

#7 The Spirit of Jesus

(ITERO) 2018/12/24-12/30

I. We may experience and enjoy the resurrected and ascended Christ as the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit.

II. We need to pay careful attention to two divine titles in Acts 16:6 and 7—the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Jesus:

A. The interchangeable use of these two titles reveals that the Spirit of Jesus is the Holy Spirit.

B. The Holy Spirit is a general title of the Spirit of God in the New Testament:

① The title the Holy Spirit is used for the first time at the conception of the Lord Jesus:

a. It was when the time came to prepare the way for Christ's coming and to prepare a human body for Him to initiate the New Testament dispensation that the title the Holy Spirit came into use.

b. In order to understand the first usage of the title the Holy Spirit, we need to see that this title is involved with the Lord's incarnation.

c. According to the principle of first mention, the Holy Spirit is related to Christ's incarnation and birth.

② In the New Testament the title the Holy Spirit indicates that God is now mingling Himself with man.

C. The Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross:

① In the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the divine element of God but also the human element of Jesus and the elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well. **[Mon]**

② The Spirit of Jesus is not only the Spirit of God with divinity in Him so that we may live the divine life but also the Spirit of the man Jesus with humanity in Him so that we may live a proper human life and endure its sufferings:

a. In his suffering Paul needed the Spirit of Jesus because in the Spirit of Jesus is the suffering element and the suffering strength to withstand persecution.

b. In our preaching of the gospel today, we also need the Spirit of Jesus to face the opposition and persecution.

D. In Acts 16:7 Luke turns from the Holy Spirit to the Spirit of Jesus:

① As a man, Jesus first lived a human life and then was crucified and resurrected.

② He ascended to the heavens and was made Lord and Christ. **[Tue]**

③ The Spirit of Jesus therefore implies the Lord's humanity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension.

④ The Spirit of Jesus involves more than the Holy Spirit does:

a. The Holy Spirit involves only the incarnation and birth of the Lord Jesus.

b. The Spirit of Jesus involves His humanity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension.

⑤ The Spirit of Jesus is the totality and the full realization of the all-inclusive Jesus.

E. Just as the Spirit of Christ is the reality of Christ, so the Spirit of Jesus is the reality of Jesus:

① If we do not have the Spirit of Jesus, Jesus will not be real to us.

② Jesus is real to us because we have the Spirit of Jesus as the reality, the realization, of Jesus. **[Wed]**

III. The Spirit, who was not yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified in resurrection, is the Spirit with the humanity of Jesus; the Spirit today has been constituted with the glorified humanity of Jesus:

A. This Spirit, who is the living water that we drink and who is flowing out from within us, is constituted with the humanity of Jesus; without the humanity of Jesus, there could never be such a Spirit.

B. Without the human essence the Spirit of God could not be the flowing water of life; if God would be a flowing river of life, He must be constituted with the human nature of Jesus.

C. "There is now the Spirit of the glorified Jesus:...we have received Him to stream into us, to stream through us, and to stream forth from us in rivers of blessing" (Andrew Murray). **[Thu]**

D. We need to experience and enjoy the Spirit of the humanity of Jesus for gospel preaching, for the church service, for our daily walk, and for the Lord's recovery.

IV. The move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel was not according to their decision and preference or according to any schedule made by a human council but by the Spirit of Jesus:

A. Their work was by the Holy Spirit (v. 6), who was involved with the Lord's incarnation and birth, and by the Spirit of Jesus (v. 7), who was involved with the Lord's humanity, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; the apostles were moving under the direction and guidance of such an all-inclusive Spirit.

B. The kind of work we do for the Lord depends on the kind of Spirit by whom we are guided, directed, instructed, and constituted:

① As a vessel containing the Triune God, Paul was fully constituted with the Holy Spirit, who was involved with the Lord's incarnation and birth, and with the Spirit of Jesus, who was involved with the Lord's humanity, human living, all-inclusive death, life-imparting resurrection, and ascension.

② Paul was a person constituted with this all-inclusive Spirit; thus, he could truly preach Jesus Christ.

③ If the Spirit becomes our constitution, then our work will be the expression of this Spirit, and we will do a work for Jesus as the incarnated One with humanity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension.

④ If we are constituted with the Spirit of Jesus, we will do the work of ministering Jesus as the all-inclusive One and convey Him as such a One to others. **[Fri]**

V. The Spirit of Jesus is clearly portrayed in the first two chapters of Philippians:

A. In Philippians 1 we have the preaching of the gospel; in order to preach the gospel, we need the Spirit of Jesus:

① This chapter is concerned with the fellowship unto the gospel without envy or strife.

② The life of Jesus as presented in the Gospels was a life without envy, strife, or rivalry; thus, the Spirit of Jesus does not have envy, strife, or rivalry.

③ We should preach the gospel in the Spirit of Jesus, without envy, strife, or rivalry.

B. Fellowship unto the gospel requires that we be in one spirit with one soul:

① If we are not in the Spirit of Jesus, we are not in the fellowship unto the gospel.

② Only in the Spirit of Jesus is it possible for us to be in one spirit and with one soul.

③ To experience Christ we need to be in the fellowship unto the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus without envy, strife, or rivalry.

C. By the Spirit of Jesus we can take Christ as our pattern:

① By the Spirit of Jesus we can be as humble as Jesus was.

② By the Spirit of Jesus we can fulfill the request of the apostle Paul and care for other saints.

③ By the Spirit of Jesus we can think the one thing and have the same love.

[Sat]

Crucial Point① : Follow the leading of the Spirit of Jesus to be the continuation of the book of Acts

OL1 : The Spirit of Jesus is not only the Spirit of God with divinity in Him so that we may live the divine life but also the Spirit of the man Jesus with humanity in Him so that we may live a proper human life and endure its sufferings:

Acts16:6 And they passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

FN“by the Holy Spirit” : As in the evangelistic work of Philip, the move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel was not according to their decision and preference or according to any schedule made by human council, but by the Holy Spirit according to God’s counsel. They intended to speak the word in Asia, but the Holy Spirit forbade them. Forbidding is a part of the Holy Spirit’s leading.

FN“The Spirit of Jesus” : The Spirit of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the preceding verse are used interchangeably, revealing that the Spirit of Jesus is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a general title of the Spirit of God in the New Testament; the Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross. This indicates that in the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the divine element of God but also the human element of Jesus and the elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well. Such an all-inclusive Spirit was needed for the apostle’s preaching ministry, a ministry of suffering carried out among human beings and for human beings in the human life.

FN“not allow them” : The Holy Spirit’s forbidding them to go to the left, to Asia, and the Spirit of Jesus’ not allowing them to go to the right, to Bithynia, indicated a straightforward direction for the apostle and his co-workers. Thus, they went in a direct course to Macedonia through Mysia and Troas.

For Young Working Saints/Graduate students

As the continuation of the book of Acts, you should experience the leading which forbids you from going or instructs you to go. Because your life should lead you to the path of increasing the churches by being led by the Spirit of Jesus and not according to your own plan.

Your life must have the divine history in your business development. And because your business itself should not be the leading part but it is the supporting role, so you should not put the highest priority on it. This doesn’t mean that you can handle your business lightly or choosing the easy job. As a Christian, you can understand what people can not and can practice what people can not do. You can have the strong testimony in the business..

Although you have the life of God, you are not almighty God, it is impossible for you to know what will happen in the future nor what influence certain thing can offer. But God is almighty and He can arrange everything for your good.

Rom. 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.

What is needed for you is to give yourself to the hand of the Lord and learn to walk according to the instruction of the Spirit of Jesus. If you do so, your life has the divine history and brings the building and propagation and increase of the church. Since Satan opposes the building of the churches, you will go through the sufferings. But do not be afraid of the sufferings. The Spirit of Jesus can support you in the midst of the suffering for the building of the church. If you would be led and go on by the Spirit of Jesus, your business life and student life will be blessed greatly for the divine history, the building of the church, A brother’s testimony : After 7 years I started working for the

U.S. biggest medical device company, my business performance (achieved more than 25% growth in the matured Japanese market by bringing the new product) that year was evaluated and eventually it was published in the 40th year memorial in-house magazine. And the next year, I was asked to be recruited to another U.S. big medical device company. Because of the strong suggestion of the head hunter, I went their interview reluctantly. Because I was not so willing, I got interview without much preparation. But I have passed the 1st interview, I was asked to go on to the next interview with executives in U.S. I told brothers and sisters that I could not take this change of job because I have an open future in the current biggest company. But right after I told them, I had a feeling that forbade to remain the current company and urged me to go for this recruiting. I wondered but had a strong restlessness in remaining the company, so I concluded that this is the forbidding from the Spirit of Jesus.

After 4 years of that change of jobs, I could obtain the highest level of the annual income in my field. Basically the headquarters of the most big medical device companies are in Tokyo. So the salary of the companies whose headquarters are in Osaka is set relatively low because there is few competitions. So normally it is considered impossible. And also I was given very strong authority to hire people at that time, I could hire many brothers and sisters, especially those students from other countries who are considered relatively difficult to be hired in Japan. Those saints who worked in this company at that period were bearing the most part of the offering. So their offerings were greatly used to pay off more than one hundred million yen of the dept for the Student Center and purchasing of the Rejoice Garden (more than one hundred million yen including the cost of repair) and the offering for the big meeting hall in Tokyo.

But at the same time, I received much raging suffering at that company, and faced discouragement many times. But by the prayers of the brothers and sisters who were in coordination and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus, I could experience the victory in such suffering.

After 5 years in this company, I felt that the Spirit of Jesus was leading me to leave this company because I was excessively busy. It seemed impossible to leave the company because I was highly evaluated by U.S. headquarter. But thank the Lord. When we go on by following the leading of the Spirit of Jesus, my retirement was blessed in an unimaginable way (special retirement allowance, stock option, 3-month special paid leave etc.). And in the end of 2017, in fact I could retire. Now I can spend much more time on the service to the Lord as before.

Prayer : Oh Lord Jesus, I give myself and my business life (or study life) to You. I want to keep walking on straight in the path of the building up of the church. For this let me learn to open to the Spirit of Jesus, follow and submit the Spirit of Jesus. With the path of Jesus, there is suffering but also the supply that surpasses it. Lead me from victory to victory in the leading and supply of the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn 473 Consecration - Possessing All in the Lord

1. No mortal tongue can e'er describe /The freedom of the soul,
When passed beyond all earthly bribe/To God's complete control.
All things are his, yes, life, and death, /Things present or to come;
In Christ he draws in peace each breath, /In Christ he finds his home.
2. When such as we the King can choose, /To share with Him His throne,
'Tis passing strange that we refuse /To be our Lord's alone.
O never speak of sacrifice! /A privilege untold
Is to be His at any price, /In Calv'ry's hosts enrolled.
3. Arise! The holy bargain strike /The fragment for the whole
All men and all events alike /Must serve the ransomed soul.
All things are yours when you are His, /And He and you are one;
A boundless life in Him there is, /Whence doubt and fear are gone.

Crucial Point ② : With supply from the Spirit of Jesus, become a proper human being who can flow out blessings to others

OL1 : The Spirit, who was not yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified in resurrection, is the Spirit with the humanity of Jesus; the Spirit today has been constituted with the glorified humanity of Jesus.

OL2 : “There is now the Spirit of the glorified Jesus: ...we have received Him to stream into us, to stream through us, and to stream forth from us in rivers of blessing”. We need to experience and enjoy the Spirit of the humanity of Jesus for gospel preaching, for the church service, for our daily walk, and for the Lord’s recovery.

John7:37 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.

Phil.2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

We all must be one with Jesus in whatever we do by taking Him as our humanity. If we cannot take His humanity in any course of action, we had better not do it. I do not mean that we should not be a human being...We need the humanity of Jesus, and this humanity is in the Spirit of Jesus.

We must be proper human beings, not by our humanity but by the Lord’s humanity. As a wife, we must be a wife by His humanity; as a husband, we must be a husband by His humanity; as a student, we must be a student by the humanity of Jesus....If we are this kind of person, we will have the flow of life that will satisfy others. I believe that if all the brothers and sisters who are teachers would be this kind of person, there would be a real flow of life in the schools. The other teachers and students would realize that there is something satisfying, living, and flowing within you. They might not be able to explain it, but they would sense it.

If you are a brother who is drinking of Jesus by enjoying His humanity, it may seem that you do not have power, yet the flow of life within you will satisfy, convince, attract, and eventually convert others. This is the spreading of the gospel in the church life. This kind of gospel preaching does not depend so much on the power but on the life that enjoys Christ’s humanity. The humanity of Jesus not only has much to do with the producing of gifted persons, but it also produces the flowing of the inner life to satisfy others. There is no other way to have such a flow of life but by enjoying the humanity of Jesus by drinking of the Spirit of Jesus all the time. We must have a real change in our concept. Whenever we pray, we must pray with this concept. Whenever we are drinking of the Spirit, we must drink of Him with this concept. We are not drinking of the Spirit for power, might, or miracles, but we are drinking of the Spirit of Jesus for the humanity of Jesus.

For Junior/Senior High School and College Students

You must not live a lazy school life, saying “Because I have believed into the Lord and then already been saved, it must be ok not to work busy or study hard any more. Such person

is not a proper person with the humanity of Jesus but is a lazy person with poor humanity.

In order to become a testimony of the Lord in your school, you need to be constituted with the humanity of Jesus by being supplied by the Spirit of Jesus. A student who is a testimony of Jesus, first experiences the supply of the Spirit of Jesus in his study. Second, he experiences the supply of the Spirit of Jesus in the relationship with friends in his school. Third, he experiences the supply of the Spirit of Jesus in his relationship with his parents. The bountiful overflow from the Spirit flows out through persons with the humanity of Jesus.

As an example, brothers and sisters who are preparing for college entrance exams, should study hard and do their best with the humanity of Jesus. Then the Spirit of Jesus make you transform to progress more in your study. And there will be more overflow of the Spirit of Jesus through you and the flow will be able to bring many of others around you to the Lord.

Prayer : O Lord Jesus, I step forward to receive and enjoy the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus. In my study, please save me from getting lazy or discouraged. I call upon the Lord’s name, and rely on the supply of the Spirit of Jesus. Both in the relationship with my friends in school and in the parent-child relationship with my parents, I need the humanity of Jesus to become a proper person. I call on the Lord’s name, breathe out my selfishness and crooked humanity, and breathe in the Spirit of Jesus with the humanity of Jesus. Lord Jesus, let me be a testimony of Jesus. Amen!

925 Preaching of the Gospel — By the Flow of Life(J662)

1. Outreach of the glorious gospel /Is the flow of life within;
It is by our testimony /That lost sinners we may win.
- C) Grant us, Lord, the living outflow, /May Thy life through us be seen;
Through us as Thy living vessels /Quicken people from within.
2. It is by the life convincing /That the people may believe;
It is by the life imparting /That the souls may life receive
3. Always in the Lord abiding, /As the branches fruit to bear;
By the inner life out-flowing /Christ with others we may share.
4. May our living be the preaching, /Making Christ to others know;
Not the word of doctrine-preaching, /But the seed of life be sown.

To Become the Testimony of Jesus

1. Jesus Lord, truly I love Thee; / My heart refine!
I’d redeem each precious moment, / To enjoy Thy love divine.
Lord, behold, all to Thee I yield, / Constrained this day
By compassions never failing, / Thy perfecting care,
Dear Lord, open mine ear, / At the doorpost of God’s house,
Responding to Thy voice, / I would be Thine and Thine forever,
Set me a seal on Thine heart, / With Thy love, even Thy jealousy,
Let me be Thy crazy lover / Through all my days.
2. God of glory, we bow the knee, / Grant us today
Spir’t of wisdom, revelation, / The mystery to see,
I’d outpour all my life for Thine economy,
Just for Thine eternal pleasure, / The Body of Christ,
In my mingled spirit lead me / To the Body’s reality,
In Thine intensification / Make us the testimony of Jesus
O Lord! For this we yearn! / Quickly come, as once Thou promised!
Lord, our deepest longing Is / Thy return!

Series 1 The High Gospel

Topic 2 Christ is the Meaning of Human Life

Col.3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

GOD'S NEED FOR US AND OUR NEED FOR CHRIST

God needs man, and man needs Christ. Without man, God cannot fulfill His purpose. Without man, God can do nothing. On the other hand, we also have to say, "Without Christ, I can do nothing." Without us, God can do nothing, and without Christ, we can do nothing. God needs us, and we need Christ. We are here for God, and Christ is here for us.

If we were not for God and if we did not have Christ for us, we would be miserable and pitiful. Unfortunately, this is the real situation of today's world. The people in the world are not for God, and they do not have Christ for them. They just go along by themselves and by trusting themselves. But we Christians are different in that we are for God, and we have Christ for us.

TAKING CHRIST AS OUR LIFE

Humanly speaking, we may be incapable of doing many things, but all of us can breathe, drink, and eat. Even the little babes know how to do these things. There is no need for anyone to teach them. In the same manner, we are incapable in the spiritual realm, but we can breathe in Christ, drink Christ, and take Christ in as our food. Christ is the air, the breath; Christ is the water, the drink; and Christ is the bread, the food. Therefore, we all can take Christ in. God has no intention for us to express Him by ourselves or to do anything for Him by ourselves. God's intention is that we express Him and do things for Him by taking Christ as our life.

There are two big mistakes—one made by the worldly people and the other by the Christians. The big mistake of the worldly people is that they do nothing for God. The Christians, on the other hand, try to do something for God by themselves. This also is a big mistake. The right way for us is to do something for God not by ourselves but by taking Christ as our life. The Lord Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing" (15:5b). Yet the apostle Paul said, "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me" (Phil. 4:13). Without Christ, we can do nothing. But with Christ and in Christ,

we are able to do all things. In John 14:20 the Lord told the disciples, "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." Hence, we are not without Christ. We have Christ, and we are in Christ.

In today's human society there is nothing except vanity and misery because people are on the wrong way. They have nothing to do with God. The Christians, however, are trying to do something for God by themselves. Now, at the end of this age, the Lord is going to recover something mainly through the younger generation. Therefore, you young people all have to learn how to be for God by taking Christ as your life. If I ask you what you are doing here, you should not say that you are here studying or working. Rather, you have to say, "I am here in Southern California for God!" What are the young people doing here? They are here for God! By what way? By taking Christ as their life! This means that they are breathing Christ, drinking Christ, and eating Christ.

Without us, God can do nothing, and without Christ, we can do nothing. We are vessels for God who need to take Christ as our life. How wonderful it is that we are good for taking Christ as our life! The animals were not created for taking Christ, but we were. We all are qualified to take Christ.

Hymn 841

1. Thou art all my life, Lord,
In me Thou dost live;
With Thee all God's fulness
Thou to me dost give.
By Thy holy nature I am sanctified,
By Thy resurrection,
Vict'ry is supplied.
2. Now Thy flowing life, Lord,
Doth enlighten me,
Bringing in the spirit
Fellowship with Thee;
All my need supplying,
Making Thy demand,
Leading me to cleansing
And in Thee to stand.
3. Thy anointing Spirit
Me shall permeate,
All my soul and spirit
Thou wouldst saturate;
Every part transforming
Till conformed to Thee,
Till Thy life shall bring me
To maturity.