10/21-27 #7 The Bread of Life Bird's-Eye View

I If we read John 6 carefully, we should have a deep impression of this chapter and pay attention to the sequence of seven crucial points: A The Lord is the bread of life. John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world. 35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst. E The Lord gives His bread of life for us to eat. The Lord also gives His blood for us to drink. The Lord not only died but also resurrected. Because Christ lives in us, we live because of Him and live before God. His Spirit, not His physical flesh, gives us life and the life supply. G The Spirit is in the Lord's spoken words; His words are spirit and life. II The primary purpose for which the Lord Jesus came down out of heaven to the earth was to accomplish one central matter—to give Himself to us as food—the bread of life—so that He could be eaten by us as spiritual nourishment and be digested by us to become our constitution. 🎹 Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John is a detailed discourse on the Lord Jesus being the bread of life; He declared, "I am the bread of life": John 6:48 I am the bread of life. A Many verses in John 6 reveal that, for our experience and enjoyment, Christ is the bread of life: John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of 1 The most important point in the entire chapter of John 6 is that Christ is our food, the bread of life. To eat Him is not a once-for-all matter; rather, we need to contact the Lord and eat Him daily, for He is edible. We need to exercise our spirit to feed on Him, receiving Him, digesting Him, experiencing Him, enjoying Him, and applying Him moment by moment. 4 We all should concentrate on one thing—eating Christ and then living by what we have eaten of Him. B "Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27): 1 Eternal life is the divine life, the uncreated life of God, which not only is everlasting with respect to time but also is eternal and divine in nature. 2 The food which abides unto eternal life can supply us and bring us into eternal life. "My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:32-33): spiritual things are real; "the Spirit is the reality" (1 John 5:6b). 2 As the true bread, Christ is the bread of truth, of reality; Christ is true, real. 3 We all need to be deeply impressed with the fact that we need Christ as the true

bread of life sent by God to bring us eternal life. 4 "The bread of God" in John 6:33 is "the true bread" in verse 32. 5 As the bread that came down out of heaven, Christ is the heavenly bread, and as the bread of God, He is of God, He was sent by God, and He was with God. 6 When we eat this bread and digest it, it becomes our constitution, and we are joined and mingled with the Lord as one. 7 Anyone who eats the living bread which came down out of heaven will live forever. In verse 51 the Lord Jesus said, "The bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world": 1 At this point the bread becomes the flesh. 2 The Lord gave His body, that is, His flesh, dying for us that we might have life. [ "Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves" (John 6:53): 1 The separation of blood and flesh indicates death. 2 Here the Lord clearly indicated His death, that is, His being slain. 3 He gave His body and shed His blood for us so that we may have eternal life: a To eat His flesh is to receive by faith all that He did in giving His body for us. To drink His blood is to receive by faith all that He accomplished in shedding His blood for us. 4 To eat His flesh and drink His blood is to receive Him, in His redemption, as life and life supply by believing in what He did for us on the cross. 5 By comparing verse 53 with verse 47, we see that to eat the Lord's flesh and drink His blood is to believe in Him, because to believe or to believe into is to receive. John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes has eternal life. [ "My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink" (John 6:55): 1 Unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, we do not have eternal life within ourselves. 2 If we eat Him and drink Him, we will have life because of Him. G The strongest and strangest sentence in the entire Bible is John 6:57: "As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me": 1 To eat is to take food into us that it may be assimilated organically into our body. 2 To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us that He may be assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life: a Then we live by Him whom we have received. [7] It is by this that He, the resurrected One, lives in us. V "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63): A The last part of John 6 is the section about Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit and the Word. E Since Christ is the Spirit, we can contact Him as the Spirit within us.  $\underline{1}$ Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving

Spirit. Because He is the life-giving Spirit, we can feed upon and assimilate Him as our food. D In order to receive the Lord Jesus as the bread of life, our life supply to nourish us, we need to see that He is the life-giving Spirit and that this Spirit is embodied in the Word. What the Lord gives us is the Spirit who gives life; this Spirit is the Lord Himself in resurrection. In John 6:63 "the words" follow the Spirit: 1 The Lord indicated that for giving life He would become the Spirit. 2 Then He said that the words He speaks are spirit and life; this indicates that His spoken words are the embodiment of the life-giving Spirit. 3 If we do not touch the Spirit in the Word, we cannot receive life. 4 Daily we need to come to the Lord and touch Him as the Spirit in the Word; if we do this, we will feed on Christ as the bread of life. Chapter 6 of John closes with the word of life, which is the means for us to receive the Lord as the bread of life: John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life, 1 If we receive the Word, we will have the Spirit, and if we have the Spirit within us, we will have Christ as the inner supply of life. 2 May we all realize that our need is Christ as our life supply and then daily contact Him as the life-giving Spirit embodied in the Word.

CP1 Because the Lord is the bread of life, we come to the Lord, eat Him, enjoy Him, digest Him and are constituted by Him.

I If we read John 6 carefully, we should have a deep impression of this chapter and pay attention to the sequence of seven crucial points:A The Lord is the bread of life B The Lord gives His bread of life for us to eat @ The Lord also gives His blood for us to drink D The Lord not only died but also resurrected E Because Christ lives in us, we live because of Him and live before God F His Spirit, not His physical flesh, gives us life and the life supply G The Spirit is in the Lord's spoken words; His words are spirit and life II The primary purpose for which the Lord Jesus came down out of heaven to the earth was to accomplish one central matter—to give Himself to us as food—the bread of life—so that He could be eaten by us as spiritual nourishment and be digested by us to become our constitution

The Lord Jesus came down out of heaven to earth in the form of food. This is a special matter. No sage has had this thought. The Lord said that He is the bread of life. We should not think that this word is shallow. This is a profound word.

Those with a philosophical mind know the profoundness of the thought contained in this word...No ordinary man can speak such extraordinary words. The Lord being the bread that came down out of heaven means that He came to the earth in the form of food. He does not want us to prostrate ourselves before Him or to offer sacrifices to Him. He wants us to receive Him and take Him in as life. In [John 6] the Lord did not have the status of a king or an archangel. His status was the bread of life. We often neglect this matter when we read the Bible because we have not touched the Lord's thought. When we touch the Lord's thought, we will marvel that the Lord came to the earth in the form and status of food. His work on the earth was for Him to be eaten by man to be man's life. When some people read the Bible, they see that the Lord Jesus came to the earth to do God's will and to accomplish God's plan. Some people think that because He came to serve people, He did many things for them. Strictly speaking, the Lord Jesus came to the earth to accomplish one central matter, that is, to give Himself to man as food so that He could be eaten by man as spiritual nourishment and be digested to become man's constitution.

## Application to businesspersons:

Testimony I had a religious concept that after I believed in the Lord, I was supposed to use my will and guts to follow Him. But in Brother Lee's message, I heard that "God's economy is the dispensing of God Himself into us in the form of food," and that "for the dispensation, God became a life-giving spirit through the processes of incarnation, human living, death, and resurrection." I did not understand God's economy well at first because it was so far away from my religious concept. But as I read again and again, "As the living Father has sent me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me shall live because of Me" (John 6:57), and as I conversed with the Lord, I began to understand that the Christian life and the church life was not a life based on Japanese guts but a life of enjoying the dispensing of God. I cannot live because of the Lord unless I eat and enjoy Him.

After participating in the December training in 1985, I attended the young people meeting in Los

Angeles and was so enlightened by the sight of them loudly praising and enjoining the hymns. I found that I still did not fully understand how to enjoy the Lord because of the Japanese cultural barrier of "I have to work harder. And I prayed over and over during my stay at the Brothers House in Los Angeles "show me more that God's economy is His dispensing and that we need to partake of it in the way of eating and enjoying Him." Prayer at this time brought me a new revival. Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!

Later, I read the message of brother Lee, telling "Changing their diet from Egyptian food to manna is to change their constitution" and I realized that eating was not only to enjoy, but also to change our constitution. Our bodies are constituted with the food we eat. Likewise, if we eat the Lord, we can be constituted with Him. This is so that we can be constituted with Him, match Him and become His bride.

At the national conference last month, Bro. Ed said that service in the God-ordained, biblical way is, simply put, to "contact God and contact people". I must first come to the Lord, touch Him, eat Him, and enjoy Him. Then, I will be filled with Him, constituted with Him, and contact others by Him, with Him, and dispense the Lord into them. Hallelujah, even in service, eating the Lord Jesus is the way! Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!

PrayerOh Lord Jesus, You are the bread of life. You desire that I should eat and enjoy You. I eat You, enjoy You, be constituted with You, and match You to be Your bride.

CP2 The life-giving Spirit is embodied in the Word. Eat the Word daily and receive the life supply. IV "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"(John 6:63)D In order to receive the Lord Jesus as the bread of life, our life supply to nourish us, we need to see that He is the life-giving Spirit and that this Spirit is embodied in the Word. • What the Lord gives us is the Spirit who gives life; this Spirit is the Lord Himself in resurrection. In John 6:63 "the words" follow the Spirit: 1 The Lord indicated that for giving life He would become the Spirit. 2 Then He said that the words He speaks are spirit and life; this indicates that His spoken words are the embodiment of the life-giving Spirit. 3 If we do not touch the Spirit in the Word, we cannot receive life. 4 Daily we need to come to the Lord and touch Him as the Spirit in the Word; if we do this, we will feed on Christ as the bread of life.

First, the Lord indicated that for giving life He would become the Spirit. Then He said that the words He speaks are spirit and life. This shows that His spoken words are the embodiment of the Spirit of life. He is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the Spirit is embodied in His words. When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we receive the Spirit who is life.

The word is outside of us. When I receive the word into me, it immediately becomes the Spirit. When I speak the word out, the Spirit once again becomes the word...When we preach the gospel, we are actually preaching the word. When people believe the gospel, they believe the word. As strange as it may seem, when people receive the word, the word actually becomes the Spirit within them. For example, if you came to the Lord through John 3:16, you might have prayed, "Lord, I thank You that You are so good to me. You have given Your Son to me."...When you believed these words, something within you was quickened and became living...You believed the word, yet you received the Spirit. The word outside of you became the Spirit inside of you... When you listened to the word and received it, you somehow received the Spirit also. This is very mysterious and marvelous.

Application for young people, students, new ones Testimony 1 Recently, I have been singing and enjoying Youth Hymns No. 144. "To eat the tree of life is to enjoy Christ as the life supply. It is the primary matter of church life. Enjoying Christ is the primary matter in the church life." This hymn always reminds me that the important thing in the church life is not doing anything on the outside, but first eating, drinking, and enjoying the Word of God. John.6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Testimony 2 I met Mr. Zhang, a Kobe University student, when I went to the station in early July with brothers and sisters in gospel preaching. He began reading the Bible when he was in the 2nd year of high school and had been to various churches. The brothers and sisters told him the

words of the Bible and exchanged contact information. One day in September, he suddenly sent me an e-mail saying that he was very anxious about something and asked me to pray for him. I immediately sent him the words of the Bible at that time. I also prayed for him with the brothers and sisters. I invited him to a meeting last week and he immediately responded that he would go. I let the brothers and sisters who were praying for him with me know he was coming and asked them to pray that he would be saved. And on the Lord's Day, when he came, we sang hymns first with brothers and sisters, and then we fellowshipped in a small group. He read The Mystery of Human Life with the brothers and was willing to be baptized right away. He sang hymns releasing his spirit, and after being baptized, he prayed out loud himself. I was so moved to see the joyful face of this young person as he received the Word, his spirit was released, and he was filled with joy. May he continue to receive, enjoy and grow in the Word of God every day.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, the words You speak are spirit and life. The life-giving Spirit is embodied in the Word. If I do not come to the Word of the Bible and touch the Spirit in the Word, I will not receive life. As I eat food daily, so day by day I come to you, eat Christ as the bread of life, and am nourished. Eating Christ daily is extremely important for my Christian and church life.

## 神戸に在る教会交わりと報告事項

## 1. 献金の負担:

- a 東京基臨ビルのエアコンの入れ替えの 必要のために神戸からは150万円献金 します。
- **b** 三宮集会所のリフォームに100万円
- c 王子公園学生福音センターの2台エアコン:25万円、椅子:9.2万円、ピアノ5.9万、部屋の鍵4ヶ所設置:12.5万円、その他:1万円、計53.6万円
- d リジョイスガーデン入り口から下の駐車場 まで8か所の道路補修に33万円、入り口 横の石壁の補修11万円、電気温水器の 交換36.7万円、計で80.7万円必要です。
- e <u>合計:384.3万円が余分に必要ですので、</u> 覚えてください。

## 2. 11月のスケジュール:

- 11/1-7 台湾訪問
- 11/9 松下B·宋S結婚集会@京都
- 11/16 Bookフェア@東大阪
- 11/20-25 ニュージーランドのBS神戸訪問
- 11/23 関西·四国·東海BLD集会@魚崎