

#2 Living in Resurrection for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Thanksgiving Special Conference 2019/1/21-27

I. In order to live in resurrection, we must see the unveiled truth concerning Christ's resurrection:

A. Christ in His humanity was begotten by God in His resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God as the Head of the Body.

B. All the believers of Christ were regenerated by God the Father through the resurrection of Christ for the producing of the church as His Body, His reproduction.

C. Christ as the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

D. Without these major items of the Lord's resurrection (the firstborn Son of God, the many sons of God, and the life-giving Spirit), there would be no church, no Body of Christ, and no economy of God.

[Mon]

II. The budding rod signifies that Christ, the resurrected One, should be our life, our living, and the resurrection life within us and that this life should bud, blossom, and bear fruit to maturity:

A. After the children of Israel rebelled, as recorded in Numbers 16, God commanded the twelve leaders to take twelve rods according to the twelve tribes of Israel and put them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony; then He said, "The rod of the man whom I choose shall bud".

B. All twelve rods were leafless, rootless, dry, and dead; whichever one budded was the one chosen by God; here we see that resurrection is the basis of God's selection and that the basis of service is something apart from our natural life; thus, the budding rod signifies our experience of Christ in His resurrection as our acceptance by God for authority in the God-given ministry.

C. The principle to every service lies in the budding rod; God returned all the eleven rods to the leaders but kept Aaron's rod inside the Ark as an eternal memorial; this means that resurrection is an eternal principle in our service to God: ① Resurrection means that everything is of God and not of us; it means that God alone is able and that we are not able. ② What we can do belongs to the natural realm, and what is impossible for us to do belongs to the realm of resurrection; a man must come to the end of himself before he will be convinced of his utter uselessness. ③ If a man has never realized his own inability, he can never experience God's ability; resurrection means that we cannot make it and that God is the One who has done everything. [Tue]

III. In order to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ:

A. The church is absolutely of the element of Christ, absolutely in resurrection, and absolutely in the heavenlies.

B. The golden lampstand, typifying the church as the Body of Christ, portrays Christ as the resurrection life, growing, branching, budding, and blossoming to shine the light.

C. When we do not live by our natural life but live by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection; the issue of this is the Body of Christ: ① We all need to be disciplined by the Lord to be divine and mystical persons, living the divine life by denying our natural life. ② Anything that is carried out in the natural life, even if it is carried out scripturally, is not the reality of the Body of Christ. [Wed]

IV. In order to live in resurrection, we must know, experience, and gain the God of resurrection:

A. God is working through the cross to terminate us, to bring us to an end, so that we will no longer trust in ourselves but in the God of resurrection.

B. Although the living God can perform many acts on man's behalf, the life and nature of the living God are not wrought into man; when the God of resurrection works, His life and nature are wrought into man: ① God is not working to make His might known in external acts, but He is working to impart and work Himself into man. ② God uses the environment in order to work His life and nature into us. ③ In order to live in resurrection and be constituted with the God of resurrection, we must be conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God through "all things". ④ The primary purpose of suffering in this universe, particularly as it relates to the children of God, is that through it the very nature of God may be wrought into the nature of man so that man may gain God to the fullest extent. ⑤ As we pass through afflictions, there needs to be a continual renewing taking place in us day by day so that God can accomplish His heart's desire to make us the New Jerusalem. [Thu]

C. In order to live in resurrection, we must be renewed day by day being nourished with the fresh supply of the resurrection life: ① The real Christian life is to have the God of resurrection added into us morning and evening and day by day. ② In order to receive the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection, we need to contact God, open ourselves up to Him, and let Him come into us to be a new addition into us day by day: **a.** We are renewed by the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the word of God. **b.** We need to be revived every morning. **c.** We should come to the Lord's table in the principle of newness by forgiving others and seeking to be forgiven. ③ The killing of the cross results in the manifestation of the resurrection life; this daily killing is for the release of the divine life in resurrection. [Fri]

D. Our natural strength and ability need to be dealt with by the cross to become useful in resurrection for our service to the Lord: ① After being put aside by God for forty years, Moses learned to serve God according to His leading and to trust in Him. ② After becoming a complete failure, Peter learned to serve the brothers by faith and with humility. ③ The sevenfold intensified life-giving Spirit honors only the things in resurrection; if we do any work that is not in resurrection, the life-giving Spirit will never honor it.

[Sat]

Crucial Point①:

In resurrection, experience that with men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God.

Mark10:27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God.

Phil.3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 If perhaps I may attain to the out- resurrection from the dead.

OL1: Resurrection means that everything is of God and not of us; it means that God alone is able and that we are not able.

OL2: What we can do belongs to the natural realm, and what is impossible for us to do belongs to the realm of resurrection; a man must come to the end of himself before he will be convinced of his utter uselessness.

OL3: If a man has never realized his own inability, he can never experience God's ability; resurrection means that we cannot make it and that God is the One who has done everything.

Resurrection is everything that is not out of our natural life, not out of ourselves, and not based on our ability. Resurrection speaks of the things that are beyond us, which we cannot do in ourselves.... If a man has never realized his own inability, he can never experience God's ability...Resurrection means that God has given us something that we did not have in ourselves. The Bible testifies again and again that man cannot make it by himself. But many people think that they can make it....Resurrection means that you cannot make it and that God is the One who has done everything.

All services to the Lord must pass through death and resurrection before they will be acceptable to God. Resurrection means that everything is of God and not of us. It means that God alone is able and that we are not able. Resurrection means that everything is done by God, not by ourselves. All those who think highly of themselves and who hold a misguided judgment of themselves have never realized what resurrection is. No one should be mistaken to think that he can do anything by himself. If a man continues to think that he is able, that he can do something, and that he is useful, he does not know resurrection.... All those who know resurrection have given up hope in themselves; they know that they cannot make it. As long as the natural strength remains, the power of resurrection has no ground for manifestation. As long as Sarah could beget a child, Isaac would not come. What we can do belongs to the natural realm, and what is impossible for us to do belongs to the realm of resurrection.

God's ability is not manifested in His creation but in resurrection. God's greatest power is manifested not through creation but through resurrection. When God's power is manifested in creation, it does not need to be preceded by death. But when His power is manifested in resurrection, there is the need for it to be preceded by death. Every created thing needs no precedence for its creation, but everything in resurrection has its precedence.... A man must come to the end of himself before he will be convinced of his utter uselessness.

Application : for Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

As young working saints/graduate students, you are the waist of the church. 132 people got baptized in the church of Kobe last year. We have baptized an average of 11 people each month. Not only last year, but also almost every year more than 100 people got baptized for more than the last ten years. The reason why we were able to baptize such a large number of people is not because of the natural life but because we preach the gospel by the resurrection life.

The goal of 2019 is to baptize over 110 people. To reach this goal, you should not rely solely on the past experiences. It is impossible to reach these goals unless you empty yourself, renew your consecration and being filled again with the Holy Spirit. The impossible goal can only be fulfilled in resurrection. Also, the goal of the number (adults only) on the Lord's day meeting is 185 people. You must labor in the resurrection life every quarter, every month, every week, every day to declare this goal in faith to reach that goal.

As a business person, in addition to the goals of the church, it is necessary to reach business goals as well. Even though it is difficult to have one goal, you may think that having two goals is too heavy. However, I will praise Christ, the resurrection life. If people do what they can do, there is no need for the resurrection life. Resurrection means that you cannot make it and that God has done everything. You will become a witness of Christ in the resurrection and build up the church. By the wisdom of the Lord and the great power of the resurrection, confront and fight to fulfill these two goals.

I'll say again that you should never think that 'it is better to focus only on work because you can not fulfill two difficult goals.' If you can make it, there is no need for resurrection. The biggest difficulty is death, but the resurrection comes out of death. Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live. (John11 : 25)

Prayer: "In resurrection, I can accomplish what I can not do. I labor in the resurrection life to reach the goal of the district of the church. At the same time, the goal of work can be fulfilled in the blessings of the Lord! May the Lord bless both the goals of the district of the church and the goals of business life to promote God's economy! Amen!"

Hymn 841

- 1 Thou art all my life, Lord, In me Thou dost live;
Thee all God's fulness Thou to me dost give.
By Thy holy nature I am sanctified,
By Thy resurrection, Vict'ry is supplied.
- 4 Lord, Thy life abundant, Flowing, rich and free,
Constantly refreshes And empowers me.
Death by life is swallowed, Weakness is made strong,
All my bonds are broken, Gloom is turned to song.
- 6 I would cease completely From my efforts vain,
Let Thy life transform me, Full release to gain;
Build me up with others Till in us Thou see
Thy complete expression Glorifying Thee.

Crucial Point ② : renewed and filled with joy every morning

2 Cor. 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. **11** For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So then death operates in us, but life in you.

OL1: In order to receive the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection, we need to contact God, open ourselves up to Him, and let Him come into us to be a new addition into us day by day.

OL2: We are renewed by the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the word of God.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul talks about "the putting to death of Jesus". This means that Jesus, in a positive sense, is always killing us. In many medicines today there is a healing element and a killing element that kills the bad germs and bacteria within us. In Jesus there is the killing element. He is our medication to heal us, enliven us, and kill all the negative things within us.

God has the best provisions to help us to receive the renewing. The first provision is the cross, the putting to death of Jesus. According to 2 Corinthians 4, Paul was always under the killing of the cross, the Lord's death. The cross is the greatest help to accomplish the renewing for us.

The second provision is the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 speaks of the "renewing of the Holy Spirit." We have the Holy Spirit within us. His main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day....The third provision God gave us is our mingled spirit, our human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit. In our human spirit, the Holy Spirit dwells, works, and renews us....Our spirit is the place where we receive the renewing. Our mingled spirit spreads into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of our mind. It is in such a spirit that we are renewed for our transformation.

In addition to the cross, the Holy Spirit, and our spirit, we have the holy Word. The Head of the Body cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word. Because I have studied the Bible for such a long time, I can recall chapters such as Matthew 1 and Romans 8. When I just think about the contents of these chapters, I get washed. When I think about Romans 8:4—to walk according to the spirit—I get washed. We all need to receive the washing of the water in the word daily.

Whenever we come to the Lord's table, we need renewing ...The table He set up was new, and the table He will take in the kingdom of His Father will be new. We have to come to the Lord's table in a new way, in the principle of newness. How can we come to the table in newness? We need to realize that anything negative is a cause and a factor of oldness. Negative things cause us to be old.

We need a thorough confession of and dealing with all the negative things. Another thing that makes us old is not forgiving others. Always forgive people, and always seek to be forgiven.

Application: For Junior High and High School Students/College Students

God's best provision 1 to renew you — The cross:

Christ has abolished on the cross the middle wall of partition, the enmity among different people, nationalities of various

countries and cultural ordinances.

Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, **15** 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,

When you feel that you can not get along with the people who don't have a lot in common and people from other countries because of their different way of thinking and action, please do not run away from them but call upon the name of the Lord and experience the putting to death of the cross. The principle of Satan is division but the principle of God is oneness. If you live in the natural life, you would repeat the division. But different ordinances and way of thinking which are the factors of the division have been abolished on the cross already. If you call on the name of the Lord and experience the putting to death of the cross, you will be united to other people in the Lord. Your being united with other people is for the building of the church which is the goal of God's economy. The more you experience this, the wider your measure will be and be renewed for the building.

God's best provisions 2, 3, 4 to renew you—

The Holy Spirit, the mingled spirit, the Word:

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, I have no pleasure in them; **8** Vanity of vanity, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Without God, everything is old and vanity of vanity. But with God, you experience the newness and can be renewed. Before going to school every morning, please experience to be renewed by reading the Bible. The important thing when reading the Bible is to exercise your mingled spirit and pray read the Word of God which is the Spirit. Then you can touch the Holy Spirit, the life giving Spirit and be filled with joy and experience to be renewed every morning.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, without God, it will be vanity if I could go to the good high school or college. But with God, there will be the renewing and the good high school or college will be my blessing. What a blessing that I can be renewed every morning by the cross, the Holy Spirit, the mingled spirit and the Word. I will go to school being renewed and filled with joy. Make my school life like the sun when it rises in its might. I ask in the name of the Lord. Amen!

Hymn 16 Worship of the Father — His newness

- 1 Our Father, as the evergreen, Thou art forever new;
Thou art the ever living Lord, Thy freshness as the dew.
- (C) O Father, Thou art unchanging, Thou never hast grown old;
Thru countless ages, ever fresh, Thy newness doth unfold.
- 2 O Thou art God, and Thou art "new"; Without Thee all is worn,
But all with Thee is ever fresh, Though many years have gone.
- 3 Each blessing Thou hast given us Thy newness doth contain;
Thy covenant, Thy ways are new, And ever thus remain.
- 4 Now we Thy new creation are New spirit and new heart;
We're daily from the old renewed, New life Thou does impart.

Topic 5: There Is God (part 1)

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Rom. 1:20 For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse.

The Bible is the unique book in the world. The first subject covered in the Bible is God. God is the main theme of the Bible. The first verse in the Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Scientists have explored our physical universe for a long time. Through their studies they have discovered that our universe is an orderly system that is full of design. Before we consider what the Bible has to say about God, let us first consider what the universe has to say about God.

GOD DECLARED THROUGH THE UNIVERSE

Look at the sky above you at night. Astronomers estimate that there are more than one hundred billion stars in our galaxy, and that there may be billions of galaxies in the universe. Each star we see represents a solar system in the universe. Our own solar system has the sun as the center, and it has nine planets revolving around it in clocklike precision. The earth, as one of the planets, speeds through space at 67,000 miles an hour and takes 365 days to circle the sun. This fact is astounding when one considers that a train traveling at one-one thousandth of this speed will many times miss its schedule.

Let us consider what the universe tells us about God. The Bible tells us that God’s “eternal power and divine characteristics” are seen through the creation (Rom. 1:20). As a painting displays the characteristics of the painter, so the Creator’s attributes are manifested through His created universe.

Throughout history some people have at times opposed the idea of God. The very fact that they have opposed it means that God is there. The fact that some rebellious sons disown their fathers means that they do have a father. The fact that some people try to tear down the family means that the family is a reality. The law of inference tells us that opposition to anything presupposes that the thing itself exists. It has been proven in history that it is futile to oppose the idea of God, for no matter how cultures and human governments change, the belief in God always prevails in the end.

The very existence of mankind speaks of the existence of God. The human body is a true marvel. Although modern medicine has invented many machines to imitate and to replace man’s organs and limbs, no machine can come close to the dexterity and effectiveness of the human organs.

The human heart pumps 72 times a minute, or 40 million times a year, while one is awake or asleep. Every day an adult heart pumps blood through 100,000 miles of blood vessels, enough to travel around the world four times. It pumps enough blood to fill a 2,000-gallon tank car every day. Who could have designed such a wonderful organ within man? If one were to pile up the red blood cells in his body, the height would exceed that of Mount Everest five thousand times!

The nose inhales air seventeen times a minute. Every day it has to process about 14,000 liters of air. In addition to adjusting the temperature of the air, it also has to temper its humidity and filter its dusts. A man-made machine that will handle all these three functions might weigh one hundred pounds. What if such a “man-made nose” were to be installed on our face!

These are but a few examples of the wonders of the human body. If we stand before a mirror, we cannot help but agree with what the psalmist in the Bible said: “I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, and my soul knows it well”.

Hymn 17 Worship of the Father - His Greatness

1. My Father God, when on Thy vast creation.
The wonders of the heav'n and earth, I gaze.
Things great and small, beyond enumeration,
Which manifest Thy pow'r in untold ways;
C Then all my being sings in praise to Thee,
How marvelous! How great Thou art!
And this I'll sing through all eternity,
How marvelous! How great Thou art!
2. As I enjoy the grace of Thy salvation
And contemplate how Thou Thy Son hast sent,
Who died that we might be Thy new creation,
Thy life expressing to the full extent;
3. When in the church, in blest participation,
I see how millions Thine own life possess,
How they are built to form Thy habitation,
Containing Thee, Thy fulness to express;
4. As I expect the coming age of fulness
And hope to share the new Jerusalem,
With all the heavens and the earth in newness
And all Thou art expressed in all of them