

11/25-12/1#12 The Divine Trinity, the Spirit of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God

CP1 The Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—was fully involved with the ascension of the Son and the pouring out of the Spirit. Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear. 21 And it shall be that everyone who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. IA1 The Son ascended, the Father exalted Him, and the Spirit was poured out.

The Bible tells us that Christ ascended into heaven, but it also says that He was taken up and exalted by God. After God exalted Him, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples. The Son ascended, the Father exalted Him, and the Spirit was poured out. The Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—was fully involved with the ascension and the pouring out of the Spirit. In the Son's death the Triune God was involved, in the Son's resurrection the Triune God was involved, and in the Son's ascension and exaltation the Triune God was also involved. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit were wrapped up with the Son's ascension and the pouring out of the Spirit.

CP2 The Spirit of Jesus 16:6 And they passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. IB3 The kind of work that we do for the Lord depends on the kind of Spirit by whom we are guided, directed, instructed, and constituted; when the all-inclusive Spirit becomes our constitution, our work will be the expression of this Spirit.

The move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel was not according to their decision and preference or according to any schedule made by human council, but by the Holy Spirit according to God's counsel. They intended to speak the word in Asia, but the Holy Spirit forbade them. Forbidding is also a part of the Holy Spirit's leading. The Holy Spirit's forbidding and the Spirit of Jesus' not allowing indicated that Paul and his coworkers should go directly forward,...toward Macedonia and Achaia. Paul, however, did not have the thought of going there. This made it necessary for the Lord to give him a vision during the night, and in this vision a Macedonian call came to Paul. Testimony 1 When I went out with a group of brothers and sisters to Uozaki Station to preach the gospel, a group of brothers and sisters approached two college

students and spoke the Word. They talked for a bit longer so I joined them. I invited them to the meeting hall, but they said they couldn't go because they were going to play tennis. The brothers and sisters who had approached them earlier had already invited them to the meeting place and were turned down. Then, another brother came and invited them to go to church. I was about to say, "They can't go because they are going to play tennis," but there was a voice inside me that stopped me, so I didn't say it. As a result, when those two students were invited for the third time, they delayed going to tennis to join us at the Uozaki Meeting Hall. Then they heard the gospel and they were baptized on the spot! Hallelujah! Forbidding is part of the leading of the Holy Spirit! Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, the acts of the Apostle Paul and his coworkers for the expansion of the Gospel were not according to their decisions, preferences, or human plans, but by the Holy Spirit. Since they were forbidden to go to Asia on the left or to Bithynia on the right, they took a direct course to Macedonia, where they preached the gospel and the church was raised. May we always hear and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

CP3 Receive the Spirit by calling on the name of the Lord Rom. 10:12 ...the...Lord is ...rich to all who call upon Him.

ID Just as the Spirit of Christ is the reality of Christ, so the Spirit of Jesus is the reality of Jesus: 2 Jesus is real to us because we have the Spirit of Jesus as the reality, the realization, of Jesus.

The Lord is rich and rich to all who call upon Him. The way to enjoy the riches of the Lord is to call upon Him. The Lord is not only rich, but also nigh and available as mentioned in verse 8 of the same chapter because He is the life-giving Spirit. As the Spirit, He is omnipresent. At any time and in any place we may call on His name. When we call on Him, He comes to us as the Spirit, and we enjoy His riches. When you call on Jesus, the Spirit comes.

CP4 The kingdom of God Luke 17:20 He answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation;... 21 For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you. IID The kingdom of God is the spreading of Christ as life into His believers to form a realm in which God rules in His life: 1 To enter into this kingdom, people need to repent of their sins and believe in the gospel so that their sins may be forgiven and so that they may be regenerated by God to have the divine life, which matches the divine nature of this kingdom. 2 All the believers in Christ can share the kingdom in the church age for their enjoyment of God in His righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

What is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is not a material kingdom visible to human sight; the kingdom of God is a kingdom of the divine life....The kingdom of God is the ruling, the reigning, of God with all its blessing and enjoyment. It is the goal of the gospel of God and of Jesus Christ. To enter into this kingdom, people need to repent of their sins and believe in the gospel so that their sins may be forgiven, and they may be regenerated by God to have the divine life, which matches the divine nature of this kingdom....All the believers in Christ can share the kingdom in the church age for their enjoyment of God in His righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit....The kingdom of God is the reality of the church brought forth by the resurrection life of Christ through the gospel. Regeneration is its entrance, and the growth of the divine life within the believers is its development. The kingdom of God is the Savior Himself as the seed of life sown into His believers, God's chosen people, and developing into a realm over which God can rule as His kingdom in His divine life.

Testimony ② I found the following verses helpful to understand the Kingdom of God. [Rom.14:17](#) For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [Gal.5:19](#) And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20](#) Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, [21](#) Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [Rev.11:15](#) And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever. Romans say that the church of this age is the reality of the kingdom, and Galatians say that the coming kingdom will be enjoyed as a reward for the overcomers. If we are living in the reality of the Kingdom today in our church life, we will inherit the enjoyment of the Kingdom when it appears in the future.

Working in the company with this perception of the Kingdom, I became keenly aware of the many dark works in the company. As one had certain status in the company, there was much unrighteous work done to take advantage of it. For example, general managers and division heads forced their subordinates to go out drinking at night and overpowered them. In addition, fornication was common along with drinking.

I refused to join such drinking at night under these circumstances. Satan has repeatedly threatened me and accused my soul that this would make me unable to stay in the company. I refused but was very distressed and weak. At such times, when I returned to the spirit and opened and fellowshiped with the Lord about the situation, I was infused with faith. I called on the name of the Lord, and by faith I declared, "Lord Jesus, I will practice righteousness to have the reality of the Kingdom. You who dwell within are the life of righteousness. If I must do unrighteousness to get promoted, I will choose to practice righteousness and not get promoted. Satan, get behind me!" and I was released. When I turned away from unrighteousness and practiced righteousness, the Lord protected me, and my decision not to go out drinking did not affect my work career in a negative way at all. Since practicing righteousness means living out Christ and living Christ, I was able to experience and enjoy Christ, the righteous life, in the practical environment of the workplace. This life was also a life that honored marriage, and it was necessary for me to serve in the church, coordinated with my wife with one mind. Hallelujah! I was able to experience the Lord's victory in the realm of God's ruling, in His Kingdom. **Testimony ③** I enjoyed the Taiwan Blending in November very much. We first went to Beitou in Taipei, then visited the second and third district in Wenshan, the 6th meeting hall in Xinyi District and the 8th meeting hall in Da'an District. Wherever I went, I thought it was wonderful to see brothers and sisters with one accord and preaching the gospel in their living. The Kingdom of God is produced through the Gospel, through the resurrection life of Christ. I was most impressed by the testimony of Brother Zhang at the hall 6. I was very encouraged to hear the testimony of the brother who, in order to bring people into the Kingdom of God, first he and his wife ①prayed, ②write a name list, ③ contact people, and ④ serving meals continuously with a couple who were saved for two years. Many people were saved and increased from vital groups of 4 people to 3 small groups. Their lives are the gospel. Brother Zhang preached the gospel to a banker he contacted, his daughter's piano teacher, babysitter, and even the person sitting next to him on the airplane, who was saved and entered the kingdom of God. Hallelujah! Thank the Lord. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, may Your life grow and develop further in me. May the Lord rule my life, may I live Him in living, pray for my friends, and preach the Gospel! May many people be saved in Kobe and may Your Kingdom be expanded!