

HE GOAL OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY#5: Allowing the Peace of Christ to Arbitrate in Our Hearts, Letting the Word of Christ Dwell in Us Richly, and Persevering in Prayer for the One New Man(Summary)

I. We need to allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts:

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

Eph. 2:15 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,

- A) The Greek term for arbitrate can also be rendered "umpire, preside, or be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything"; the arbitrating peace of Christ dissolves our complaint against anyone.
- B) Often we are conscious of three parties within us: a positive party, a negative party, and a neutral party; hence, there is the need for inward arbitration to settle the dispute within us: ① Whenever we sense that different parties within our being are arguing or quarreling, we need to give place to the presiding peace of Christ and allow this peace, which is the oneness of the new man, to rule within us and have the final word. ② We need to set aside our opinion, our concept, and listen to the word of the indwelling Referee.
- C) If we allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, this peace will settle all the disputes among us; we shall have peace with God vertically and with the saints horizontally: ① Through the arbitration of the peace of Christ, our problems are solved, and the friction between the saints disappears; then the church life is preserved in sweetness, and the new man is maintained in a practical way. ② The arbitrating of the peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us, to speak the last word, and to make the final decision. ③ If we stay under the ruling of the enthroned peace of Christ, we shall not offend others or damage them; rather, by the Lord's grace and with His peace we shall minister life to others. ④ This peace should bind all the believers together and become their uniting bond. Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

II. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly:

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

- A) When the peace of Christ arbitrates in us and keeps us in a situation full of oneness and harmony, we become the place of God's speaking, His oracle. Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God. ① God's speaking requires oneness; division causes God's speaking to diminish, even to cease altogether. Lev. 1:1 Then Jehovah called to Moses and spoke to him out of the Tent of Meeting, saying, ② Since oneness is a necessary condition for God's speaking, we need to let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts. ③ For the word of Christ to dwell in us richly means that it has adequate room in us to permeate and saturate our whole being; it is crucial for us to let the word of Christ enter into us, dwell in us, prevail in us, and replace our concepts, opinions, and philosophies. Psa. 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.
- B) We need to allow the word of the Lord to have the first place in us so that we may experience the functions of the word of God operating within us and ministering the riches of Christ into our being: ① The word of God enlightens, nourishes, and waters us to quench our thirst. ② The word of God strengthens, washes, and builds us up. Prov. 4:20 My son, be attentive to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, And healing to all their flesh. ③ The word of God completes, perfects, and edifies us by sanctifying us.
- C) By allowing the word of God to inhabit us, we can become a proper human being, a God-man filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God. Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

III. We need to persevere in prayer: Col. 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

- A) We need to allow adequate time for prayer, which will enable us to absorb more of the riches of Christ as the all-inclusive land: ① We need to take time to absorb the Lord, contacting Him in a definite and prevailing way. ② To meet with God in the morning is not only to meet with Him early in the day; it is also to meet with God in a situation that is full of light; we should go to God alone, without any persons, matters, or things to distract or occupy us. Prov. 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day. ③ When we pray, coming forward to the throne of grace, grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us.
- B) In order to fight on God's side against Satan, we need to persevere in prayer. ① As those who take sides with God, we find that the whole fallen universe is against us and, in particular, against our prayer; resistance to prayer lies not only outside of us but even within us. ② To pray is to go against the current, the trend, in the fallen universe.
- C) We need to set aside definite times for prayer; our attitude should be that prayer is our most important business and that nothing should be allowed to interfere with it.
- D) We need to remain in an atmosphere of prayer by continually exercising our spirit: ① We need to pray without ceasing, to persevere in prayer, keeping ourselves intimately connected to the Lord. 1Thes.5:17 Unceasingly pray, ② Even in the smallest details we need to inquire of the Lord; to do this is to persevere in prayer and thereby to live Christ. Col.1:3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always concerning you, 9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

IV. As we are ruled by the peace of Christ and inhabited by the word of Christ through persevering in prayer, He permeates and replaces us with Himself until all our natural distinctions have been eliminated, and we become the new man in reality. 1Tim. 2:1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;

Experience ①: Let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts

If we consider our experience, we shall realize that as Christians we have two or three parties within us....Often we are conscious of three parties within us: a positive party, a negative party, and a neutral party. As Christians, we are more complicated than unsaved people are. Before we were saved, we were under the control of the satanic party. We could indulge in worldly amusements and entertainments without any sense of controversy within. But now that we are saved, one party may encourage us to do one thing, but another party may encourage us to do something else. Hence, there is the need for inward arbitration to settle the dispute within us. We need someone or something to preside over the conferences that take place within our being. According to Colossians 3:15, this presiding one, this arbitrator, is the peace of Christ.

Certain saints love the Bible and read it daily....Although they read the Bible, God's word remains outside of them. It is crucial for us to let the word of Christ enter into us, dwell in us, and replace our concepts, opinions, and philosophies. We need to pray, "Lord Jesus, I am willing to let go of my concepts. I want Your word to have ground in me. I am willing to forget my opinion and philosophy. I want Your word to be prevailing in me. I do not want my concepts to prevail any longer."

For Young Working Saints

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful. **Isaiah 55:9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, / So My ways are higher than your ways, / And My thoughts higher than your thoughts. **10** For Just as the rain comes down / And the snow from heaven, / And does not return there, / Until it waters the earth / And makes it bear and sprout forth, / That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; **11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; / It will not return to Me vainly, / But it will accomplish what I delight in, / And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.

You as a Christian have three parties within you, and so in a certain sense, you are more complicated than gentiles and full of controversy. Because there are only an old man and Satan inside of gentiles, it is natural for them to be corrupted and they have little resistance against corruption. But since the life of the Lord came into you, there are God, Satan and yourself within you. Christ in you is saving from corruption and sanctifying you, so actually having controversy in you is marvelous thing and salvation for you.

You should let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts. In your business life, you may be troubled by making decisions whether you need to go forward or withdraw. In such cases, you need to bring together various kinds of real situations into consideration, but conclusively you need the peace of Christ to speak the final words and arbitrate. God's mind is transcendent over our mind and God's word will be fulfilled without any fail. So it is reasonable for you to put your concepts or opinions aside and to let the peace of Christ arbitrate. When there is the peace of Christ, then it is "Go" signal, and when there is no peace, then it is "Stop" signal. By doing this way, your business life will be blessed more and more in the Lord.

Experience ②: Exercise your spirit, pray-read the Word, touch the Lord Himself with personal fellowship in a hidden place

Our need is to take time to absorb God. As we daily take time to eat food, we should daily take time to absorb the Lord, take time to assimilate the riches of Christ. Our contact with the Lord should not be rushed. If we are in a hurry, we shall not be able to absorb much of His riches. We need to allow adequate time for prayer. This will enable us to absorb more of the riches of our God. Since our need today is to be filled and saturated with the Spirit, we must consider what we need to do in order to experience the Spirit....The first thing we must do is to go to the Lord. To do this we need to learn how to contact the Lord in a definite and prevailing way. I am afraid that many believers have been praying for a number of years and have spent much time regarding the World but have never contacted the Lord in a definite and prevailing way.

Our need is to contact this living person in prayer. Then we need to remain in an atmosphere of prayer. If we do this, we shall live Christ spontaneously. Furthermore, we shall be freed from our culture without trying to adjust or correct ourselves. Everything other than Christ will fade away. Christ will be whatever we need: life, light, grace, comfort, health, strength, humility, patience, kindness, meekness. As we enjoy the Lord and experience Him, He will be our life and we shall live Him. How marvelous! This is what Paul means in Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ."

For Junior and Senior High Students

Luke 8:13 And those on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; yet these have no root, who believe only for a while, and in time of trial they draw back. **1 John 2:14** I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one. **Mat. 6:6** But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Learn to touch the Lord in the Word from your junior and senior high school days, go to the Lord and touch the Lord in prayers. You may listen to the Word and even accept it willingly, but it will wither soon if it doesn't have roots. Roots are the hidden parts, but the roots absorb moisture and nutrients from the soil and help the plants to grow. Though there is power in the Lord's Word, you cannot have the power of the Word unless you touch the Lord Himself in His Word. Train yourself with the following.

- i. **Every morning revival:** In order to be revived every morning, you must always touch the Spirit of the Lord Himself in the Word. The major emphasis on the every morning revival is to touch the Lord in pray-reading the Word and in prayers. The Lord is the living water, the divine flame, and the bread of life. If you touch the Lord, your thirst will be quenched, your spirit will be burned and your inner being will be nourished. It does not mean that you will be nourished automatically by just reading the Bible. Call on the name of the Lord, with the desire to be revived, exercise your spirit and pray-read the Lord's Word strongly. When pray-reading, the important things are: a) call on the name of the Lord by exercising your spirit, b) read the Lord's Word in short and repeatedly, c) apply the Word in prayer, and to mingle them together. Do not use too much of your mind at this time (this does not mean you do not use your mind at all). But rather, you exercise your spirit and touch Christ, the Spirit. This way, you learn to come to the Lord and touch the Lord in the morning.
- ii. **Have a personal, intimate and loving fellowship with the Lord in a hidden place:** Have an intimate fellowship with the Lord in a hidden place when praying. Such prayer shall be roots for you. Roots are hidden, but if they are not there, your Christian life will soon wither. Your will not know if the roots are there or not, as you cannot see them. However, it shall die if the roots are not present, and it shall be revealed to you after a short while. With such personal prayers, you can bring out the matters and hidden sins that cannot be told to others and for you to fellowship with the Lord with true intentions. According to the New Testament, roots are absent from rocky places. Rocky places are having soil on the surface, but rocks will soon appear as you dig into it. The rocky places indicate hidden sins. You may pray the following, "Lord Jesus, I come before You with honesty, I come to You in my present state without pretense or in hiding. There are hidden sins in me, some are known only by myself and some are hidden evil motives and sins without clear understanding. I often accept this kind of hidden sins and try to conceal them from you. Lord Jesus, I am in such a deprived and complicated state. I cannot see myself saved from my own perspective. But I believe You can save me. I confess my sins. Please forgive me, cause me to grow and transform me to become useful in Your hand."