something wrong with that church. If a church is proper, it will have a great wheel at its side.

On your job you need to move daily by the eagle's wings and the calf's hoofs. If you move in this way, your co-workers will see that with you there is something powerful. You can suffer things which others cannot suffer and you can endure

things which others cannot endure because you have the eagle's wings. They can also realize that in your character and behavior you are honest, straight, frank, and sincere, having no crookedness. They will see the eagle's wings and the calf's hoofs upon you, and thus they will be convicted by you in their conscience. In addition to this kind of move with you on your job, there should also be another kind of move—an extraordinary move, the move of a wheel. Eventually, because the move of the wheel is with you, some of your co-workers may be gained by the Lord.

The young working saints' model:

As a working young saint for the consummation of God's economy, you should act with the wings of an eagle, the feet of a calf, and the high and awesome wheels at your workplace. The wings of eagle soar high with the grace of God, indicating that it transcends problems and difficulties. Your colleagues may go to drinking sessions and try to relieve the stress from their difficulties or problems. However, the drinking sessions will not be able to eliminate the stress, in fact, in many cases they build up the stress. A believer in the Lord is the four living creatures and has wings of eagle. Therefore, the revival every morning must be executed. You can have the wings of grace at your workplace by pray-reading the Word in the morning.

At the same time you should have the feet of a calf. The calf endures heavy labor and continues to work without complaining. You should not avoid heavy labor or the work you are not good at. In the Gospel of Mark, the Lord served the people continuously as slave and Savior. This indicates that He had the feet of a calf. However, by no means this encourages you to work overtime or work on holidays. You need to concentrate and carry out your duties sedulously within the working hours and with minimum overtime.

Furthermore, in order to respond to sudden environmental changes in your workplace, sometimes you need to have action of the high and awesome wheels. For example, if you have the high and awesome action by the wheels, which enables you to respond to the sharp depreciation of the company stock price, respond to competitors' rapid and drastic moves, the change of stockholders due to acquisitions, and so forth, that some of your colleagues may be saved from such situation. Hallelujah!

② Make New Jerusalem the only goal and become an overcomer

In His seven epistles to the degraded churches, Christ is calling the defeated believers to be His overcomers by Himself as the sevenfold intensified Spirit for their experience of His organic salvation in His sevenfold intensification. The degradation of the church is mainly due to the fact that nearly all Christian workers have been distracted to take many things other than the New Jerusalem as their goal. Hence, under the degradation of the church, to be overcomers answering the Lord's call, we need to overcome not only the negative things but even more the positive things which replace the New Jerusalem as the goal....The goal of our preaching the gospel must be the New Jerusalem

Junior high/senior high students' model:

Many junior high and senior high students in Japan are without clear goals, but they somehow study for the exams due to the reasons told by their parents or teachers. However, since the duty of a student is to study, you must have a clear and correct goal (college entrance examinations, find an employment and so forth) for the advancing towards your future course.

By history learning, precious lessons can be earned. One can understand the it is decisively important to have a clear and correct goal in learning the history of the church. There are many matters in the Bible, but God has one clear goal. That is to build the body of Christ and consummate the New Jerusalem. This New Jerusalem will express God corporately and enjoy the grace of God eternally.

But many Christian workers took up many goals besides the ultimate goal of consummating the New Jerusalem. They manage hospitals, conduct voluntary activities, and preach gospel so people will not perish, they pursue sanctified life without sins, detach themselves from building and made it a goal for their Christian life and church life. By doing so, they are only able to do these things apart from God's move, and completely losing God's presence and blessings.

There are a great deal of items in the Bible, but only one ultimate goal. That is to build the church and consummate the New Jerusalem. For this purpose, you need to utilize the spirit every day, enjoy the Lord, and live a life that is intermingled with the Lord. In order to consummate the New Jerusalem and reach the goal of God's economy, you must fully utilize the Talent (ability) given to you by God. One-Talent person needs to profit one Talent, a two-Talent person needs to profit two Talents, and a five-Talent person needs to profit five Talents. This means that you must make the full use of your given talent. Not all can attend the Kobe University, but you need to utilize 100% of your share fully in your studies. For this you must definitely set your future goals appropriate for God's economy. Otherwise, you will be diverged from the right course. One of the sisters who desires to gain college students through gospel preaching by entering into the doctoral course at the Kobe University and she also has a goal of becoming a professor in the future. Fellowship well with the brothers and sisters who guide you, set clear goals like the sister mentioned above, and strive to your studies.

BSG: The milestone in Chapter 3 of the Gospel of John: by Kobe U. BSG OB/OG

In the Gospel of John, the chapters 3 to 11 have revealed the catering of nine different kinds (moral, immoral, dying, helpless, hungry, thirsty, those under bondage of sin, blind people in religion, dead people) of people's needs. Chapter 3 has shown this first case example, indicating that life can respond to a moral person's needs by regeneration. That said the milestone in chapter 3 is, "the regeneration of life caters the true need to a moral person." Read verses 1 to 6.

John 3:1 But there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the JEWS. 2 This one came to Him by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. 3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he? 5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born anew. 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.

Nicodemus considered Christ to be a teacher from God. This indicates that he thought that he needed to improve himself with better teachings. However, in verse 3, the Lord's answer revealed that he needs to be born anew. To be born again is to be regenerated with the life of God. The life of God is different from the life of the person received by the birth of nature. So his real need was not to improve himself with better teachings but to be transformed with God's life. He was pursuing teachings belonging to knowledge. But the Lord's answer had turned him around to the need for life.

In a bit more detail, further explanation on the comparison between life and knowledge. For example, human love or marriage is not always done according to knowledge. If married only according to knowledge, such a marriage will fail without question. Because the most important thing in a husband and wife relationship is love. Love is the only way to excel marriage. And love does not necessarily accompany knowledge. Besides marriage, every important matter in life also needs to have correct knowledge, however, people cannot be guided correctly or satisfied just by knowledge. Read Zechariah 12: 1, "The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him," Heaven is created for earth, earth is created for man, and people are created with spirit inside, so they can live for God. Man's spirit is extremely important for man. Furthermore, read 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, "And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Man has three portions, spirit, soul, and body. See figure to the right.

The spirit of man is the deepest part of a person, an organ that can contact God and receive supplies from God. It is not enough for People just to have the right knowledge and be moral. Because in man, there is man's spirit, until the life of God comes in, there is this vanity feeling of emptiness. If man is not born anew by the Spirit of God in the spirit of man, the sense of vanity will not go away. For example, students strive to get a better degree. It is necessary to acquire

knowledge when acquiring a degree, but it does not mean you can obtain true satisfaction. According to a survey, one third of Tokyo University graduates are said to have failed in business life. You need to advance along with God's life, not only during your studying to earn the degree, but also after obtaining that degree. That way your life will always be filled with satisfaction, joy and confidence.

The body that comes into contact with the material domain and the soul that comes into contact with the spiritual domain are related to each other. For example, doctors say that the best medicine is to have joy. No matter how great the cutting-edge drugs are administered, without the living joy in the soul, the disease in the body cannot be healed. Likewise, spirit and soul are also relevant to each other, and if a person has the life of God in his spirit, a very positive influence will be on the soul. By life, the soul is uplifted, filled with joy, and the path of righteousness walked, which is to say a life guided to live in God's kingdom. Next, read verses 16 and 17.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

God loves you (the world) as you are, crucified His Son Jesus, in order to give you God's life. Lord Jesus was resurrected after death and became the life-giving spirit, dispensed God's life into your spirit, and readied your spirit for regeneration. Are you ready to accept the love of God?

Many businesses persons will eventually make a big mistake after their success, for reasons of their pride, drinking problem and fornication. Furthermore, others fail by not able to grasp the good chances due to lack of insight. There are two main reasons. One of them is the sin within man and the other is the vanity in the spirit of man. Knowledge cannot save you from your sin or your vanity, it cannot deal with the essential problems of your life. However, read the word of God, open to Lord Jesus, and simply accept the Lord into your spirit, your spirit is then regenerated, your sin is removed, you have joy, and you can walk with a life that is full of blessings from God's kingdom in the righteousness. Verse 34 says, "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure." May the Lord bless your campus life.

309. Assurance and Joy of Salvation - Changed in Life (Jap 241)

1. What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
(C) Since Jesus came into my heart!
Since Jesus came into my heart!
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
2. I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And my sins which were many are all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart!

