

12/16-22#3 Entering into the Reality of the New Testament Ministry by Taking, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Our King, Our Lord, Our Head, and Our Husband for the Building Up of the Body of Christ to Consummate the New Jerusalem **CP1** We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our King: **A** The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it. Ezek. 1:22 And over the head of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. 26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it. **2** When there is nothing between us and the Lord and nothing between us and one another, our sky will be crystal clear, and we will have not only a good conscience but also a pure conscience. **B** The throne is the center of the universe, and it is the Lord's ruling presence; the throne in our spirit is actually Christ Himself. 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. **2** To have the throne above a clear sky is to allow God to have the highest and most prominent position in our Christian life; in our spiritual experience, to reach the point of having the throne above a clear sky means that in everything we are completely submissive to God's authority and administration. **Testimony** About a year after I accepted Christ as my Savior and enjoyed salvation, I began to feel an inner prompting to take Him as my King and submit to Him. However, I did not understand God's economy and had no plans to accept the Lord as my King, so I was inwardly opposing the Lord and fighting with Him for the initiative. When I did not accept the Lord as my king but made myself king, I could not concentrate on studying for the national pharmacist examination, and I was helpless and dead. I forgot the experience of relying on the Lord and studying with the Lord for the college entrance examination, which was blessed. As a result, I failed the national examination. As a pharmacy student, and even more so as a graduate student, this was very embarrassing and disastrous. (Eventually, with the Lord's help, I was able to pass the national exam six months later, thank the Lord). This experience made me

reconsider the revelation of the Bible and realize that "actually there are God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom only, and my kingdom is actually Satan's kingdom." And I remembered the following words: John 15:5 "for apart from Me you can do nothing," and Romans 8:6 "the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace." **FN** When our mind is set on the spirit, our outward actions are in agreement with our inner man and there is no discrepancy between us and God. He and we are at peace, not at enmity. The result is that we feel peaceful within. When our mind is set on the flesh and the things of the flesh, the sense of death should serve as a warning to us, urging us to be delivered from the flesh and to live in the spirit.

Since I had no other way to overcome Satan, I began to accept and experience the Lord as my King. At first, however, I failed to enjoy the Lord as my King. Through many failures and the Lord's mercy and grace, I realized that I had to first accept Him as my King and submit to Him in order to let Him reign as a King in me. I prayed, "Oh Lord Jesus, I accept, experience and enjoy You not only as my Savior but also as my King. Satan has become God's enemy because of his pride and rebellion. Here I turn from Satan's craftiness and witness to Satan's opposition. I take the Lord as my life and submit to Him absolutely to reign in life over Satan as the king in God's economy." Romans 5:17 much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

CP2 We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our Head: 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; **A** Our being headed up in Christ rescues us from the heap of the universal collapse in death and darkness, which was caused by the rebellion of the angels and the rebellion of man; the believers participate in Christ's heading up by being willing to be headed up in the church life, by growing in life, and by living under Christ's light. **D** We must ask the Father to strengthen us into the inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts through faith with the power ① that raised Christ from the dead, ② that seated Christ at the right hand of God in the heavenlies, ③ that subjected all things under His

feet, and ④ that gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. 3:16 ...That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, 17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith... **E** God is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think concerning the church as the Body of Christ, according to this fourfold power that operates in us, so that God is glorified in the church.

CP3IV We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our Husband **A**

The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be personal, **B** affectionate, **C** private. S.S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine. 4 Draw me; we will run after you — The king has brought me into his chambers — / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you. **C1**

We must contact the Lord and spend time with Him privately in a secret, definite, and prevailing way, opening our entire being to Him for His enlightening and infusing, so that we can glow with God and shine forth God. **B** We must ask for the counsel of the Lord related to every problem that we encounter; we must bring every matter to the Lord and consider, examine, and determine things before Him and in fellowship with Him. **4** In this respect every believer needs to be weak to the extent that he does not have his own ideas, make his own decisions, or take any action related to what he encounters without contacting the Lord and consulting with Him, allowing Him to make the decisions; this is the sweetest living of a Christian.

Testimony I was saved before I turned 40. At this age, I was no longer being given detailed instructions and suggestions in my work, and it was around this time that my pattern of thinking had solidified. I was also tired of the superficiality and formality of this world and the corrupt human relationships that are all gossip, criticism, division, and sects. However, when I came into the church life, I was very surprised at how wonderful it was. Here, the saints are made up of various ages, genders, nationalities, educational backgrounds, occupations, and ideas, yet they are in fellowship together, harmonized in one accord, enjoying the abundance of the Lord, and pursuing the Lord. This is miraculous compared to what I had experienced before.

I learned a lot and enjoyed the abundance of the Lord

in love in the church life, especially when serving. I was enlightened that even if I pretended on the outside in the church, I had nothing to supply for Begetting, Nourishing, Teaching and Building up, but only weakness and things that disturb people's hearts, so I prayed as follows, "Oh Lord Jesus, I have been enlightened that I have nothing, but I do not have the courage to admit this or even to change myself. Give me the power of the Lord's death and resurrection, transform me with His life, and make me useful for building." Gradually, I began to see the church not in terms of organization or law, but in the joy of making brothers and sisters and children grow in life, and little by little, I came to enjoy and supply them from the perspective of life, not from the perspective of doctrines. I have learned to fellowship with the Lord every time I have a negative problem, and I have come to see the fellowship with the leading brothers as an opportunity to grow in life for the brothers and sisters and myself. In the coordination of serving in the church life, I was able to move forward with the brothers and sisters, open to the Lord and in intimate fellowship with Him, rather than staying in my natural feeling.

CP4IVD The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be spiritual: S.S. 1:4 The king has brought me into his chambers.

1 Christ visits us spiritually because He is the life-giving Spirit in our spirit; our spirit is the Holy of Holies, the chambers of the pneumatic Christ as the Lord of lords and the King of kings. **2** In the book of Ephesians, Paul shows that in order to contact Christ and enjoy Christ for the Body of Christ, we must exercise our spirit. Eph. 6:18 ...praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints, **3** In the book of Romans, Paul stresses that whatever we are, whatever we have, and whatever we do toward God (must be in our spirit. Rom. 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. 7:6 we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, I love You. I take, experience and enjoy You as my husband. You are the life-giving Spirit in my spirit and visiting me spiritually. My spirit is the Holy of Holies and it is a chamber for the pneumatic Christ who is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. For Your Body, I fellowship with You and enjoy You in my spirit intimately.