

#1 The Governing and Controlling Vision of God's Economy in Faith **Bird's-eye view** 7/4-10

I We in the Lord's recovery must have a vision of God's economy: Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, Prov. 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But happy is he who keeps the law. **A** We need to be brought into another realm, not the so-called spiritual realm but the realm of God's economy. **B** We need to be governed, controlled, and directed by this vision. **C** We must be strong and unshakable in the vision of God's economy, God's eternal will. **D** If we love the Lord and His recovery and if we mean business to practice the church life in the recovery, we need to endeavor to see all the visions concerning God's economy.

II God's economy is God's household administration, which is to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people that He may have a house to express Himself, which house is the church, the Body of Christ:

A God's economy, as His household administration, is to produce and constitute a Body for His Son. **B** The central subject of the Bible is the economy of God, and the entire Bible is concerned with the economy of God: Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **1** The governing and controlling vision in the Bible is the divine economy. **2** In our reading of the Bible, we need to focus our attention on the divine economy for the divine dispensing. Eph. 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things, **3** Unless we know God's economy, we will not understand the Bible. **C** Christ is the element, sphere, means, goal, and aim of God's eternal economy; He is everything in God's economy. **D** God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being that our being may be constituted with His being; this can be accomplished only by God dispensing Himself into us as the divine life. **E** The economy of God is that God became flesh, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and became the life-giving Spirit to enter into us as life and to dispense God into us so that we may be transformed for the producing of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the counterpart of Christ, the ultimate

aggregate of which is the New Jerusalem. **F** God's economy is God becoming man that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce the organic Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. **G** According to the desire of His heart, God's eternal economy is to make man the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead and to make Himself one with man and man one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that all His divine attributes may be expressed in human virtues. **H** The divine economy is to produce the new creation out of the chaotic old creation: **1** The history of the universe is a history of God's economy and Satan's chaos. **2** Both in the Bible and in our experience, the satanic chaos always goes along with the divine economy. **3** The Lord needs the overcomers, who will be one with Him to conquer the destructive satanic chaos and to triumph in the constructive divine economy. 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... 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. **I** The Lord's recovery is for the carrying out of God's economy.

III God's economy is initiated and developed in the sphere of faith: 1 Tim. 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith. **A** On the negative side, to exercise faith is to stop our work, our doing; on the positive side, to exercise faith is to trust in the Lord. Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **B** Faith is a proclamation that we are unable to fulfill God's requirements but that God has done everything for us and that we receive all God has planned for us, all God has done for us, and all God has given to us. **C** God's economy is carried out not by our doing in ourselves but by our believing into Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God. **D** Faith is a matter of seeing a view of the contents of God's economy: **1** Because we have seen a revelation regarding the contents of God's economy, we spontaneously believe in what we see. **2** The ability within us to believe is a product, a result, of having a

proper view of God's economy. **E** The Christian life is a life of faith, a life of believing: **1** We do not live according to what we see; we live according to what we believe. **2** Our walk is by faith, not by sight.

IV Faith is the unique requirement for us to contact God in His economy and the unique way for us to carry out His economy: **A** Galatians 2:16 says that we

are justified through faith in Jesus Christ, literally, faith of Jesus Christ: Gal. 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ not out of the works of law... **1** Faith is related to the believers' appreciation of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One. **2** Christ is infusing Himself into us to be the faith in us; He becomes in us the faith by which we believe and the capacity to believe through our appreciation of Him. **3** *Faith in Jesus Christ* denotes an organic union with Him through believing; in this organic union we and Christ are one. **4** When we believe in Christ, we enter into Him; we believe ourselves into Christ and thereby become one spirit with Him. **B** In Galatians 2:20 the apostle Paul says, "I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God": **1** *The faith of the Son of God* refers to the faith of Jesus Christ in us, which becomes the faith by which we believe in Him. **2** As we treasure Him, He causes faith to be generated in us, enabling us to believe in Him. **3** According to our Christian experience, the genuine living faith that operates in us is not only of Christ but also *in* Christ: Rom. 3:26 ...so that He might be righteous and the One who justifies him who is of the faith of Jesus. **4** A secret of experiencing Christ living in us is revealed in the words *in faith*: **a** Paul lived by the faith that is both in and of the Son of God. **b** The faith that we need is not only faith in the Son of God but also faith of the Son of God; in and by this faith we can carry out God's economy in faith.

CP1 In the clear vision of God's economy and the building up of the Body of Christ, advance in faith

A We need to be brought into another realm, not the so-called spiritual realm but the realm of God's economy. **B** We need to be governed, controlled, and directed by this vision. **C** We must be strong and unshakable in the vision of God's economy, God's eternal will. **II** **E** The economy of God is that God became flesh, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and became the life-giving Spirit to enter into us as life and to dispense God into us so that we may be transformed for the producing of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the counterpart of Christ, the ultimate aggregate of which is the New Jerusalem. Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him **III** God's economy is initiated and developed in the sphere of faith 1 Tim. 1:4 God's economy, which is in faith.

Most Christians consider the Bible to be a book which teaches them to be good, ethical, godly, and spiritual...But this is only for their own benefit; this is not at all for God...The major point in the Bible concerns God's economy, yet in Christianity today nearly no one talks about God's economy... God's economy is to dispense Christ into His elect that they might become first the Body of Christ to express Him and then the bride of Christ to match Him and fulfill God's economy in the divine dispensing.

Faith is to stop yourself from doing anything...Faith joins you with God to make God the only One who is. I am not, so I should not be the one who loves my wife. It should be Christ loving my wife...I should not be the one to go shopping. He should be the One. When you pick up something on sale in the department store, you have to check, "He is, or I am?"

In the meetings of the church and of the ministry, it is as if we are all watching a heavenly television to see more of God's economy...We spontaneously believe in what we see. Therefore, we come away from meetings full of the ability to believe. The meetings of the church and the ministry enlarge our capacity to believe.

Faith is a matter of seeing a view of the contents of God's New Testament economy. Once we have the view, we shall believe in what we see. This faith is the foundation of our Christian life.

Application to business persons, graduate students

Testimony Brother Lee returned to Taiwan for four years from October 1984 to reexamine the way of Bible-based congregation and service. At the same time, he worked to complete the Chinese translation of the recovery version of the Bible. He commanded his fellow workers and trainees to speak nothing but God's economy. At first I did not understand the difference between what some coworkers had told me and God's economy, so I fellowshiped with the Lord many times about the vision of God's economy. During the two years of training, the vision of God's economy and the building of the Body of Christ gradually became clearer.

Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, 18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

I used to have no experiential understanding of the vision of God's economy and the vision of the Body of Christ, so I had no idea what the purpose of any service was and had no idea "how to get better" or "what to do next." As a result, I have not been able to make any progress at all in service. I believe that the most important thing in service is to first pray about and have a clear vision of God's economy and the building of the Body of Christ. Of course the vision needs to be constantly renewed, but the basic controlling vision should be clearly seen. Seeing this vision has helped me to have the effects of my service, not fully, but gradually.

Second, it is the point that God's economy is in faith. At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, I fellowshiped with the Lord and had a sense of faith that the pale horse of the earthquake was to accelerate the white horse of the gospel, so that Japanese people would be saved more easily. And I proclaimed and carried this out by faith. As a result, in 2011-2012, about 4 times more Japanese were saved than before. In faith the gospel in God's economy has greatly advanced .

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, bring me into the realm of the Economy of God. Let me pray for a clear vision of God's economy and have the building of the Body of Christ. Govern, control, and direct me by this vision. Furthermore, since God's economy is in faith, let me serve with a sense of faith and advance in the gospel and shepherding.

CP2 Christ infuses Himself into us.

This Christ becomes our faith in us

IV Faith is the unique requirement for us to contact God in His economy and the unique way for us to carry out His economy.:

A We are justified through faith in Jesus Christ, literally, faith of Jesus Christ:

Gal. 2:16 ...Knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law...

1 Faith is related to the believers' appreciation of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One.

2 Christ is infusing Himself into us to be the faith in us; He becomes in us the faith by which we believe and the capacity to believe through our appreciation of Him.

B "I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God" (Gal. 2:20):

3a Paul's thought is that the faith is both of Christ and in Christ.

b Faith is related not only to the Christ who has been infused into us but also to the Christ who is continually infusing Himself into us.

c As Christ operates in us, He becomes our faith; this faith is of Him and also in Him.

Under God's New Testament economy we are not to keep the law. On the contrary, we are justified through faith in Christ. Faith in Christ denotes an organic union through believing. The faith in Christ by which we are justified is related to our appreciation of the person of the Son of God...The more we describe Him and speak of His preciousness, the more something will be infused into the being of the listeners. This infusion will become their faith, and this faith will cause them to respond to our preaching. In this way they will appreciate the person we present to them. This appreciation is their faith in Christ. Out of their appreciation for the Lord Jesus, they will want to possess Him. The Christ who has been preached to them will become in them the faith by which they believe.

When His preciousness was infused into us through the preaching of the gospel, we spontaneously began to appreciate the Lord Jesus and believe in Him. We said, "Lord Jesus, I love You. I treasure You." This is what it means to have faith in Christ.

Application to young people, college students, new ones

Testimony When I read the Bible personally or in meetings, I sometimes couldn't believe the words of the Bible. For example, Matthew 10:30 says that, even the hairs of the head are counted. However, I wondered, "would He re-count a hair or two fell out by brushing my hair with a comb every time?" Matt.10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And not one of them will fall to the earth apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Looking back now, here I had two problems.

1 Deviated from the essence of the context. The point here is that God always cares for you because He thinks you are precious.

2 Lacks the faith that every word of the Bible is true. God knows everything. Otherwise, God cannot use all people, matters, and things to benefit the transformation of us believers.

Also, in times of difficult situations, I realized I had no faith and was very disappointed. I was disappointed in myself, realizing that after years of living the church life, my faith was still weak. After these experiences, I read the Life-Study of Galatians 2 and was very encouraged by the following points: **1** Faith is the faith of the Son of God, not my faith. There is no faith in my natural being. **2** Christ infuses Himself into us and becomes faith in us. Christ becomes the faith in us to believe and the ability to believe through our appreciation of Him. **3** This infusion of faith occurs by hearing the Word of God.

I absolutely do not need to be disappointed that my faith is weak (or strictly speaking, lack of faith). Rather, I should pray, "There is no faith in my natural being. But faith is the faith of the Son of God. I open to Your infusion. Be my faith in me." Amen! Hallelujah!

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, under God's New Testament Economy, I am justified through faith in Christ. This faith is the faith of the Son, not our natural one. And faith in Christ is being organically united to the Lord through believing. I hear God's word and appreciate the Lord even more. This appreciation becomes the believer's faith in Christ. Lord Jesus, I love and honor You.