

<p>I . In Ezekiel 2:8—3:4 the prophet Ezekiel ate the scroll and spoke with God’s words, and in Revelation 10:8-11 the apostle John ate the scroll and prophesied:  <u>Ezekiel 2:8</u> But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you. <u>9</u> And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book. <u>10</u> And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe. <u>3:1</u> Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.<u>2</u> So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat. <u>3</u> And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness. <u>4</u> Then He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak My words to them.</p>	<p>A. A scroll was spread before Ezekiel, and he was told to eat it and then speak to the house of Israel:</p>	<p>1. Ezekiel opened his mouth, and Jehovah gave him that scroll to eat.</p>	
		<p>2. Ezekiel was commanded to feed his stomach and to fill his inward parts with this scroll.</p>	
		<p>3. After Ezekiel ate the scroll, Jehovah charged him to go to the house of Israel and speak with His words to them.</p>	
<p>II. “Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart”:</p>	<p>A. According to the entire revelation in the Holy Bible, God’s words are good for us to eat, and we need to eat them.</p>	<p>1. John not only received the scroll—he devoured it.</p>	
			<p>B. God’s word is the divine supply as food to nourish us:</p>
			<p>2. To devour anything is to receive it into one’s being.</p>
<p>III. We need to eat the words of the Bible: <u>1Peter 2:2</u> As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,</p>	<p>A. The word of God is not mainly for knowledge but for nourishment:</p>	<p>3. We must receive the divine revelation in this way; both Jeremiah and Ezekiel did this.</p>	
		<p>B. The Lord Jesus took the word of God in the Scriptures as His bread and lived on it.</p>	<p>1. Through the word as our food, God dispenses His riches into our inner being to nourish us that we may be constituted with His element.</p>
			<p>2. This is a crucial aspect of God’s economy.</p>
<p>C. When we eat God’s words, His word becomes our heart’s gladness and joy.</p>			
<p>D. We need to be nourished with the guileless milk of God’s word:</p>	<p>1. Although the Bible is a book of teaching, its teaching is not merely to impart mental knowledge but to minister food to us.</p>	<p>2. The words milk and solid food in Hebrews 5:12 indicate that the word of God is for nourishment.</p>	
		<p>C. “The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life”(John 6:63):</p>	<p><u>Hebrews5:12</u> For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.</p>
			<p>1. The words of the Lord Jesus are the embodiment of the Spirit of life.</p>
<p>2. Christ is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the Spirit is embodied in His words.</p>			
<p>E. We need to advance from the milk of the word in 1</p>	<p>3. When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we receive the Spirit, who is life.</p>	<p>3. In order to enjoy the milk of the word, to taste God with His goodness in the word, we must receive His word by means of all prayer.</p>	
		<p>D. We need to be nourished with the guileless milk of God’s word:</p>	<p>1. The guileless milk is conveyed in the word of God to nourish our inner man through the understanding of our rational mind and is assimilated by our mental faculties.</p>
			<p>2. Although the nourishing milk of the word is for the soul through the mind, it eventually nourishes the spirit, making us not soulish but spiritual, suitable for being built up as a spiritual house of God.</p>
<p>3. In order to enjoy the milk of the word, to taste God with His goodness in the word, we must receive His word by means of all prayer.</p>			
<p>E. We need to advance from the milk of the word in 1</p>	<p>1. Whereas milk is mainly for infants, solid food is for the mature. <u>Hebrews5:13</u> For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant; <u>14</u> But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.</p>	<p>1. Whereas milk is mainly for infants, solid food is for the mature. <u>Hebrews5:13</u> For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant; <u>14</u> But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.</p>	

<p>III. We need to eat the words of the Bible:</p>	<p>Peter 2:2 to the word of righteousness as the solid food in Hebrews 5:13-14:</p>	<p>2. To eat the word of righteousness as the solid food is a strong way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ.</p> <p>3. The word of righteousness embodies the thought of God's justice and righteousness in His dispensational and governmental dealings with His people:</p>	<p>a. Righteousness is being right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteous and strict requirements.</p> <p>b. Righteousness is a matter of God's throne and of being right with God in our being.</p> <p>c. If we would eat the solid food, the word of righteousness, we need experience and exercise.</p>
<p>IV. The way for the believers to experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in their daily living is to eat, digest, and assimilate the Lord Jesus as food by feeding on the word of God: <u>John 6:35</u> Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst. <u>57</u> As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. <u>58</u> This is the bread which came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread shall live forever.</p>	<p>A. God's economy is that we eat, digest, and assimilate Christ to be constituted with Him in order to express Him and represent Him:</p>	<p>1. God's economy is not a matter of outward things but of Christ coming into us inwardly; for this we need to take Christ by eating, digesting, and assimilating Him.</p> <p>2. God's eternal plan is to dispense Himself into us so that He becomes every fiber of our inward being; He wants to be eaten, digested, and assimilated by us so that He can become our constituent.</p>	
	<p>B. The Triune God becomes our life and life supply by entering into us organically to be assimilated into the fibers of our spiritual being.</p>		
	<p>C. To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us so that He may be digested and assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life; we need to eat, digest, and assimilate Jesus as our spiritual food day by day. <u>John 6:51</u> I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; And the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.</p>		
	<p>D. We should not only believe into the Lord Jesus and receive Him but also eat Him, digest Him, and assimilate Him, allowing Him to become the content of our being.</p>		
	<p>E. As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have proper spiritual digestion:</p>	<p>1. If we have good digestion, there will be a thoroughfare for the food to get into every part of our inward being. <u>Ephesians 3:16</u> That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,. <u>17</u> That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,</p>	
		<p>2. Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts: <u>Hebrews 3:12</u> Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. <u>13</u> But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <u>15</u> While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation." <u>4:2</u> For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.</p>	<p>a. Indigestion means that there is no way for the Lord as the spiritual food to get through in us.</p> <p>b. When there is no free course for the food to get into our inward parts, we will have indigestion.</p>
<p>3. We need to keep our whole being, with all our inward parts, open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent for the expression of God.</p>			
<p>4. By eating we have digesting; by digesting we have assimilation; and by assimilation we get the practical nourishment of the riches of Christ into our being, and these riches grow into our organic tissues.</p>			
<p>5. Any believer who receives the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity by eating, digesting, and assimilating the Lord Jesus will live because of Him.</p>			
<p>F. Because we all partake of Christ as the one bread, we are one Body—the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—to carry out God's administration for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. <u>1 Corinthians 10:17</u> Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.</p>			

### Experience:

#### **① Prey-read is the best way to eat the Word:**

It is not sufficient to understand the Bible—we also need to eat the words of the Bible...The Bible is not only good for reading and studying, but, even the more, it is especially good for eating. Oh, we need to eat the Word of God! The best way to eat the Word is to pray-read. If we want to enjoy the bountiful supply of the Spirit, we need to eat the Word. We have pointed out that the bountiful supply of the Spirit is equal to the riches of Christ and that the riches of Christ are embodied in the Word. Therefore, to enjoy the riches we must pray-read the Word.

#### **Junior high/Senior high school student model:**

There is a proverb with such saying "An army marches on its stomach." It means that nothing can work well with an empty stomach. The Word you pray-read every morning is not directly related to the problem you face in your junior high and senior high school life. But the Word of God nourishes your spirit and soul. In order to keep your body healthy, you need to eat three meals a day to supply nutrients to your body. Likewise your spirit and soul also need to have supplies of nutrients. The school trains the soul, especially the mind which is the majority part of the soul. So, you need nutrients for your soul every day. If the soul is lacking nutrients, for example, you may be easy to get angry with trivial things, your concentration may go down, you may be envious of other people, and your spirit of rivalry that comes from being jealous may become stronger. Then you will not be able to study. The revival every morning will then be a life and death problem for you.

1 Peter 2:25 says, *"For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.."*

FT "Shepherd": Christ was our Redeemer in His death on the tree. Now He is our soul's Shepherd and Overseer in the resurrection life within us. As such, He is able to guide us and supply us with life that we may follow in His steps according to the model of His suffering.

FT "souls": Our soul is our inner being, our real person. Our Lord, as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our real person.

Important things when pray-reading the Word of God every morning is, i) to call on the name of the Lord, and utilize your spirit, ii) with an open mind and utilize your mind to understand the Word you have pray-read. Christ is not only a shepherd of the soul but also the nutrient. This nutrient will spread out from your spirit to your soul.

#### **② You become a healthy person if you eat healthy foods:**

The healthy color in [a healthy] person's face is not from applying cosmetics to his skin. The application of cosmetics is a mere outward change by outward makeup. The way to

have a healthy appearance is by eating healthy food. The healthy food metabolically makes us healthy, giving us a healthy appearance outwardly. In order to grow in life and have the transformation in life, we need to eat Christ as our healthy, spiritual food. When we eat, digest, and assimilate Christ as our spiritual food, the essence of this food gets into our being and produces transformation. Many Christians today are weak because they do not eat Jesus. If we eat Jesus every day, we will be spiritually energetic and will be transformed in life. (The Constitution and the Building Up of the Body of Christ.

#### **I am the living bread (John6:51)**

I am the living bread, which came down out of heaven;  
If anyone, if anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever;  
And the bread (and the bread)  
Which I will (which I) Will give is my flesh,  
given for (given for) for the life (for the) life of the world.  
I am the living bread, which came down out of heaven;  
If anyone, if anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever.

#### **Business life model:**

The most important thing in Christian life is to have revival every morning. By praying and reading and enjoying the Word of the Lord, you will have vitality inside you and your soul adjusted properly. Japanese businessperson tends to pay too much attention on how not to fail but cannot challenge at the time of change. If you are going to respond to the rapid changes on both inside and outside of the company, your soul, mind, emotion, and will need to be cultivated and correctly adjusted by the supply of spiritual food. You will not function properly if your soul is irritated or imbalanced due to fixed thinking. Learn to move forward positively with the Lord after understanding the overall picture of the project, goals, schedule, personnel and so forth.

If you care only about the details and concentrate on not failing, your time will run out and eventually you will fail. A certain foreigner points out the following about the Japanese: "When cleaning, Japanese begin from the corners and places you don't see, and clean up thoroughly." This can be a strong point and as well as a shortcoming for the Japanese people. In business, since the aspect of fighting for time is strong, it will become less efficient if you proceed with the project in the same way, and you will be defeated by the other competitors. In fact, the problem of too much overtime in Japan is actually caused by the temperament of Japanese who "do not think about such efficiency". In order to succeed in business life, it is extremely important that you eat the Word of God, have your spirit strengthened, all the portions of your soul nourished and adjusted. So the revival every morning is not only a life and death problem for the junior high and senior high school students, but also for business person as well.

**③Read the Bible with the veil of concept taken away and an open heart:**

2 Corinthians 3:15 Indeed unto this day, whenever 1Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart;

16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

The Bible was not written according to human cultures such as Japanese culture, Chinese culture, or Korean culture, but was a letter of love, a love letter written to God's man according to God's wish. In view of this, when reading the Bible, there is the need to remove the veil of concept. According to the Bible, reading while having cultural concept, due to the mind is covered by the veil, the person will not be benefited when the Word of Bible enters into him. Therefore, when reading the Bible it is important that you open your mind and face God, the author of the Bible. Opening your mind will save you from fixed thinking, cause the person to be flexible, and broaden his capacity to accept new things. Liberating from fixed thinking is very important for you when getting a job in the future. Also, since the Bible is a letter of love from God, you will obtain God's love, comfort and encouragement from the Bible if you read it with an open mind.

The globalization of the current business world is progressing, and companies are promoting diversity (diversification). Human resources with a flexible mind, freed from fixed thinking and cultural concept, are needed for the global society. Without such human

resources, business cannot be developed in various areas and talents cannot be utilized in various regions. To develop business globally, English communication skills and diversity tolerance are important. Of course, this is also important for campus life. Opening your heart to God and reading the Bible will greatly enhance your diversity tolerance.

I work at a Japanese branch of a foreign company, but the US headquarters has praised my department as the most advancing and diversified global model for global diversity. I can testify that by opening up to God when I was young, and praying to God by using the Bible has greatly improved my ability in diversity. For example I thought that God always monitors my sins, but as I read the Bible, I learn that God has the interests in me, that He loves me, caused me to open my heart to God, Lord Jesus. I prayed the following, "God, I have read the Bible, I was able to learn that you love me, now I may open my heart to you in peace." Likewise, you need to pray the following after reading the Bible with an open heart:

"Lord Jesus, I open wide to You. Thank You that I can talk to You with Your words, the Bible. In campus life of Kobe University, please encourage and strengthen me with Your words when I have difficulties."

If you pray with the Word of the Bible this way, the Word of the Bible will spread to each part of our hearts (conscience, mind, emotion, will) and we can be encouraged, comforted and strengthened.

Please read the Bible with members of the Bible Study Group BSG.

(Vice President of a foreign-affiliated global company)

**Turn, turn my heart to You**

1. Turn, turn my heart to You;  
Lord, I confess my heart is untrue.  
Turn, turn my wandering heart;  
Lord, unto me Thy love impart.

(C)Lord, I call,

I call on Thee.

You're the only One for me!

2. Rich, rich, He's rich to all,  
Rich unto all that call on His name.  
Rich, rich, He's rich, so call;  
Now and forever, Jesus the same.

3. Love, love, the love of God  
Flows as a river, full to the brim.  
Love, love, I'm filled with love,  
Crazy in love with Jesus within.

**Experience of Christ1141**

1. We will sing to the Lord with our spirit,  
We will sing to the Lord from within,  
We will sing hallelujah to Jesus;  
And be blent into oneness with Him.  
2. We have been many years in religion,  
We have been many years in our mind,  
We have been many years in emotions,  
Always seeking, but never to find.

3. Now we're learning to turn to our spirit,  
Now we're learning to take Christ as life;  
Now we're learning to feed upon Jesus  
And be freed from all struggling and strife.  
4. Hallelujah for life in the Spirit,  
Hallelujah for newness within.  
When we turn from our mind to our spirit,  
We enjoy all the riches of Him.