

## Cooperating with God to Carry Out His Move in His Economy by Knowing This Age and by Knowing the Present Truth (Hymn 477, 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. <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, <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 <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>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 <u>John 7:39</u>)—<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>			

<p>and proper theology:</p>		<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><u>Revelation 2:11</u> 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>John 1:1</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>Acts 13:33</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>1 Peter 1:3</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>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>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 The move of a high and awesome wheel with the believers**

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. The move by a wheel implies an extraordinary move with a purpose. Furthermore, it implies that this move is not by our own strength.

In ourselves we should be small, but the wheel beside us, that is, the move of God's economy with us, should be high and awesome. Paul regarded himself as less than the least of all saints.... Even his name, Paul, means "little." Paul was a little man, yet with him there were the eagle's wings, the man's hands, and the calf's hoofs. Thus, wherever he went, there was a great, high and dreadful wheel. The situation should be the same with us today. We should have the eagle's wings, the man's hands, and the calf's hoofs, and thereby have a great wheel for the Lord's move.

#### **Junior high/senior high students' model:**

As a junior high or high school student, you need to learn the following two things. One is to humble yourself, the other is to participate in the great move of God's economy boldly by faith. Read the following Word about being humble.

Hebrew 13:7 Remember the ones leading you, who have spoken to you the word of God; and considering the issue of their manner of life, imitate their faith.

You need to be humble and learn from the brothers and sisters who are guiding you. They can help you because they had experienced before of what you are going through now. You can gain tremendous benefits by doing this.

At the same time, you need to be bold and aware of the movement of the high and awesome wheel and the movement of God's economy by accepting the Word of God in faith. Without faith you cannot please God. On the one hand, you need to be humble by faith, and on the other hand you need to believe that "you are chosen by God, called to this age, and can transform the wasteland into the Garden of Eden" by faith.

In general, Japanese are earnest people, and they do not brag about things. But the Bible says that you will become a Co-worker, Co-king, co-owner of Christ. From the human point of view, these matters are much greater than bragging about things. Therefore, if a Japanese junior high/senior high student does not use his/her spirit and turn his/her heart to the Lord, he/she cannot understand at all the mentioning of blessings in the Bible. When reading the Bible, you should never read it as a religious story. You need to understand the Word of the Bible correctly and accept it by faith. There is a high and awesome wheel with all the local churches and the believers according to the Bible.

A sister from Taiwan who became bold when she was a junior high student and asked her homeroom teacher to lend her the classroom once a week during the lunch break to establish the Bible Study Group (BSG). Because her desire was accepted, sisters from the church went and conducted BSG every week for 30 minutes, all the people in the class were able to hear the Word of God. Even if you cannot believe that the big wheel is with

your junior high/senior high school life, you need to utilize your faith and accept it. By doing this, the movement of the wheel beside you will surely be shown to you by the Lord.

### **② Standfast in the present truth**

Every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is. We need to ask: "God, what is the present truth?" Although there are many major and crucial truths in the Bible, what we need to know is God's present truth.

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.

We need to do a work of three stages (incarnation, inclusion, and intensification). They are the work of the stage of incarnation to produce redeemed people, the stage of inclusion to produce churches, and the stage of intensification to build up the Body of Christ, ultimately consummated in the New Jerusalem.

#### **The working young saints' model:**

The Lord's recovery began with the justification of Martin Luther's faith. Later in the UK, the Brethren (brotherhood) had risen, through which the revelation and church life about Christ was recovered. But after a while they fell into the state of the Church in Laodicea from the state of the Church in Philadelphia due to doctrinal controversy. Later, in order to further advance the recovery, the Lord had brought in brother Watchman Nee and brother Witness Lee, and had revealed God's economy to us. That the life-giving spirit dispenses God Himself in the redeemed people, and builds up the church, and the body of Christ. But since the church had fallen, and in order to overcome such corruption, the life-giving spirit became the sevenfold intensified spirit, build up the body of Christ and ultimately consummated in the New Jerusalem. Because of this "present truth", your purpose to live on earth is for the building up of God.

On the one hand you need to be clear that you are not here for the success of your business life. On the other hand, you need to pray that your business life can be used and consecrated to the building up of God (build up the church, build up the body of Christ, build up the New Jerusalem). By working in your job, not only you need to support your family economically, but you also need to have a burden to support the needs of the church. By doing that, your income will be used for the economy of God, you are investing your money in the heavenly bank or in the economy of God. The stock price of God's economy will never go down and will rise further and your investment will surely be a success. You should never think that this is a dream far from reality. God's economy may be a dream to you, but God will surely bless your business life if you can be dominated by the dream and strive to cooperate with God for the realization. Amen!

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

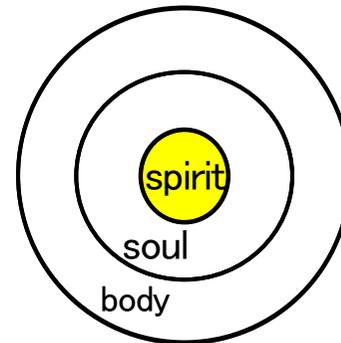
In the Gospel of John, the chapters 3 to 11 have revealed the catering of nine different kinds (moral, immoral, dying, helpless, hungry, thirsty, those under bondage of sin, blind people in religion, dead people) of people's needs. Chapter 3 has shown this first case example, indicating that life can 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!