

#6 The intrinsic Significance of the Purification of the Returned Captives

Bird's-eye view 3/27-4/2

I The Lord's recovery is unique, and it must be absolutely pure, single, and holy, without any mixture; thus, we need Ezras and Nehemiahs to carry out a purifying work; in all the steps of the Lord's recovery, there is the need of purification: **A** Ezra purified the recovery by causing "the holy seed" to be separated from anything heathen: **1** Before Ezra arrived, there was mixture because some of the Israelites had married heathen wives and had children born of this mixture; this is a type, which we should apply spiritually not literally. **2** In the Lord's recovery there is the need of purification to separate "the holy seed" from anything that is heathen: **a** The Lord's recovery is the holy seed; we must be so pure that the holy seed will never be mingled with anything heathen. **b** When the recovery is holy, we will see the Lord's blessing. **B** After building up of the house, we need purification (seen under Ezra's leadership), and after the building up of the city, we need to be purified again (seen with Nehemiah's absoluteness). [Ezra 10:10](#) And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them... **11** Now therefore make confession to Jehovah the God of your fathers, and do His will, and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign women. [Neh. 13:30](#) Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign. **C** In the local churches we must be thoroughly purified of all mixture; anything common and anything contradictory to the heavenly nature of the Lord's recovery must be purged out.

II Babylon is a mixture of the things of God with the things of idols, and the principle of Babylon is the principle of mixing the things of man with the Word of God and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit: **A** Anything that is a part of Babylon is abominable in the sight of God, and anything Babylonian gives Satan the ground to defeat the people of God. **B** God hates the principle of Babylon more than anything else; only when we judge everything Babylonian in us can we confess that we too hate the principle of Babylon.

III In Acts 21 and in the book of James, there is mixture; James mixed the Old Testament with the New Testament, the new dispensation with the old, the new people of God with the old, and the new man with the old man: **A** Acts 21 exposes the terrible mixture in the church in Jerusalem; the Jewish believers still kept the law of Moses, remained in the Old Testament dispensation, and were strongly under the Judaic

influence, mixing God's New Testament economy with the outdated Old Testament economy. **B** They were unaware that the dispensation of law was altogether over, that the dispensation of grace should be fully honored, and that any disregard of the distinction between these two dispensations would be against God's dispensational administration and would be a great damage to God's economical plan for the building up of the church as the expression of Christ. **C** The law makes demands on man according to what God is; grace supplies man with what God is to meet what God demands; grace is God enjoyed by man.

IV A great problem among God's children is the mixture of the self with the spirit: [Heb. 4:12](#) For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **A** This mixture disqualifies many from serving God, for in their spirit there is much mixture, which is displeasing to God. **B** The spirit in our innermost part is pure and undefiled; however, when the spirit comes forth and passes through the soul and the body, it may become contaminated by filthiness and corruption. [2 Cor. 7:1](#) ...let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **C** Dealing with the spirit emphasizes dealing with impure motives and intentions and other mixtures within us.

V We need to be pure in heart, in conscience, and in spirit: [Matt. 5:8](#) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **A** Those who are pure in heart will see God: **1** To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory. **2** A pure heart is a heart that takes the Lord as the unique goal. **3** In the New Testament sense, seeing God equals gaining God, and to gain God is to receive God in His element, life, and nature so that we may be constituted with God; seeing God transforms us, because in seeing God we receive His element into us, and our old element is discharged. [2 Cor. 3:18](#) But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit. **4** To see God is to be transformed into the glorious image of Christ, the God-man, so that we may express God in His life and represent Him in His authority. **5** We should be pure in heart and single for the Lord's recovery; only then will we be a help to the recovery. **B** We need to have not only a good conscience but also a

pure conscience: [Acts 24:16](#) Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and man. [2 Tim. 1:3](#) I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience... **1** A good conscience is a conscience without offense toward God and man. **2** A pure conscience is a conscience purified of any mixture; such a conscience testifies that, like Paul, we are seeking only God and His will. **C** The first qualification in the work is purity of spirit: **1** It is very difficult to find a person whose spirit is pure; pureness is the prerequisite in the leadership and a basic condition of our service; the problem of mixture is the greatest problem among workers; impureness is often the source of misunderstanding and suspicion. [1 Tim. 3:9](#) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. **2** We need to deal completely with all the mixture in our spirit so that when our spirit is released, it will not be dangerous or cause trouble to others. **3** If we want to be used by God, our spirit must be released, and our spirit must be pure. [2 Cor. 6:4](#) But in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God... **6** In pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love. **V** The city of New Jerusalem is pure gold, like clear glass, and the street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass: **A** Gold signifies the nature of God; the city's being pure gold indicates that the city is of the divine nature and takes the divine nature as its element. **B** The pure gold of the street and the city is like clear glass, signifying that the entire city is transparent and not in the least opaque: **1** If we take God's nature as our unique way, we will be pure, without any mixture, and transparent, without any opaqueness. **2** If we are infused and saturated with the life-giving Spirit, our inner being will become transparent and crystal clear. **C** If we want to have the real church life, the church herself must be pure gold, that is, altogether of the divine nature; here we need the work of the cross to purge us and to purify us. [Rev. 1:20](#) The mystery of the... seven golden lampstands: ...the seven lampstands are the seven churches. [2 Cor. 5:21](#) Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **D** The difference between apostate Christendom and the genuine church is that one is a mixture and the other is pure; the local churches, like the New Jerusalem, should be crystal clear, without any mixture. [Rev. 22:1](#) And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

- 3月末から4月のキャンパス福音強化:**
大学の入学時期に、新入生を得るために、キャンパス福音を強化します。このために祈り、キャンパス福音にできるだけ参加してください。
- 調布の姉妹達とのブレンディング:**
3/27-29に、石合姉妹と前田朱美姉妹が神戸にブレンディングに来られます。
- 3月国際長老責任者訓練:**
3/31(金)8:30-17:30 M1,M2,M3
4/1(土)8:30-17:30 M4,M5,M6
4/2(主)8:30-17:30 M7,M8,M9
- 4月福音集会担当按配:**
4/2 三宮・神戸
4/9 魚崎・六アイ
4/16 YP
4/23 六甲
4/30 召会全体@魚崎で合同集会
- 土曜8:30-9:00の預言準備集会担当按配:**
4/1 YP
4/8 三宮・神戸
4/15 夙川
4/22 魚崎・六アイ
4/29 六甲
- 関西・四国・東海ブレンディング集会:**
4/15(土)午前中
兄弟は、@本山学生福音センター、姉妹は、@本山に集まります。
- 関西ブックフェア:**
4/15(土)12:30-15:00
書籍販売とプレゼンテーション:@本山学生福音センター
ブレンディング:@本山
- 5月全国特別集会:**
5/5(金・祝)13:30-15:30 集会1
5/6(土) 10:00-12:00 集会2
5/7(主) 10:00-12:30 パンさき集会、集会4
今年も東京に集まります。青少年ブレンディング、子供集会も行われます。
現場参加希望の兄弟姉妹は、宿泊按配もありあるので、4/1(土)までに、各地区取りまとめ、武富夏美Sにまでご連絡ください。

CP1 Deal with impure intention, motive, and other mixtures in the soul and the body and release the pure spirit

IV A great problem among God's children is the mixture of the self with the spirit. **B** The spirit in our innermost part is pure and undefiled; however, when the spirit comes forth and passes through the soul and the body, it may become contaminated by filthiness and corruption. **C** Dealing with the spirit emphasizes dealing with impure motives and intentions and other mixtures within us. [Heb. 4:12](#) For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Though we have said that the spirit must be clean, the spirit itself is not actually filthy. Indeed, [2 Corinthians 7:1](#) says to "cleanse ourselves from all defilement of...spirit," but this defilement is not of the spirit itself but [that] effected by the soul and body...The spirit in our innermost part is pure and undefiled. However, surrounding the spirit are the soul and body, both of which have been mixed with the wicked elements of Satan and are thus filthy and corrupt. Therefore, when the spirit comes forth and passes through the soul and body, it becomes contaminated by this filthiness and corruption. Hence, when being manifested, the spirit bears certain filthiness, corruption, impurity, impropriety, and various other undesirable conditions...We must go one step further and deal with all the negative purposes of the heart, the undesirable intentions, the impure inclinations, the improper will, and the mixed emotions to the end that not only the spirit can come forth but that it may come forth in an upright, clean, and pure manner. Dealing with the spirit emphasizes dealing with the impure intentions, motives, and other mixtures within us, whereas dealing with the conscience emphasizes dealing with the feeling of the conscience toward all the mixtures.

The practical way to deal with the spirit is...first, we need to condemn the mixtures, and second, to remove them by the power of the Holy Spirit. For example, if we have a crooked spirit, we must first condemn this crookedness as sin. Second, we must purge out this crookedness from within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Although the condemning and the removal are through the power of the Holy Spirit, yet they are of our own initiative. We must be willing to have such dealings and desire them; then we can draw from the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit requires the cooperation of our will; when He has this, He will supply us with the power for dealing.

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 My child became the third year of junior high,

and at first I was optimistic about his taking the high school entrance exam, but as I listened to information on exams, and as real problems such as a lack of internal scores became apparent, I became more impatient. I thought that if he did not go to a high school with even a slightly higher deviation, he would not be able to get into a good university and get a job at a good company, and I began to assume that my child was not studying enough and fought with him every day. Originally, I have wanted him to experience and enjoy the Lord while young, but this situation exposed many impure desires in me. However, through daily Bible reading, reading the collective works of brother Lee, and the winter training messages, I was enlightened by the Lord and told that everything is empty unless we gain the Lord. I reconsidered my way and one day in the car I repented and confessed to the Lord my impurity about my child's path. Instead of praying that he would be admitted to the school of his choice, I prayed that we would experience the Lord in the midst of this experience of examination. The directional needle in me, which had gone crazy because of hidden and impure desires, was set on God alone as my goal, and peace came. My child has calmed down and through the Lord's mercy, he was accepted to the school of his choice. May we cooperate with the Lord to remove the mixture and pursue Him purely. **Testimony 2** Six years ago, I invited a friend to church meetings and she began to come often and enjoy the meetings. After one of the meetings, we coordinated to preach the gospel and encouraged her to be baptized, but she rejected for various reasons. I was at a loss as to how to respond, as I have never been good at preaching the gospel, but brother Yoriki, who was listening nearby, joined the conversation and said clearly, "Don't make excuses, you should be baptized as soon as possible." Hearing this, my friend did not recoil, but rather seemed liberated by being told so clearly. Seeing this, I myself was enlightened by the fact that I had not said it clearly. I was too afraid to speak frankly for fear of making a mistake by what I said. I repented to the Lord that I seemed to be hoping for my friend's salvation, but in fact I was trying to maintain a superficial peaceful relationship. My friend continued to come to meetings, and a few months later she was baptized and began serving. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, my spirit is pure, but the soul and body surrounding it are mixed and corrupted with the evil elements of Satan, so that when the spirit comes out it contains impurity. I use my will to be enlightened and condemned, and to cooperate in the removal of impure motives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

CP2 It is essential for leadership to have a single, pure heart that sees only the fulfillment of God's will

V We need to be pure in heart, in conscience, and in spirit. **C** The first qualification in the work is purity of spirit:

1 It is very difficult to find a person whose spirit is pure; pureness is the prerequisite in the leadership and a basic condition of our service; the problem of mixture is the greatest problem among workers; impureness is often the source of misunderstanding and suspicion. **2** We need to deal completely with all the mixture in our spirit so that when our spirit is released, it will not be dangerous or cause trouble to others. 2 Cor. 6:4 But in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God... 6 In pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love.

The problem of mixture is the biggest problem among workers. We often touch life in the brothers, but also touch death. We touch God in the brothers, but also touch their self. We touch a spirit of meekness, but also touch a stubborn self. We find the Holy Spirit in them, but also find the flesh in them...If God intends for us to serve Him in the ministry of the word and if we have to speak for God, we have to ask for grace. We have to say, "God, work in me. Break my outer man, tear it down, and separate it from the inner man." If we have not experienced this deliverance, we will express our outer man subconsciously every time we open our mouth...We are the kind of person we are; we cannot pretend. If we want to be used by God, our spirit must be released, and this spirit must be pure...If our outer man is not destroyed, we will carry our own cargo with us when we serve as ministers of the word. The Lord's name will suffer loss, not on account of our lack of life, but on account of our mixture. The Lord's name will suffer, and the church will suffer as well.

Impureness in the church life and in the Lord's work is the basic killer. It kills everything, including you if you are impure...Only the Lord knows how fearful and trembling I have been for many years lest I be impure in making a decision concerning certain things.

Application to business persons, graduate students
Matt.5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **the pure in heart** To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of

accomplishing God's will for God's glory. This is for the kingdom of the heavens. Our spirit is the organ by which we receive Christ, whereas our heart is the ground where Christ as the seed of life grows. 2Cor. 1:12 ... that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, ...

Testimony My desire to be pure in heart was aroused by the Lord when I was a junior in college, two years after I was saved. The Lord often told me to love Him with a pure heart, and He also enlightened the impure motives of my heart, i.e., hidden motives for my own good, for my own praise, etc. I confessed the sin of my impure motives. Then, acknowledging that there is no absolute divine nature in myself, I prayed, admitting that the only way was to take Christ as a burnt offering and partake of His divine nature.

This experience helped me during the full-time training. With about 1,000 trainees in attendance, I prayed again as I was jealous when I heard their testimonies of success and felt proud when I was successful, "Lord Jesus, I am not pure in heart. I lay my hands on You as the burnt offering, and I join myself with You. My faults go to you and I receive your thoroughly sanctified nature, your completely pure nature." In this way, I was freed from the work of the flesh, such as jealousy, impatience, anger, etc., and was filled with the Spirit of the Lord and able to focus on my service. I was able to go out with the Lord and preach the gospel with boldness.

Furthermore, in the Gospel team, I realized that purity of heart is extremely important in leadership. I could not judge and guide the members fairly if I was influenced by personal preferences. Each time I prayed, "Oh Lord Jesus, I cannot lead according to my impure, unclean nature." In this way, the entire team was blessed.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, I confess my impure motives and other sins. Joined with Christ as the burnt offering, I let my impurity go to the Lord and receive the divine nature from Him. Please deal completely with all the mixture in the spirit that comes out of me as I love the Lord with a pure heart. Let me have a single, pure heart that sees only the fulfillment of God's will.