

The Will of God #4:

Living a Life according to God's Heart and Will

For outline and the Word, please use "The Holy Word for Morning Revival" (6/15-21)

Summary of OL:

I. The Old Testament contains portrait of David—a man according to God's heart, who did the will of God and served his own generation by the counsel of God; it was in David's heart to build a house for the name of Jehovah the God of Israel; today God is blessing us in every way for the fulfillment of His economy to build up the Body of Christ.

II. God's great will in His New Testament economy, God's good pleasure, the counsel of His will, and His purpose are to have a Body for the enlargement and expression of Christ, the embodiment of the processed Triune God: **A.** The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, man is for the producing of the church, and the church is the enlargement and expression of the processed Triune God; God's great will is to have a Body composed of human beings who are regenerated, sanctified, renewed, and transformed into the image of the processed Triune God. **B.** God's great will is also to have a church to be the organic Body of Christ for the manifestation of His multifarious wisdom. **C.** Each chapter of the book of Ephesians unveils the mystery of God's will, the mystery of the Body of Christ as the organism of the Triune God, from a particular point of view: Ephesians 1 reveals that the Body of Christ is the issue of the dispensing of the processed Trinity and the transmitting of the transcending Christ. / Ephesians 2 reveals that the Body of Christ is the masterpiece of the Triune God as the new man. / Ephesians 3 reveals that the Body of Christ is the fullness of the Triune God by our being supplied with the riches of Christ and by Christ's making His home in our hearts. / Ephesians 4 reveals that the Body of Christ is the mingling of the processed Triune God with the regenerated believers and that this one Body is built up by the one ministry. / Ephesians 5 reveals that the Body of Christ is composed of the children of light to be the bride of Christ for the satisfaction of Christ. / Ephesians 6 reveals that the Body of Christ is the corporate warrior of the Triune God for the defeating of God's enemy. **D.** God has blended the Body together; the word blended also means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled": In order to be blended in the Body life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ. Blending means that when we are about to do something, we always stop to fellowship with others.

III. God's great will is to have Christ as the replacement for all the sacrifices and offerings in the Old Testament so that we may enjoy Him as our all in all: **A.** As the unique sacrifice of the new covenant, Christ is the factor that enacts God's New Testament economy so that He may be its centrality and universality for the producing and building up of the church as His organic Body, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. **B.** Christ's replacing of all the Old Testament offerings, taking away all the Old Testament types and establishing Himself as everything to us, is God's great will; hence, Christ has

changed the age for the consummating of God's new creation out of God's old creation; His changing the age is greater than the creation of the universe mentioned in Genesis 1: Christ took away "the first," the sacrifices of the old covenant, that He might establish Himself as "the second," the sacrifice of the new covenant. **C.** Christ is the reality of the offerings so that we may worship God in spirit and truthfulness (the divine reality become our genuineness and sincerity for the true worship of God): The burnt offering typifies Christ's living on earth was absolutely for God. / The meal offering typifies Christ in His perfect humanity as food for God and for those who have fellowship with God and serve Him. / The peace offering typifies Christ as the Peacemaker, the One who became the peace and the fellowship between us and God by dying for us. / The sin offering typifies Christ as the One who was made sin for us and who died on the cross to deal with the sinful nature of our fallen being. / The trespass offering typifies Christ as the One who bore our sins in His own body and was judged by God on the cross to deal with our sinful deeds that we might be forgiven in our sinful conduct. **D.** We need to live a life according to God's heart and will by daily enjoying Christ as the reality of all the offerings for the divine goal of the Triune God, which is to bring us all into Himself that we may take Him as our dwelling place and allow Him to take us as His dwelling place for His universal, enlarged, divine-human incorporation.

IV. God's great will is to have the believers in Christ practice the Body life, that is, to have the living of the Body of Christ: **A.** We are "one Body in Christ," having an organic union with Him; this union makes us one in life with Him and with all the other members of His Body. **B.** For the church life, the life of the Body of Christ, to be realized, our entire being is needed; a presented body, a transformed soul, and a burning spirit are indispensable to a proper church life. **C.** When Christ as grace comes into us, this grace brings with it the element of certain skills and abilities, which, accompanying our growth in life, develop into the gifts in life that we may function in the Body of Christ to serve God. **D.** Romans 12:9 through 21 show the normal Christian life that is the necessary base for the practice of the church life and that matches the church life; this is a life of the highest virtues for the Body life; we can have such a living for the Body life only by reigning in life. **E.** God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace (God Himself as our all-sufficient supply for our organic salvation) and of the gift of righteousness (God's judicial redemption applied to us in a practical way); when we are all reigning in life, living under the ruling of the divine life, the issue is the real practical Body life.

Announcement and Fellowship of the Church: **(1)The greatest mission of the church is the gospel:** Each district need to decide the frame for the gospel and practice gospel and shepherding on Saturday and Lord's day etc. There is a frame for all on Thursday 10:00-12:00AM. **(2)West Japan Net Blending Meeting:** The churches in West Japan have West Japan net blending meeting for business persons on the third Lord's day 8:30-9:30PM every month.

Crucial Point(1):The first aspect of God's will is to gain the Body for Christ

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

I Cor. 12:24 But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

OL1: God's great will in His New Testament economy, God's good pleasure, the counsel of His will, and His purpose are to have a Body for the enlargement and expression of Christ, the embodiment of the processed Triune God.

OL2:God has blended the Body together; the word blended also means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled".

OL3: In order to be blended in the Body life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ. Blending means that when we are about to do something, we always stop to fellowship with others.

Concerning the spiritual and divine things for the church, we must keep in mind four crucial points. First, we must go through the cross. Our native flavor should be crossed out by Christ.... In the church there is room for no natural person, but Christ is all and in all. On the cross both the Jews and the Gentiles were crossed out. Second, everything should be by the Spirit. Third, this is to dispense Christ to others. Fourth, everything is for the building up of the church.

But today people would not take the cross or live by the Spirit. Instead, they would live by their flesh. They would not care for dispensing Christ. Instead, they care for their kind of social life. After our meetings we like to congregate with the ones who match our natural background....The Japanese flavor, the Chinese flavor, the Taiwanese flavor, and the American flavor all have to be crossed out. We should not do things according to our feeling but according to the Spirit. We should not enjoy Christ merely for ourselves but to dispense Christ to others.

God has blended the Body together. The word blended means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled."...The Greek word for blended implies the losing of distinctions. One brother's distinction may be quickness, and another's may be slowness. But in the Body life the slowness disappears, and the quickness is taken away. ...God has blended all the believers of all different races and colors. ...Only God can do this....A husband and a wife can have the harmony in their marriage life only by losing their distinctions.

Application to new ones, young people, college students

Recently there was an incident that American policemen killed one black man during their control. Rightly, those policemen were prosecuted for manslaughter. And this incident caused not only protest demonstrations but also riots all over the U.S. It is a tragic incident that the policemen killed a black man during control and this should never happen. It is totally understandable for black people to protest by demonstration, but it is totally wrong if they broke the windows of the stores and stole the products. This shows that both Caucasians and black people are the heap of collapse. But concerning this incident, some Caucasians at Houston knelt down before the black people and prayed and apologized collectively. Then the black people also knelt down and accepted their apology. Satan causes people to have enmity and reinforces it. But the Lord made peace among people. Watching these videos of reconciliation by YouTube, these scenes are really touching.

In the church life, there cannot be a natural flavor of Japanese, a natural flavor of Chinese, a natural flavor of Africans not a natural flavor of Koreans etc. In another words, your natural existence with natural flavor cannot be a part of the church. Rather, your regenerated spirit, the renewed mind becomes one new man. So you should never make a group according to your natural preferences in the church life. Because these become the factor to divide one Body of Christ, God will never accept them. The racial differences, the social differences should be crucified.

For example, you may form a group with those whom you can get along with in the class and you may not talk to the other students. This is the outstanding feature of the fallen people. You should be able to talk to various kind people as Jesus loved and contacted any people without discrimination. Young people who cannot belong to such fallen groups, might be driven to suicide. In another aspect, if you could talk to anyone without bias, such person's capacity including communication skill will be enlarged. When you start working at a company in the future, the ability to find out other's ability objectively or the ability to search other's ability are very important factor at work. In many cases, among those whom people couldn't accept, the excellent ability is buried. From your youth, learn to contact people without bias and evaluate other's ability. If you practice this in the organic union with the Lord, your capacity and communication skill will be greatly improved. Thank the Lord. Take Lord's grace and practice this in your class to set up the different testimony from the world.

Prayer:"Oh Lord Jesus, shine on my bias toward my friends. Let me crucify my preference which becomes the factor of division and let me talk with people without bias. Let me be those who could find out and evaluate other's ability. It is difficult to practice this, but I believe I can practice this in the Lord. Amen!"

Crucial Point(2): The second aspect of God's will is to take Christ as the replacement of all the sacrifices and offerings.

Heb. 10:9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second, 10 by which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness... 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

OL1: God's great will is to have Christ as the replacement for all the sacrifices and offerings in the Old Testament so that we may enjoy Him as our all in all.

OL2: Christ is the reality of the offerings so that we may worship God in spirit and truthfulness (the divine reality becoming our genuineness and sincerity for the true worship of God).

Burnt Offering: The burnt offering typifies Christ as God's pleasure and satisfaction. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He made God happy and satisfied Him because He always did God's will and sought His glory.

Meal Offering: The meal offering was made of fine flour mingled with oil. The fine flour, with its evenness and fineness, typifies Christ's perfect humanity with its balance, evenness, and fineness. The four Gospels portray the fineness of the Lord's behavior in His human living. The oil mingled with the fine flour signifies the divine Spirit. This mingling typifies the mingling of divinity with humanity in the Lord Jesus. The frankincense added to the meal offering signifies the fragrance of resurrection life. This is Christ typified by the meal offering, the mingling of humanity and divinity with the fragrant manifestation of resurrection life to be our daily nourishment and supply.

Peace Offering: Because there can be no peace in the universe without Christ, we need Him to be our peace offering. Christ has "made peace through the blood of His cross". Now as the fulfillment of the type of the peace offering, Christ is our peace with God and with one another. Through Him and in Him we have peace with God and man.

Sin Offering: As the sin offering, Christ has dealt with the sin that dwells in us....This sin is actually the evil nature of Satan. Because we are sinful, even sin itself, we need Christ to be our sin offering. As the reality of the type of the sin offering, Christ, who did not know sin, was "made sin on our behalf" by God (2 Cor. 5:21)

Trespass Offering: On the cross Christ bore all our trespasses before God. He "Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24).... As the sin offering Christ was made sin for us, but as the trespass offering He bore our sins.

Application to the serving ones

The greatest problem of man before God is, "Man is not desperately absolute for God." Even a man serves God, his service is not desperately absolute for God, so

God cannot accept his service. However, Jesus as a man has been desperately absolute for God and so satisfied God. This absolute humanity is the burnt offering. You may have noticed that your own humanity was not genuine, and so you try to improve yourself to become pure to the Lord and serve 100% for the Lord, but you cannot. At that moment, you will be disappointed with yourself. But God wants you to notice that you can never improve your humanity by yourself and so He wants you to experience Christ as your absoluteness to God. Praise the Lord as the burnt offering!

The second problem of man before God is that the man's humanity is not properly balanced and not fine like flour. Jesus was absolutely for God and was crucified by following God's will. Even He was dying on the cross, the Lord preached gospel to the robbers and shepherded Mary and His disciples. This is the fine humanity of Jesus. Even on the cross, He took every opportunities both to preach gospel and to shepherd people diligently. Please eat the humanity of Jesus in resurrection every day, which is mingled with the Holy Spirit, and is balanced and even.

As an example story, you normally listen carefully to others, but once you feel that advices from the others are contrary to your own "religious concept of the good-man policy", you cannot (or don't or don't wish to) listen to their advices. In the background of this "religious concept of the good-man policy", there is a desire in you "to be found in a good person". This is contrary to what Paul said in Philippians 3:9, saying "be found in Him (Christ)." Such religious concept is an insidious trap of Satan hindering God's will. Living the old man by following the good-man policy, is never a relative of God's will. It stands against God's will. Once you are aware of this, you must confess your own sins and take Christ as the trespass offering and the sin offering. Then in order to deal with the root cause, you must take the burnt offering, the humanity of Jesus who is absolute to God, and take the meal offering, the humanity of Jesus that can transform your crooked and uneven humanity.

If in this way you have fellowship with the Lord and experience Christ as the burnt offering, the meal offering, the trespass offering, and the sin offering, then you can enjoy peace with God and with other brothers and sisters. These five fundamental offerings are experientially overlapping each other instead of experiencing each of them individually.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, save me from serving religiously with the good-man policy. Thanks to the Lord that I can experience Christ as the reality of my every types of offerings. I confess my sins and take the humanity of Jesus who is 100% absolute to God. And also day by day, I eat Christ as the well-balanced humanity, so that I can be filled with Christ to become a person that matches the church life."

Crucial Point(3): The third aspect of God's will is for the believers in Christ to carry out the life of the Body

Rom. 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, ...to present your bodies a living sacrifice...**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** For I say... to everyone 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... **4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,**5** so we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

OL1: We are "one Body in Christ," having an organic union with Him; this union makes us one in life with Him and with all the other members of His Body.

OL2: For the church life, the life of the Body of Christ, to be realized, our entire being is needed; a presented body, a transformed soul, and a burning spirit are indispensable to a proper church life.

OL3: When Christ as grace comes into us, this grace brings with it the element of certain skills and abilities, which, accompanying our growth in life, develop into the gifts in life that we may function in the Body of Christ to serve God.

Whenever you read "in Christ," you must remember that this indicates the organic union with Christ. In Christ always implies...the fact that you are organically one with Christ.

Why does Romans 12 talk about the function of the Body? Because it talks about the Body based upon the organic union we have in Christ. In this union with Christ there is life. Dentures may be put into my mouth, but there is no organic union....We have to see that Romans 12 talks about the Body of Christ from the angle of the organic union, from the uniting life, from a life that unites us together not only with Christ but also with all the other members of Christ.... Romans 12 talks about the Body from the angle of the organic union.

In Romans 12:3 we come to a very practical point. Everyone of us thinks highly of himself. Outwardly you may appear to be humble, but inwardly you think quite highly of yourself. This is a problem to the church life.... If you think highly of yourself, your mind is not sober or normal. It... needs to be adjusted and renewed. We need to realize that the many members of the one Body have different functions....I hope that so many of the young brothers could say to one another, "Brother, what I can do, you cannot do, and what you can do, I cannot do."

In verse 6 Paul says that we have "gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." ...Grace is simply God in Christ as our enjoyment. When this grace, this divine element, which is the divine life, comes into our being, it brings with it certain skills and abilities which are the gifts.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

You need to have the first aspect of God's great will, the Body for Christ, and through the second aspect, the practice of the church life, after experiencing and enjoying Christ as reality of various offerings, go to the third aspect, the practice of the real church life. Therefore, the church life is the conclusion, and if there is no church life, there is no God's will in practice. It is very important to see that the church life is the first and second consequences of God's will. At first glance, you may feel that the church life is the life with brothers and sisters, which is not much different in appearance from other social groups. But when you see the church life as a result or conclusion in the whole of God's great will, your way of thinking about church life will be greatly changed.

"In Christ" shows the organic union in life with Christ. It is indicated by the union of the life of the vine and the branches revealed in John 15. In this organic union, all nutrients you need are supplied. And in this supply of life, the function of life comes out. You are one Body in Christ, and each of you is physically bodies of each other. The function of the limbs is different, but it functions for the building in one body. Please realize that you are a businessperson and also function in the company. Asians, especially Japanese, tend to have a strong tendency to hardly function in groups unless they are given a mission in advance. This is also since there is little education about leadership in school education. But God expects you to enjoy Christ and function.

For example, the president or general manager explains the policy in front of a large number of employees in the company. After that, even if being asked a question, there are often few questions. This is because employees don't understand that they have their own functions. Also, they have never thought about things from the standpoint of the president or general manager. Likewise, in the church of God, God expects you to function according to your capacity. You should function to encourage others and God. God is greatly encouraged and pleased when you function according to your capacity in the church.

Also, when you are functioning, learn to evaluate other people's different functions. You need to honor other people's functions, not compete with others. Some people think and move forward smartly with a good academic background. But while other people don't have a good academic background and can't handle things smartly, they have the virtue of being kind to people and trying to help people in need.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I have function both in the church life and in the company. God is encouraged and pleased when I function according to my capacity. I will learn to fulfill the functions of life by receiving water and nutrients from the vines in an organic union with Christ."