

Title: The Revelation, Experience, and Enjoyment of the Ascended Christ as a Merciful, Faithful, and Great High Priest

Overview: I and II of the Outline bring up the basic recognitions regarding priest and priesthood. The Title of this message directly relates to III through VII. III and IV are the revelation of ascended Christ as a merciful, faithful, great High Priest, and V through VII are the experience and enjoyment of such Christ.

<p>I . The basic significance of a priest in the Bible is not that a priest serves God but that a priest ministers God to man:</p> <p>A. The first mention of a priest in the Scriptures establishes the principle of a priest.</p> <p>B. The first time the word priest is used in the Bible is with Melchizedek:</p> <p>①The foundational story of the priesthood in the Bible is that of a priest coming from God and ministering something of God to God’s people: a) After Abraham gained the victory, Melchizedek, a type of Christ as the kingly High Priest, appeared; it must have been through his intercession that Abraham was able to slaughter the four kings, recover Lot, and gain the victory.</p> <p>②In His heavenly ministry Christ was designated a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, not to offer sacrifices for sin as Aaron did but to minister to us the very God who was processed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection, signified by the bread and wine.</p>	<p>II . Hebrews is a book on the priesthood in its three aspects:</p> <p>A. The first aspect—the aspect of the Aaronic priesthood—is for offering sacrifices to God for our sins: ①The Aaronic priesthood was not part of God’s initial intention but was added later because of the problem of sin.</p> <p>B. The second aspect—the aspect of the kingly priesthood—is for ministering God into us: ① As the kingly High Priest, Christ ministers to us whatever we need, dispensing the processed and consummated Triune God into us as our supply to fulfill God’s eternal purpose.</p> <p>C. The third aspect—the aspect of the divine priesthood—is for saving us to the uttermost: ①For Christ to be kingly is a matter of status, but for Christ to be divine is a matter of constituent, that is, of having the necessary element that constitutes Him a divine High Priest.②The divine priesthood is the saving power of the indestructible life; thus, the divine priesthood is the presence of life and the absence of death.</p>	
<p>III. Christ is a merciful and faithful High Priest:</p> <p>A. Hebrews 1 and 2 reveal that Christ is fully qualified to be our High Priest:</p> <p>①He is the Son of God with the divine nature.②He is the Son of Man with the human nature.③He was incarnated to be like us.④He was tempted, tried.⑤He suffered death.⑥He made propitiation for our sins.⑦He destroyed the devil.⑧He released us from the slavery of death.⑨He brought forth many brothers in resurrection to form the church.⑩He was crowned with glory and honor in His exaltation.⑪He is the Author, Captain, of our salvation.⑫He helps us.</p> <p>B. Christ is able to be a merciful and faithful High Priest because He is both the Son of God with divinity and the Son of Man with humanity.</p>	<p>IV. Christ is a great High Priest:</p> <p>A. As our great High Priest, Christ was tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin; He has passed through the heavens, and He is touched with the feeling of our weaknesses.</p> <p>B. As our great High Priest, Christ bears us before God in the Holy of Holies: ①Christ is our merciful, faithful, and great High Priest, and we are on His shoulders (His bearing strength) and on His heart (His love).②As Christ bears us before God in the Holy of Holies, He ministers the processed and consummated Triune God into our being.</p> <p>C. We should respond to Christ’s priesthood by coming forward with boldness to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace for timely help.</p>	
<p>V. Although Christ as the High Priest is taking care of us, we all have our own thought and feeling as to how He should care for us; many times we do not know what is best for us or what the reason is for certain things; only the Lord as the High Priest knows the reason, and His care for us is always positive:</p> <p>A. When the apostle Paul prayed to the Lord, asking Him to remove the thorn, the Lord said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness”.</p> <p>B. Instead of removing the thorn, the Lord imparted Himself into Paul as grace, enabling the apostle to know how precious and sufficient He is.</p> <p>C. This experience of Christ as our High Priest is the highest experience and enjoyment.</p>	<p>VI. Ultimately, Christ as the High Priest is caring for God’s need and interests:</p> <p>A. God will listen to our prayer when our prayer to God is toward Christ, the kingdom of God, and the house of God as the goal in God’s economy.</p> <p>B. No matter for whom we are praying, our prayers should be aimed at the interests of God, that is, at Christ and the church as God’s interests on earth, for the fulfilling of God’s economy.</p>	<p>VII. Christ’s heavenly ministry as the High Priest in ascension consummates in the New Jerusalem, which will be the mingling of divinity with humanity to be the very expansion, enlargement, increase, and expression of the Triune God in humanity forever as the ultimate goal of God’s economy.</p>

I . The basic significance of a priest in the Bible is not that a priest serves God but that a priest ministers God to man:

[Gen 14:18](#) And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High. [19](#) And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God the Most High, / Possessor of heaven and earth; [20](#) And blessed be God the Most High, / Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And Abram gave him a tenth of all.

II . Hebrews is a book on the priesthood in its three aspects:

[Heb 2:17](#) Hence He should have been made like His brothers in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

[5:6](#) Even as also in another place He says, “You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

[7:15](#) And it is still more abundantly evident since it is according to the likeness of Melchizedek that a different Priest arises, [16](#) Who has been appointed not according to the law of a fleshy commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life. [17](#) For it is testified, “You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” [18](#) For there is, on the one hand, the setting aside of the preceding commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness

[7:25](#) 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.

III . Christ is a merciful and faithful High Priest:

[Heb 2:18](#) For being tempted in that which He Himself has suffered, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

IV . Christ is a great High Priest:

[Heb 4:14](#) Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. [15](#) For we do not have High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weakness, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin. [16](#) Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

V . Although Christ as the High Priest is taking care of us, we all have our own thought and feeling as to how He should care for us; many times we do not know what is best for us or what the reason is for certain things; only the Lord as the High Priest knows the reason, and His care for us is always positive:

[Rome 8:28](#) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. [29](#) Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

VI . Ultimately, Christ as the High Priest is caring for God’s need and interests:

[1Kings 8:48](#) And if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name;

[Dan 6:10](#) Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.

[Eph 6:17](#) And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, [18](#) By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

VII . Christ’s heavenly ministry as the High Priest in ascension consummates in the New Jerusalem, which will be the mingling of divinity with humanity to be the very expansion, enlargement, increase, and expression of the Triune God in humanity forever as the ultimate goal of God’s economy.

[Rev 21:2](#) And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

193 (Japanese 161) Praise of the Lord – His All-Inclusiveness

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Dear Lord, Thou art so much to us Thou art our all in all; What Thou art fully meets our needs, Though they be great or small. Our Hearts appreciate what Thou art, Our spirits worship Thee; Our grateful praise to Thee we give As we Thy riches see.	Thou art the Priest from us to God, The holy Priest for us, Like Aaron called of God from men, For us Thou servest thus. In love Thou bearest us to God, The great High Priest to serve; With love Thou intercedes there And dost with strength preserve.	Thou art the Priest from God to us, The royal Priest of God; Like Salem’s King, Melchisedec, The minister of God. With bread and wine Thou cam’st from God To us in time of need; Thou cam’st with God that we in Him Might fully share indeed

Experience: ① Ministry of Priest is to minister God to people

The main point with respect to Christ as the High Priest is not that He serves God but that He ministers God to us. We must go deeper than the superficial concept that a priest is one who serves God. Everyone, including the unbelievers on the street, knows that a Catholic priest is one who serves God, burns incense, and fulfills his “holy” duty. ... We need to cross the river out of this low concept into a higher one. God does not you’re your service, but He does want you to minister Him to people. As the High Priest, Christ’s major job is to minister God to us. Mainly what Christ does within you is to minister God into you. This is our High Priest. He is continually doing one thing—ministering God into us. Some may say that Melchizedek did not minister God. But what about the bread and the wine—what do they signify? The bread and the wine signify God as our enjoyment, God being ministered to us to refresh, sustain, support, strengthen, and nourish us that we may grow with all the riches of God. This is the primary task of a priest.

For Young Working Saints

Rome 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

You, as a Christian, are a New Testament priest of the gospel. The role of a priest is to supply God for the enjoyment of the people. A man can learn a variety of skills in college. After getting a job, he will learn other skills that are useful for business by using the skills he learned in his college. So you should study hard in your school because those skills learned in your college are necessary for you. However, whether you chose to study liberal arts or science and proceed to study more professional subject in that field, you still shall never forget that essential need for man is to enjoy God. First you enjoy God personally, and then you supply God to other people. This is the ministry of the New Testament priest of the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Once God is supplied into a man, he will be refreshed, maintained, supported, strengthened, nourished, renewed and transformed. By enjoying God, any negative things in his soul will be removed, and then the original functions of soul, such as sober understanding in his mind, proper love in his emotion, and flexibility and strength in his will, will be renewed and uplifted. Enjoying God is your basic need and can greatly uplift effectiveness of your work. If you do not enjoy God, you shall have two problems below.

- a) Your mind, emotion and will in your soul cannot support each other with balance. Because each of them does not function well and does not help each other, this situation causes confusion and contradiction within you and thus you cannot function normally in your work.
- b) Even if you succeed to develop the function of your soul to a certain extent, you cannot uplift it, renew it and even enhance it more by yourself. This is because, without the fresh life of God, functions of each part of human soul cannot be renewed and uplifted.

We can use a car as an example to illustrate how each function of three parts of soul function together and then can function normally overall. Basic functions of a car are “to go straight, turn, and stop”. For those purposes, if rigidity of its platform, power of its engine, its transmission elements to transmit force to the tires properly, and performance of the brakes, do not entirely function together in balance, then it can not function normally as a car. Even if its engine is superior but other functions are not strong, then the car cannot function properly as a whole. Young working brothers and sisters, how important for you to enjoy God by pray-reading the Lord’s words for 15 minutes every morning! When you enjoy God in your work life, you can become a person who supplies God to people around you.

Experience: ② Under care of the High Priest, return to spirit and come forward with boldness to the throne of grace

Hebrew 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. 15 For we do not have High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weakness, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Coming forward to the throne of grace is absolutely a matter in our spirit. If we are in the mind, it will be difficult for us to enter into the Holy of Holies. If we are a soulish person staggering in the wilderness of our soul, we shall be far away from the Holy of Holies. ... Whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter into the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder. For this, we need the living word of God to pierce into the depths of our being and separate our spirit from our wandering mind. As long as we are in our spirit, we have the gate of heaven. Within the gate is the throne of grace. It takes no time whatever to enter into the Holy of Holies, because there is no distance between it and our spirit. Whenever we say from the depths of our being, “O Lord Jesus,” we are immediately in the Holy of Holies, touching the throne of grace. How we need to touch the throne of grace!

For Middle/High School Students

You as the middle or high school students, should come forward to the throne of grace in your study and human relationship, by turning to your spirit. Once you come forward to the throne of grace, you may find grace for timely help. It is “Timely help” in English. If we illustrate it in baseball, it is to make a hit to get a point when a runner is on the second base or the third base. You can not get a point if you make a hit without a runner on bases. If you want to be a good hitter, you need to make many clutch hits, “timely hits”. Then you will become a clutch hitter who can earn more points. Christ is a clutch hitter in your school life, who gets “timely hits” in every situation. As a high priest in the heaven, Christ is able to help you in a timely manner. When you need encouragement, the throne of grace will provide you the encouragement in a timely manner. When you need wisdom, the wisdom will be provided to you timely and it becomes timely help for you.

Hebrew 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. 12 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.

2 Timothy 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

In order to gain timely help, you need to learn to discern your spirit and your soul. You should not think you can discern spirit and soul by yourself. You don’t have ability to discern. But thank the Lord, the word of God is living and shaper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit. If you discern soul and spirit, then you can stay in your spirit. If you stay in your spirit, then because your spirit is connecting to the throne in the heaven, you can practically come forward to the throne of grace and find grace for timely help. Amen!

Please practice below in your daily life.

- a) Morning revival: Spend your time for around 10 minutes every morning at any cost, to pray-read the Lord’s words with other brothers or sisters.
- b) Join the prayer group for Drip Irrigation, and listen to the one-minute prayer and share your one-minute prayer every day.
- c) Attend every kind of meetings and speak the word of God willingly.
- d) Be watchful not to get “network game addiction”. Practically, set up the rule to control yourself to avoid playing too much.

The milestone of John 11: The need of the dead - resurrected life

By Kobe University BSG OB/OG

John 11:1 Now there was a certain man who was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, of the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 The sisters therefore sent to Him saying, Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick. 4 But when Jesus heard it, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, in order that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

11 He said these things, and after this He said to them, Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going that I may wake him out of sleep. 12 The disciples then said to Him, Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover. 13 But Jesus had spoken about his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 So Jesus then told them plainly, Lazarus has died. 15 And I rejoice for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.

25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live; 26 And every one who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this? 27 She said to Him, Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world.

32 Then Mary, when she came to where Jesus was, saw Him and fell at His feet, saying to Him, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 33 Then Jesus, when He saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her weeping, was moved with indignation in His spirit and was troubled, 34 And He said, Where have you put him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept. 36 The Jews then said, Behold how He loved him! 37 But some of them said, Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man also have caused that this man would not die? 38 Jesus therefore, moved with indignation again in Himself, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, Take away the stone. Martha, the sister of him who was deceased, said to Him, Lord, by now he smells, for it is the fourth day that he is there. 40 Jesus said to her, Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?

41 Then they took the stone away. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the crowd standing around, I said it, that they may believe that You have sent Me. 43 And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, Lazarus, come out! 44 And he who had died came out, bound hand and foot with cloths, and his face was bound about with a handkerchief. Jesus said to them, Loose him and let him go.

In verse 1, Lazarus was sick and his sisters came to the Lord asking for healing. But the Lord did not go to heal him. This means that the Lord will not come and save a man if the man only admits that there is something wrong with him but does not admit that he is actually dead. The reason is that the Lord's salvation is not to heal, but to resurrect the dead. The Lord's salvation is not to heal the man, but to revive the man. Healing is a matter of reformation, but reviving is a matter of life. The Lord's salvation is not to remedy man's problems, but for man to receive His life and be revived.

A sister was having a smoking habit before she was saved. Although she knew that smoking was very likely to bring her lung cancer, she was not able to quit. However, the Lord's life came into her and she was resurrected from the dead, now she was able to come out of the tomb of smoking. Praise the Lord. The need for those who are dead is to receive life. The

only way for a dead man to be healed, is to receive life. Only life can overcome death.

Some examples of man being dead:

- A) The dead is weak and helpless and is not able to do any good
- B) The dead is not conscious or has feeling with evildoing
- C) The dead is in the bondage of sin

The dead person, Lazarus was wrapped up in cloth and kept in the grave. Today a lot of people are bounded by sin, and sin is their grave.

Roman 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not. 19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Cushite change his skin, Or the leopard his spots? Then you also may be able to do good, Who are accustomed to do evil.

Footnote: Cushite is Ethiopian. Having forsaken God and became evil. Having a heart that was deceitful above all things and incurable and having an unchangeable sinful nature, like the Cushite's skin and the leopard's spots, which cannot be changed. This exposes the true condition of fallen man.

The true situation of man is not sick, but dead. In order to receive Lord's salvation, it is necessary for Lord's Word to shine upon you, and realize that you are actually dead and in a hopeless situation.

In verse 25, the Lord said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Only the Lord can meet the need of those who are dead. Lord's life can be found in His Word. It was the Word from the Lord "Lazarus, come out." that revived Lazarus from the dead. The dead Lazarus was revived after he heard the Word of the Lord. John 5:25 says, "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". Today you can also be revived and come out of the grave by listening to the word of the Lord. By doing this you can certainly come out of the sinful graves such as covetousness, envy, jealousy, raging, adultery, gambling, smoking habits, corrupted movies, net game addictions, SNS addictions to LINE and Twitter, and other sinful graves. Hallelujah!

In verses 25-26 the Lord said to Malta, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;" In verse 27, Martha said to Jesus, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world." This reply by Malta does not answer Lord's question. She was blinded by her old knowledge and prejudice, which prevented her from understanding Lord's New Word. Man's old knowledge and old opinions are veils that hinder the clear realization of Lord's new revelation. When you come to the Word of the Lord, you need to put your own opinion and knowledge aside, come to the Lord and open to the Lord with unveiled face. Otherwise, opinions of a man will not be a help to receive Lord's salvation, but a hindrance to it.

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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!

© 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!

3 I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure,

Since Jesus came into my heart!

And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure,

Since Jesus came into my heart!