

<p>I . "If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God" : <u>Col. 3:1</u>: If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.</p>	<p>A. In ascension cChrist is the One who is sitting at the right hand of God : <u>Heb1:3</u> Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;</p>	<p>1. The right hand of God signifies preeminence, the first place of honor. 2. The right hand of God is the first and highest place in the universe, and God has put the ascended Christ there, giving the preeminence and the highest honor in the entire universe to Christ <u>Heb. 8:1</u> Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,</p>
	<p>B. God not only saved us from the position of death, but He also seated us with Christ in the highest place in the universe: <u>Heb. 2:5</u> For it was not to angels that He subjected the coming inhabited earth, concerning which we speak. <u>6</u> But one has solemnly testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You bring him to mind? Or the son of man, that You care for him?"</p>	<p>1. It was in Christ that God seated us all together, once for all, in the heavenlies. 2. The right hand of God is the first and highest place in the universe, and God has put the ascended Christ there, giving the preeminence and the highest honor in the entire universe to Christ. 3. Today we realize and experience this reality in our spirit through faith in the accomplished fact. <u>Eph. 2:8</u> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; <u>1 Pet. 1:8</u> Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, <u>Heb. 11:1</u> Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.</p>
	<p>C. The things which are above are the things which are in the heavens, in contrast to the things which are on the earth :</p>	<p>1. The things which are above include the ascended Christ and all things related to Him. 2. The things on the earth include culture, religion, philosophy, and the improvement in behavior . <u>Col. 2:8</u> Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;</p>
	<p>D. In order to seek the things which are above, we must be where these things are; because we have one position with Christ in His ascension, we can seek the things which are above.</p>	<p>1. Acts 2:36 says that God has made Jesus in His ascension both Lord and Christ; He was made the Lord of all to possess all; and He was made Christ, God's anointed One, to carry out God's commission. <u>Acts2:36</u> Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.</p>
	<p>E. According to the New Testament, the things which are above include Christ's ascension, His enthronement, and His being made the Head, the Lord, and the Christ:</p>	<p>a. To the church implies a kind of transmission. b. Whatever Christ, the Head, has attained and obtained is transmitted to the church, His Body. c. In this transmission the church shares with Christ in all His attainments: the resurrection from the dead, His being seated in His transcendency, the subjection of all things under His feet, and the headship over all things. <u>Eph. 1:19</u> And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,<u>20</u> Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, <u>21</u> Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come <u>22</u> And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,<u>23</u> Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.</p>
	<p>2. In ascension Christ has been made the Head over all things to the church :</p>	<p>3. The Lord Jesus has been crowned with glory and honor; He is the Pioneer, who has cut the way into glory within the veil, and th Forerunner; He is our High Priest and the Minister of the true tabernacle; and, as the enthroned One, He is the center of God's administration according to God's eternal economy.</p>
	<p>3. The Lord Jesus has been crowned with glory and honor; He is the Pioneer, who has cut the way into glory within the veil, and th Forerunner; He is our High Priest and the Minister of the true tabernacle; and, as the enthroned One, He is the center of God's administration according to God's eternal economy.</p>	<p>4. Such things are the things which are above, and we should set our mind on them.</p>
	<p>4. Such things are the things which are above, and we should set our mind on them.</p>	<p>5. To seek the things which are above is to respond to and reflect Christ's activities in His heavenly ministry.</p>
	<p>5. To seek the things which are above is to respond to and reflect Christ's activities in His heavenly ministry.</p>	<p></p>

<p>II. In order to seek the things which are above and to set our mind on them, we need to turn to our spirit and experience the dividing of the soul from the spirit: <u>Heb. 4:12</u> For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</p>	<p>A. Only when we are in our spirit are we in heaven and mind the things which are above; when we are outside our spirit, we are earthly and mind the things which are on the earth: <u>Col. 3:2</u> Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.</p>	<p>1. The way to seek the things which are above is to turn to our spirit and call on the name of the Lord. <u>Rom. 8:16</u> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. <u>10:12</u> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;</p>	
		<p>2. There is a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit: <u>Eph. 1:19</u> And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, <u>2:22</u> In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.</p>	<p>a. Our spirit is the receiving end of the divine transmission, whereas the throne of God in heaven is the transmitting en. <u>Rev. 5:6</u> 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.</p>
			<p>b. By turning to our spirit, we are lifted into heaven <u>Rev. 4:2</u> Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;</p>
			<p>c. Because of the transmission from the throne of God in heaven into our spirit, when we experience and enjoy Christ here on earth, we are simultaneously in heaven.</p>
<p>B. We need to experience the dividing of the soul from the spirit:</p>	<p>3. The spirit is so hidden in the soul that it needs to be divided from the soul by the living and operative word of God, which is “sharper than any two-edged sword”</p>	<p>4. First Corinthians 2:14 and 15 speak of two kinds of persons: the soulish man and the spiritual man:</p>	<p>d. In spirit we are one in position with Christ, seeking the things which are above.</p>
			<p>1. First Thessalonians 5:23 shows that the soul and the spirit are not the same but are two separate items; there is a great difference between the soul and the spirit.. <u>1 The. 5:23</u> 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.</p>
			<p>2. The soul and the spirit can be divided because they are two entities and are of two kinds of substances; regardless of how hidden our spirit is within our soul, they are still two distinct organs; thus, we need to experience the dividing of our soul from our spirit.</p>
			<p>a. The soulish man, and the soul itself, cannot understand or receive the spiritual things. <u>1 Cor. 2:14</u> 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.</p>
			<p>b. The spiritual man discerns the spiritual things and likes to receive the spiritual things and to know and experience the things which are above. <u>1 Cor. 2:15</u> But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.</p>
			<p>c. It is by the spirit that we understand and discern the spiritual things, and it is in the spirit that we desire to have the spiritual things.</p>
			<p>C. By experiencing the dividing of our soul from our spirit and by exercising our spirit, we can seek the things which are above and set our mind on them; then the riches of Christ’s heavenly ministry will be transmitted into us, and we will be transformed and constituted with Christ <u>Heb. 7:25</u> Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them. <u>26</u> For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens, <u>Rom. 12:2</u> 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. <u>2 Cor. 3:18</u> 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.</p>

**Experience: ① the things above include the ascension of Christ, arriving at the throne, that he is made to be the head, the Lord, the Christ. We can build New Jerusalem by asking the things above**

Col. 3:1: If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

As God, the Lord was the Lord all the time. But as man, He was made the Lord in His ascension after He brought His humanity into God in His resurrection. God has always been the Lord, but now a man is on the throne as the Lord. After Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making this Jesus, a Nazarene, the Lord of all the universe.

Since the lordship of Christ was fully established in His ascension, we—the members of His Body identified with Christ the Head—only need to realize this heavenly fact. Once we realize that Christ has obtained the lordship, we, the church as His Body, have to apply it.

Christ in His ascension has not only been made the Lord of all but also the Christ of God to work out the spreading of the gospel and the building up of the church that God's chosen people may be saved and perfected for the constitution of the New Jerusalem to be God's eternal habitation and manifestation according to God's New Testament economy for God's eternal satisfaction.

As the One in ascension, Christ was made both Lord and Christ that He might possess all and that He might carry out God's commission through His heavenly ministry to accomplish God's plan.

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

As a business person, you are not to seek the things on the ground, but the things above. The things on the ground are promotions at the company, increasing of income, children's educating, purchasing cars and my homes. God knows all these things are necessary for you.

Mat. 6:28 And why are you anxious concerning clothing? Consider well the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil, neither do they spin thread. 29 But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. 30 And if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? 32 For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its own evil.

You should not worry about the necessities in your life. Rather, think about the things above; which are God's kingdom, righteousness, Christ and the church. God has the economy that is following His heart's desire, and God wishes that the goal in His economy is to build up the dwelling place of God, the church, the body of Christ, and the New Jerusalem. God loved you and shed the blood on the cross for you. It is passively for not letting you perish in the pond of fire, but aggressively for you to be filled with Christ, and for the building up of the body of Christ. You should have the business life that is touching God's love, loving God, loving God's economy, and seeking the things above.

**Experience: ② seeking what is above by separating the soul from the spirit and exercise your spirit**

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.15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.

There is a great difference between the soul and the spirit, and the soul can be divided and should be divided from the spirit. Moreover, 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 shows us that unless the soul is subdued by the spirit and submissive to the spirit, the soul is against the spirit and contradicts the spirit.... soulish implies the meaning of "natural" or "psychological." A soulish man is a natural man, a man living in the soul. The soul is absolutely impotent in spiritual matters.

In these two verses we can see two kinds of persons: the soulish man and the spiritual man. The soulish man, and the soul itself, cannot understand or receive the spiritual things and even considers the spiritual things foolish. The spiritual man, however, discerns the spiritual things and likes to receive the spiritual things. It is by the spirit that we understand and discern the spiritual things, and it is in the spirit that we desire to have the spiritual things. If we are soulish, we simply cannot understand the spiritual things, we do not like anything spiritual, and we even think that the spiritual things are foolish.

In Colossians 3:1 and 2 Paul tells us not only to seek the things which are above but also to set our mind on them. .... Let us lift up our eyes to the heavens and set our mind on the wonderful, excellent things, the things that are above.... Let us learn to open our spirit and our whole being to the heavens and keep the "switch" turned on so that the transmission from the divine power plant may flow into us unceasingly.

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

From the time of junior high and senior high, you should learn to discern your spirit and soul and exercise your spirit. The soul consists of mind, emotion, and will. The mind thinks and understands things. The emotion loves or hates. The will makes decision based on feelings and emotions. The school mainly does training on the mind, that is, the training of apprehensive powers. But the church teaches you to discern your spirit and soul and to exercise your spirit. The more you exercise your spirit, the stronger the spirit becomes, and your spirit can dominate the soul.

It is very important to learn to discern spirit and soul from a young age. Because the Lord can supply you, guide you, perfect you, and build you up in the spirit. If you are not in the spirit but in your soul, you may think that the Lord's blessings are foolish. The blessing of God's promise is a great blessing for a spirit man, but it is foolish for a soul man. If you understand this great difference, you will truly wish to discern spirit and soul and exercise your spirit.

There will be a time for you to make big decisions on your future, the college to attend, the job hunting and getting married afterwards. Many people choose something they should not choose, and they fall in chaos. For example, there are personnel relocations within the company. The superior has decided this for the growth of the employees. However, people in their souls are in darkness, they are lacking insight, and tend to be complicated and rebellious, they hate their superior for making the personnel relocations, and in some cases they may even quit their company. This way, the soul people misunderstand the blessing as curse, and they get into great confusion. It is because they decided not to discern spirit and soul, not to exercise their spirit, and not to understand the situation.

To discern spirit and soul, you need God's living Word. The Word of God is vivid and efficacious; it can be sharper than the sword of any kind and can discern spirit and soul. Therefore, with respect to the discernment of spirit and soul, you should never depend on your ability but on the Word of God. In practical terms, consecrate 5 to 15 minutes to call the name of the Lord every morning and pray-read the Word. If you learn this from a young age, your prospect will be greatly blessed. Amen!

## The Milestone of John 7: Necessity of a thirsting person - life heals thirst By God BSG OB/OG

John 7:2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was near.

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

The Sukkot is a festival of harvest, the last festival of the year that implies the completion and success of life. It has an end to it, and it results to human thirst. The marvelous day at the end of the festival in chapter 7 verse 37 is the day of climax of the success of life. It also shows that there is an end to the enjoyment from the success of life.

For example, homecoming is a fun time for the students, and the students wish that the enjoyment will last for as long as possible, but there is an end to that enjoyment. At this time, on that marvelous day that ends the festival, Jesus cried out, saying "if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Those who believe in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his inner most being shall flow rivers of living water."

Moreover, students may take trips with their closest friends and have good times. However, the last day of that pleasant trip will come, and there is something inevitable on the way back and it is thirst. For any success or enjoyment in life, there will always be "a day for the festival to end". And on that day people thirst. But, thanks be unto the Lord. You can come to the Lord and drink the living water. When you thirst, you come to the water server and drink. Likewise, as the Lord is the heavenly water server, so you can come to Him and drink.

When you drink this living water, it will not only heal your thirst but it also fills you from the inside, and it becomes rivers flowing out of you. It flows out of you as a river of pleasure, a river of solace, a river of encouragement, a river of love, a river of power, and etc. It is for the people around you to be rejoiced, comforted, encouraged, loved, empowered, and etc. for the healing of their thirst.

The living water drink by the believer who believes in Him is the Spirit, and the Spirit was not yet when the Lord Jesus was on earth. Read the footnote below for "the Spirit was not yet (verse 39)".

In the beginning there was the Spirit of God (Wo 1: 1 - 2), but the Spirit as the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8: 9), the spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19) was not yet, when the Lord had spoken these Words. The reason was that the glory had not yet received by the Lord. Jesus was glorified when he got resurrected. After the resurrection of Jesus, the Spirit of God was incarnated, crucified, resurrected and became the spirit of Jesus Christ. In the evening of the day Christ resurrected, the Spirit was breathed into his disciples by Him. The Spirit is now another "comforter", it is the actual Spirit promised before Christ dies. When this Spirit was the Spirit of God, he had only divine elements. When he became the Spirit of Jesus Christ through the incarnation of the Christ, the cross, and the resurrection, the Spirit is the essence and true of all the elements of God and the elements of man, the incarnation of the Christ, the cross, and the resurrection were all included. So, the Spirit is now the all-inclusive spirit of Jesus Christ, which is the living water that we receive.

Now, the Lord has gone through various steps, incarnation, human living, crucifixion,

resurrection, the all-inclusive Spirit, and the life-giving Spirit. The Spirit that gives this life is the living water that we should drink. Here we have the Living water now. Everything is ready on the side of God. It is your turn now. You can simply believe in Him, accept, drink the living water every day and experience your thirst being healed!

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit, 19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord, 20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father,

One of the secrets of living water is to praise, to speak and to pray with hymns. Praise with the hymn below and speak about it together. The more you sing, the more living water you can drink and the living streams will flow out of you.

Isa. 58:11 And Jehovah will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in the dry times, And strengthen your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, Whose waters do not deceive.

### 1069. Gospel - Testimony (J 698)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is the vocal line, and the second staff is the piano accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score includes a chorus section starting at measure 8. The lyrics are: "1. We're feed - ing on the liv - ing Bread, We're drink - ing at the foun - tain - head; And who - so drink - eth, Je - sus said, Shall nev - er, nev - er thirst a - gain. (C) What! never thirst again? No, never thirst again! What! never thirst again? No, never thirst a - gain! And who - so drink - eth, Je - sus said, Shall never, nev - er thirst a - gain!"

After graduating from college and graduate school, a lot of people start working for business organizations. Once you work for the business organization, there is competition with people of the same generation, from it some are promoted to managers; and from among the managers some are promoted to directors. Even though they may become managers or directors, they are thirsty from within. Furthermore, only a few among the directors may become board members, but the feeling of thirst inside them increases rather than decreasing as they move up. This does not mean you do not need to get ahead. Rather, whatever management position you may take, the result of these successes is thirst.

Believe in the Lord while you are young, accept and drink the living water. And the Lord shall heal your thirst and the water overflowing from you shall heal the people around you of their thirst. If you are such a person, you will become a good leader for your company, even if you are not in the normal competition, but you will eventually be promoted due to your superior performance and leadership. First, if you seek God and drink the living water, the LORD is with you and all your needs of your life will be taken care of by God. Thanks unto the Lord. Amen!