

THE GOAL OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY#4: Experiencing Christ as Our Life, Our Person, for the One New Man (Summary)

I. In order to experience Christ as our life, our person, we need to see that we have one position, one life, one living, one destiny, and one glory with Christ:

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.

A) Our position is that we are in Christ; because we are in Him, we are where He is—sitting at the right hand of God: **①** The Son's position is in the Father; we are in the Son, so we are in the Father. **②** It is when we are in the spirit that we are in Christ, in the Father, and in heaven practically and experientially: **a.** There is a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit. **b.** The very Christ who is sitting on the throne in heaven is also now in us, that is, in our spirit, where the habitation of God is. **c.** Since today our spirit is the place of God's habitation, it is now the gate of heaven, where Christ is the ladder that joins us to heaven and brings heaven to us. **d.** Whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder; our spirit is the receiving end of the divine transmission, whereas the throne of God is the transmitting end.

B) The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life: **①** For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost. **②** It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person's life is the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and living with Him. **③** With Christ as the believers' life, there are three characteristics that distinguish this life from the natural life: **a.** This life is a crucified life. **b.** This life is a resurrected life. **c.** This is a life hidden in God. Col. 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

C) To seek the things which are above and set our mind on them is to join ourselves to the Lord in His heavenly ministry, His divine enterprise; this is to live Christ, to have a living that is one with Christ's living for the one new man: **①** In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the High Priest to intercede for the churches. Heb. 8:1 We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. 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. Col. 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving. **②** In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the heavenly Minister to supply the saints with the riches of Christ. **③** In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the universal Administrator of God's government for the accomplishment of God's purpose: **a.** From the throne in the heavens, the divine transmission brings the things above into the local churches. **b.** In Revelation 4 and 5 we have a vision of our central government, and in Revelation 1 through 3 we have a vision of the local churches as the "embassies"; through the seven Spirits what is in the heavenly headquarters is transmitted into the churches as the embassies. **c.** What takes place in the local churches should be under the direction of the throne of God in heaven; in order for the recovery to be the Lord's recovery, it must be under His direction.

Application: To set the mind on the spirit is to set the mind on the things above. Now, Christ is in the heavens, working as the High Priest, the heavenly Minister and the universal Administrator of God's government. We should set our mind on the things above and seek the things above. We should have testimonies in our daily school life, business life, marriage life. Therefore, we should first renew our consecration. We are not living just for ourselves, but for God and His economy on earth. To live for God's economy is to seek the things above and set our mind on them, to join ourselves to the divine enterprise. If so, your business life will be blessed because of the divine enterprise. Amen! Matt. 6:32 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.

D) Our destiny is glory; Christ is leading us into glory for us to be manifested with Him in glory.

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, ... in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

II. Our life is the Christ who dwells within us, and this life is hidden with Christ in God; the Christ hidden in God is typified by the manna hidden in the golden pot:

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.

A) Christ as the hidden manna is in God the Father as the golden pot; the Father is in Christ as the Ark with His two natures, divinity and humanity; and Christ as the indwelling Spirit lives in our regenerated spirit to be the reality of the Holy of Holies.

B) When we eat Christ as the hidden manna, we are incorporated into Him for the mutual abode of God and man.

III. That Christ is our life is a strong indication that we are to take Him as life and live by Him, that we are to live Him in our daily life:

A) Christ must be our life in a practical and experiential way; day by day we need to be saved in His life:

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled. **①** To be saved in the divine life from the slavery of sin, the law of sin, is by the release of the law of the consummated Spirit. **②** To be saved in the divine life from the present age of the world is by the sanctification of the consummated Spirit. Rom. 12:2 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... **③** To be saved in the divine life from our natural being is by the transformation of the life-giving Spirit. **④** To be saved in the divine life from individualism is by being built up in the Body of Christ. Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **⑤** To be saved in the divine life from self-likeness is by the conformation of the life-imparting Spirit. Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son...; **⑥** To be saved in the divine life from our body of humiliation is by the transfiguration in the virtue of the divine life. Rom. 8:30 and those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified. **⑦** To be saved in the divine life is to reign in the divine life. **⑧** To be saved in the divine life will result in the victory over Satan.

B) The new man is the spontaneous issue of our taking Christ as our life and living Him.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where...Christ is all and in all.

Experience ①: Experience subjectively Christ as a life in us

For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost. Nothing is more subjective to us, or more intimately related to us, than our life. Our life is actually we ourselves. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person.

With Christ as the believers' life there are three characteristics. First, this life is a crucified life. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He always lived a crucified life. If we truly experience Christ as our life, we also shall live a crucified life. Such a crucified life is a life that has been processed and thoroughly dealt with. The second characteristic of Christ as our life is that this life is a resurrected life. Nothing, including death, can suppress it. Finally, this is a life hidden in God. Only the divine life can be hidden in God. If we experience Christ as our life, what we do in the church will not be done in a showy way but rather be done by a life hidden in God.

For Young Working Saints

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Because Christ is your life, you can experience Christ subjectively in your office. With Christ as life there are three characteristics. The first is the crucified life. In your working environment, there are colleagues and bosses. In order to work in harmony with a various type of people, you should not become too strong in your characteristics or you should not get too negative. In such situation, please experience the crucified life of Christ. In the cross of Christ, your old man has been terminated. Open to the Lord and call on the Lord's name to experience the crucified life.

The second is the resurrected life. After your experience of the crucified life, the life of resurrection will come. This resurrected life has a power to break through various obstacles you face in your work, because the largest obstacle is death and the resurrected life is the life which has overcome death.

Brother's Testimony: I am a sales visiting around hospitals. In one business issue, I performed as ordered by my boss, but I made a doctor of a hospital angry. I thought this trouble was due to my boss, so I could not go and apologize to that doctor. However, when I fellowshiped with the Lord, I noticed my shortcomings too. So I decided to go and apologize to him in a sincere attitude. The doctor was very angry but after my apology, I was able to build a good relationship with him. Eventually this doctor became a great supporter for me. Thank the Lord.

The third is the life hidden in God. As a business person, you may face unthinkable troubles or you may be bullied by your boss. Even if you are in such situation, you still continue coming to the prayer meeting, visiting brothers and sisters to bless them, and speak the words of God for building up and encouragement and consolation to others by joining the Lord's Day meeting. It is necessary for you to pray for your difficult situation and let the other saints to pray for you, but it is much more necessary for you to maintain your joy and practice church life as usual like nothing happened. Later when you tell a testimony, most of the saints around know for the first time that such difficult situation has come to you. Christ as life in you is the life hidden in God and a mysterious life. Once you experience Christ as life, then you become a mysterious person to others.

Experience ②: For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace

We are saved in the divine life of Christ from our natural being by the transformation of the life-giving Spirit (12:2b). Transformation is not merely a change in outward appearance. Transformation is an inward, metabolic change, which involves something organic. Transformation is by the renewing of our mind (v. 2b). Formerly, our mind was set on the flesh. Now, we must change the position of our mind by setting it on the spirit. The mind set on the spirit is life and peace (8:6). Changing the position of our mind will transform our mind.

We are transformed by the metabolism in the element of the divine life. Christ is our life. In any kind of organic life there is an organic element. Christ is the organic element that grows within us and transforms us.

For Junior and Senior High Students

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** 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. **3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

From the time of your junior and senior years in high school, train yourself not to set your mind on the flesh, but to set your mind on the spirit. If you set your mind on the flesh, there is wandering, there is vanity, there is temptation of lusts from Satan, and the result to that is death. But if you set your mind on the spirit, the result is life and peace. By changing where you stand with your mind this way, you shall experience Christ and be blessed.

Let's say the idea of running away from studying turns up in your mind due to your disliking of it. This is just like setting your mind on the flesh. As a fact that studying can be hard and bringing the grades up can be difficult as well. Rather than ignoring or denying the fact, simply set your mind on the spirit, "Lord Jesus, I get anxious when I think of my exam, but I cannot run away, because if I do, I can become even worse. I shall open up my mind and set my mind on the spirit. Lord, out from my spirit, please dispense yourself and the power of resurrection in my mind. I shall not set my mind on the flesh, but exercise setting my mind on the spirit, and experience Christ in the studying of my exam, and may my exam be blessed, Amen."

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

You believed in the Lord, you were baptized and saved. As you are saved, there is the need for you to be saved in life every day. You need to experience of being saved in life, from the fallen tides of this world, from the youthful lusts within you, from your passive ideas, from the proudness in you, and from the individualism you have in you.