

Monday 9/20

Related Verses

**Joshua 2:11**

11 When we heard, our hearts melted; and there no longer remained any spirit in any man because of you; for Jehovah your God, He is God in heaven above and upon earth beneath.

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

18 Knowing that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers,

19 But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ;

**Matt. 1:5**

5 And Salmon begot Boaz of Rahab, and Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, and Obed begot Jesse,

**Heb. 11:31**

31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, since she had received the spies with peace.

**Matt. 26:28**

28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**1 John 2:2**

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world.

**1 Peter 2:6-8**

6 For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame."

7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"

8 And, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; who stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

Related Reading

Joshua sent the two spies to spy out the good land, especially Jericho (Josh. 2: 1a). Joshua's real purpose in sending out the spies was to find Rahab.

Rahab believed in the God of Israel (vv. 8-11; Heb. 11: 31a). She told the spies that she knew that Jehovah had

given the land to the people of Israel and that all the inhabitants of the land melted before them. She went on to say that they had heard how Jehovah had dried up the water of the Red Sea before Israel when they came out of Egypt and what they did to the two kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og, whom they utterly destroyed. Then Rahab declared, "Jehovah your God, He is God in heaven above and upon earth beneath" (Josh. 2: 11b). Because of her faith in God, she "did not perish with those who were disobedient" (Heb. 11: 31a). (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 16)

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Rahab was willing to receive the spies, hide them, and deliver them by her acts out of her faith (Josh. 2: 1b-7, 15-16, 22; James 2: 25). Her receiving, hiding, and delivering the spies were acts of faith. This indicates that her faith was active. After receiving the spies, she had good fellowship with them concerning what God intended to do.

The spies told Rahab to hang a line of scarlet thread in the window of her house (Josh. 2: 18). According to their word, "she tied the scarlet line in the window" (v. 21).

The scarlet thread tied in the window of Rahab's house was hung out in the open; it was there for everyone to see. Thus, the scarlet thread tied to the window typifies an open confession of the redeeming blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1: 18-19). Rahab made such an open confession and believed that by this sign she and her household would be delivered.

Eventually Rahab the harlot became one of the excellent, prominent ancestors of Christ. This Canaanite woman married Salmon, a leader of the tribe of Judah, and through her union with this Jewish leader she became a part of Israel and brought forth Boaz, the great-grandfather of David. What an honor it is that Rahab's name is included in the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1! This is a strong sign that the history recorded in Joshua is in line with God's eternal economy concerning Christ. (*Life-study of Joshua*, pp. 17, 15-16)

Now we must pay our full attention to the principles governing our association with Christ. The first principle is that, no matter what our background is, we must turn to God and to God's people. Second, we must marry the proper person, not in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense. After we have turned to God and to God's people, we must be joined, built up, and involved with the proper person. Third, we must bring forth the proper fruit. Then we will be fully in the portion of the birthright of Christ.

It seems that many Christians today have lost their birthright. They do not have Salmon and Boaz. If you would have a Salmon and a Boaz, you must become involved with the proper believers, with the proper leading ones in the leading tribes. Then you need to bring forth the proper fruit, Boaz, who will be a forefather of David. We must turn to the Lord, and we must turn to the Lord's people; we must also take care of how we become involved with others. If we become involved with the proper persons, surely we shall bring forth the proper fruit. This will keep us in the full enjoyment of the birthright of Christ. (*Life-study of Matthew*, p. 31)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 3; *CWWL*, 1953, vol. 1, "Knowing Life and the Church," chs. 16-17

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 6 – Sections: Calling Him The First Time; The Second Time**

Tuesday 9/21

Related Verses

**Joshua 7:6**

6 And Joshua rent his clothes and fell to the ground upon his face before the Ark of Jehovah until the evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust upon their heads.

**2 Cor. 2:10**

10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;

**Gal. 5:25**

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**Josh. 7:12c**

12c I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy that which was devoted to destruction from among you.

**Gen. 5:22**

22 And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot more sons and daughters.

**Heb. 11:5-6**

5 By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated

## Joshua, Judges, Ruth Training – Week 4

Morning Watch

**The Need for God's People to Seek the Lord's Direction and Have the Lord's Presence to Display His Victory for the Building Up of His Body and the Spreading of His Kingdom**

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him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God.

**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.

**John 14:20**

**20** In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

**2 Cor. 4:6-7**

**6** Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

### Related Reading

At Jericho, according to God's economy, Joshua sent out spies, not for fighting but to gain Rahab. In the destruction of Jericho, no fighting was needed. But at Ai, because they lost the presence of the Lord, Joshua sent out spies for fighting (Josh. 7: 2). The spies returned to Joshua and said that because the enemies were few, not all the people needed go up.... Because of their foolishness, pride, and blindness, they despised their enemy. Nevertheless, Joshua received the report from the spies and sent three thousand men of war against Ai. But when Israel was defeated by the people of Ai and thirty-six men were slaughtered, Joshua realized that something was wrong. He then fell to the ground upon his face before the Ark of Jehovah until evening (vv. 6-9). (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 46)

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We all need to learn a lesson from this account. We, the people of God, should always be one with our God. Today, especially in the New Testament, our God is not only among us but also within each one of us. Therefore, every one of us is not a solitary individual, a person alone. On the contrary, we are men with God, God-men.... For this reason, we must realize that whatever we do, wherever we go, and whatever we are should not be by ourselves. We should not act, behave, or do things by ourselves but with God.

The report of the spies to Joshua indicates that Israel had set God aside. They forgot God and knew only themselves. At that time they were not one with God but cared only for themselves. Thus, God stayed away from them, and He said to Joshua, "I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy that which was devoted to destruction from among you" (Josh. 7: 12c). It is a very serious matter for God no longer to be with us.

Israel was separated from God because of their sin. This sin caused them to become foolish. Israel should have asked God what He wanted them to do against Ai. This was the secret for their victory. Joshua should have said to the people, "Do not forget what we experienced at Jericho. We did not fight, but instead we walked with God as one. Let us do the same thing at Ai, walking around the city with the Ark."

The secret of Israel's defeat at Ai was that they lost God's presence and were no longer one with Him. After this defeat, Joshua learned the lesson of staying with the Lord before the Ark. Eventually, the Lord came in to speak to him and to tell him what to do. The principle is the same with us today. If we have God's presence, we have wisdom, insight, foresight, and the inner knowledge concerning things.

As we study the intrinsic significance of this part of Israel's history, we need to learn the secret of walking with the Lord. Today we should not merely follow the Lord but walk with Him, living with Him and having our being with Him. This is the way to walk as a Christian, to fight as a child of God, and to build up the Body of Christ.

We need to remember that we are God-men and to practice being one with the Lord. Concerning this, the Lord Jesus said, "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you" (John 14: 20). This word reveals that we are a people of "ins": we are in Christ and He is in us (15: 4). Therefore, whatever we do should not be done by ourselves but should be done with and by another One. (*Life-study of Joshua*, pp. 46-48)

**Further Reading:** *CWWL*, 1958, vol. 2, "The Building Work of God," ch. 7; *CWWN*, vol. 7, pp. 1143-1144; *CWWL*, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," ch. 15

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 6 – Sections: God's Promise**

*to Abraham; Appearing to Him the Third Time; Saving Him from Pharaoh's Insulting of His Wife; Promising to Give Him and His Seed All the Land That He Saw*

**Wednesday 9/22**

### Related Verses

**Exodus 33:14**

**14** And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

**Psa. 27:8**

**8** When You say, Seek My face, To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.

**Matt. 1:23**

**23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).

**2 Tim. 4:22**

**22** The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

**Psa. 27:4, 8**

**4** One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

**8** When You say, Seek My face, To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.

**Psa. 105:4**

**4** Seek Jehovah and His strength; Seek His face continually.

**Jer. 29:12-13**

**12** Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you;

**13** And you will seek Me and find Me if you search for Me with all your heart;

**Luke 10:39, 42**

**39** And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word.

**42** But there is need of one thing, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

**2 Cor. 3:18**

**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.

Related Reading

In my youth I was taught various ways to overcome, to be victorious, to be holy, and to be spiritual. However, not any of these ways worked. Eventually, through more than sixty-eight years of experience, I have found out that nothing works but the Lord's presence. His being with us is everything. (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 48)

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If we would go on to possess the land, we must do so by the presence of the Lord. If the presence of the Lord goes with us, we can enter and enjoy the land. You remember how the Lord promised Moses, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exo. 33: 14). This means that He would bring the people into the possession of the land by His presence. So Moses said to the Lord, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here" (v. 15). Moses demanded that the Lord's presence must go with them; otherwise, he would not go.

One time, four or five of us who were serving the Lord together were going to a certain place.... One brother at that time, however, was not happy with us, yet he had no choice but to go. We all traveled on the same train: all but this one brother sat in car number one, and he sat by himself in car number two.... He left with us, he traveled with us, and he arrived with us, but his presence was not with us.

Some Christian workers have said to me, "... Do you not believe that the Lord has blessed us?" "Undoubtedly," I have answered, "the Lord has helped you and blessed you, but let us be silent for a little while before the Lord." After a while I have asked, "Brother, do you feel in your deepest sense that you have the presence of the Lord with you? I know that you have done something for the Lord; I know that the Lord has helped you and blessed you. But I wish to know, in the innermost part of your being, do you feel that the Lord is so present with you? Do you always sense His face smiling upon you, and has the very smile of the Lord entered into you?"... Eventually, such brothers have said, "I must tell you, for some time I have lost my fellowship with the Lord." Then I asked, "Brother,... are you governed by the help of the Lord or by His presence? Are you governed by His blessing or by His smile?"

Although it may be with tears in our eyes, we must say day by day, "Lord, nothing but Your smiling presence will

satisfy me. I do not want anything but the smile of Your glorious face. As long as I have this, I care not whether the heaven comes down or the earth falls apart. The whole world may rise against me, but as long as I have Your smile upon me, I can praise You, and everything is well." The Lord said, "My presence shall go with you." What a treasure! The presence, the smile, of the Lord is the governing principle. We must be fearful of receiving anything from the Lord yet losing His presence.... The Lord Himself may very well give you something, and yet that very thing will rob you of His presence.... We must learn to be kept, to be ruled, to be governed, to be guided simply by the presence of the Lord.... We do not want His presence secondhand.... Try to be governed by the direct, firsthand presence of the Lord.

This is not only a requirement and a qualification but also a power for you to go on to possess the land. The firsthand presence of the Lord will strengthen you with might to obtain the fullness, the all-inclusiveness of Christ. What a strength, what a power, is in the direct presence of the Lord! (*CWWL, 1961-1962*, vol. 4, "The All-inclusive Christ," pp. 294-296)

**Further Reading:** *CWWL, 1961-1962*, vol. 4, "The All-inclusive Christ," ch. 11; *Life-study of Exodus*, msgs. 175-177

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 6 – Sections: The Priest of God,; Speaking in a Vision to Abraham That He Was His Shield and His Exceedingly Great Reward**

Thursday 9/23

Related Verses

**Matt. 6:6**

**6** But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

**John 4:23-24**

**23** But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

**24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**Matt 6:3-4**

**3** But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

**4** So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

**1 Cor 2:9-10**

**9** But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**10** But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

**1 Sam 16:7**

**7** But Jehovah said to Samuel, Do not regard his appearance and the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For it is not how man sees that matters; for man looks on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looks on the heart.

**1 Thes. 5:17-18**

**17** Unceasingly pray,

**18** In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Related Reading

In Joshua 6 the children of Israel gained the victory over Jericho, but in fighting against Ai they were defeated. Because Achan kept a Babylonian garment (7: 21), God's people suffered a defeat. Anything that is Babylonian gives Satan the ground to defeat the people of God. Therefore, we must forsake everything Babylonian. If we would serve God as His pure people, we first need to have a thorough clearance of all Babylonian things. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, p. 180)

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When the Israelites entered into the land of Canaan, the first person to commit sin was Achan. What was the sin which Achan committed? He said, "When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle of Shinar,... I coveted them and took them" (Josh. 7: 21). A Babylonian garment seduced Achan to commit sin.... A beautiful garment is worn for the sake of appearance. When one puts on a beautiful garment, it means that he adorns himself to improve his appearance and to add a little luster to himself. Achan's coveting of the Babylonian garment meant that he was

seeking to improve himself, to make himself look better. This was Achan's sin.

Who were the first ones to commit sin in the New Testament, after the church began? The Scriptures reveal that they were Ananias and Sapphira. What was the sin that they committed? They lied to the Holy Spirit. They did not love the Lord very much, but they wanted to be looked upon as those who greatly loved the Lord. They were just pretending. They were not willing to offer everything cheerfully to God. Before man, however, they acted as if they had offered all. This is the Babylonian garment.

The principle of Babylon, therefore, is hypocrisy. There is no reality, yet people act as if there is in order to obtain glory from man. Here is a real danger to God's children—pretending to be spiritual. There is a great deal of spiritual behavior which is acted out in falsehood.... Many long prayers are counterfeit; many prayerful tones are unreal. There is no reality, but it is made to appear as if there is. This is the principle of Babylon. Whenever we put on a garment which does not match our actual condition, we are in the principle of Babylon.

God's children do not know how much falsehood they have put on in order to receive glory from man. This is entirely opposite from the attitude of the bride. Everything done in falsehood is done in the principle of the harlot, not in the principle of the bride. It is a great matter for God's children to be delivered from pretending before man. The principle of Babylon is to pretend in order to receive glory from man. If we set our sight upon man's glory and man's position in the church, we are participating in the sin of the Babylonian garment and the sin committed by Ananias and Sapphira. False consecration is sin, and false spirituality is also sin. True worship is in spirit and truthfulness.

God hates the principle of Babylon more than anything else. We must note in His presence how much of our being is still not absolute for Him. Anything which is halfway and not absolute is called Babylon. We need God to enlighten us so that in His light we may judge everything in us which is not absolute toward Him. Only when we judge ourselves in this way can we confess that we too hate the principle of Babylon. By His grace, may the Lord not allow us to seek any glory and honor outside of Christ. (CWWN, vol. 34, "The Glorious Church," pp. 102-103, 105-106)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Isaiah*, msg. 26; CWWN, vol. 34, "The Glorious Church," ch. 5

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 6 – Sections:** *Not Speaking to Abraham for Thirteen Years; Appearing the Seventh Time to Abraham When He Was Ninety-nine Years Old; Appearing the Eighth Time to Him by the Oaks of Mamre*

Friday 9/24

Related Verses

**Joshua 9:14**

14 And the men took some of their provisions, but they did not ask for the counsel of Jehovah.

**2 Cor. 11:2**

2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**John 3:29**

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

**Hosea 2:19-20**

19 And I will betroth you to Myself forever; Indeed I will betroth you to Myself In righteousness and justice And in lovingkindness and compassions;

20 Indeed I will betroth you to Myself in faithfulness, And you will know Jehovah.

**Rev. 19:7**

7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

**Rev. 21:2**

2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Rev. 22:17a**

17a And the Spirit and the bride say, Come!

Related Reading

To study the Old Testament histories and prophecies we need a full scope, a full view, of the entire Scriptures concerning God's economy for Christ and the church,

which consummates in the New Jerusalem. My burden in this message is to apply this principle to Joshua 9 so that we may see the intrinsic significance of this chapter.... The children of Israel were deceived by the Gibeonites... because they were like a wife who forgot her husband. What they did here was exactly the same as what Eve did in Genesis 3. The subtle serpent wanted to tempt, to seduce, Adam, yet he did not dare to go to him directly. Instead, Satan went to Adam's counterpart, a female, because he knows that it is easier to deceive a female (2 Cor. 11: 3; 1 Tim. 2: 14). (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 53)

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The Bible is the record of a romance, in the most pure and holy sense, of a universal couple. The male of this couple is God Himself, and the female is God's redeemed people as a corporate being. The Bible shows us that we, as God's elect, are His wife and that between Him and us there must be a marriage union based upon mutual love. The universe, therefore, is a wedding place, the place where the Husband, the processed and consummated Triune God, is being joined in marriage to the redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, transformed, and glorified tripartite man. The Husband is triune and the wife is tripartite, and thus they match each other very well to live together as the unique couple in the entire universe.

This divine romance is revealed repeatedly throughout the Bible. After man fell, God selected one man, Abraham. This one with all of his descendants, both Jewish and Gentile, became God's wife. In the Old Testament God often refers to Himself as the Husband and to His people as the wife (Isa. 54: 5...). Eventually, the Bible ends with the New Jerusalem as the ultimate consummation of God's elect in the new heaven and new earth, as the universal wife for eternity (Rev. 21: 9-10).

There were some "bridal days" [Jer. 2: 2], a period of time in which God "courted" Israel. By the time God had brought Israel out of Egypt to Sinai, surely she had "fallen in love" with this universal Man, this unique Hero. Whatever Israel wanted, He could do. What they needed, He had. He had the wisdom, the capacity, the ability, the strength, the might, the power, and the authority to do everything.... I believe that when Israel arrived at Sinai they made a definite determination to "marry" this One.

A wife should never leave her husband. Rather, she should always rely upon him and be one with him. If Eve

had kept this principle when Satan came to seduce her, she would have run away to her husband. That would have been her protection, her safeguard.

Suppose I am a wife and a poor woman comes to me asking for some help. As a wife, should I do something directly, on my own, for this poor woman? Since this seems to be an insignificant matter, I might just give her a little money or some bread without asking my husband about it. This is what happened in Joshua 9. The Gibeonites came to Israel like a poor woman coming to a rich lady from a strong, high-ranking family. Israel, the wife, should have gone to her Husband and checked with Him. But Israel “did not ask for the counsel of Jehovah” (v. 14). Instead, Israel was deceived by the Gibeonites and made a covenant with them. Once the people of Israel had made this covenant, swearing to the Gibeonites by the name of Jehovah, the covenant could not be altered, and the Israelites could not touch the Gibeonites. (*Life-study of Joshua*, pp. 53-55)

**Further Reading:** *CWWL*, 1959, vol. 3, “Lessons for New Believers,” ch. 21

**Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 6 – Sections:** *Saving His Wife from Abimelech, King of Gerar; Giving Him Isaac and Casting Out Ishmael; Speaking to Him the Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Times; Blessing Him and Leading His Old Servant to Secure Rebekah as Wife to His Son Isaac*

Saturday 9/25

Related Verses

**Phil. 4:6-7**

6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

**2 Cor. 12:9-10**

9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.

**Psa. 62:8**

8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge to us. Selah

**Prov. 3:5-6**

5 Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And do not rely on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

**Jer. 17:7-8**

7 Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah And whose trust Jehovah is.

8 And he will be like a tree transplanted beside water, Which sends out its roots by a stream, And will not be afraid when heat comes; For its leaves remain flourishing, And it will not be anxious in the year of drought And will not cease to bear fruit.

**1 Cor. 1:9**

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Related Reading

The real married life is when the wife is co-living with her husband, always one with him.... However, this dear wife, Israel, never learned to be habitual in this matter. At Ai they suffered a defeat and learned the lesson to be one with the Lord, but they did not learn it fully.... Whereas the people of Ai fought against Israel strongly, [in Joshua 9] the Gibeonites came to them begging to be their servants. The result was that Israel, this independent, individualistic wife, was deceived. She had no protection, no safeguard. From this chapter we need to learn that, as the Lord's wife, we should be one with Him all the time. This is the intrinsic significance of Joshua 9. (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 55)

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A normal Christian life is a life of fellowship. This means that we cannot be separated from God; we cannot be independent from God. From the day of our salvation... we should no longer be independent.

We usually pay attention to whether something is right or wrong or good or bad, but these are moral concepts.... Our concept in God's salvation should not be morality or

religion; it should be fellowship.... In doing something,... we must ask whether we did it independently from God or in fellowship with God. Therefore, a life of fellowship means that we have fellowship with God, are connected to Him, and have a mutual flow with Him in everything. We should not focus on doing things that are right, good, or godly. Rather, we should focus on whether we are joined to God, connected to Him, and in a mutual flow with Him when doing things that are right, good, or godly. We should focus on not being separated from God.

Before a person is saved, he may be the most independent person on earth.... But once this great and capable person is saved, he becomes a dependent person. Without God he cannot live, make decisions, or have an opinion. Previously, he had his own point of view, method, and insight concerning everything. But from the day he becomes a Christian, he is changed and can no longer decide things on his own or be independent. He feels that he needs to contact and consult God related to every problem he encounters, that is, to bring every matter to the Lord and to consider, examine, and determine things before Him. This believer is the best type of Christian. In this respect, every Christian needs to be weak to the extent that he neither has his own ideas, nor makes his own decisions, nor takes any action related to what he encounters without contacting the Lord and consulting with Him, allowing Him to make the decisions. This is the best and sweetest living of a Christian.

We need to realize that every descendant of Adam, every fallen man, is very strong and independent. This applies both to men and women and to the elderly and children. We can all find a way out of any situation and cope with problems on our own.... Therefore, one of the consequences of being saved is that strong, independent persons such as ourselves become weak and are no longer strong or independent. We feel that we have no alternative but to fellowship with God in all things, discuss all things with Him, and allow Him to handle all things, speak in all things, and make every decision.... We feel that we cannot do anything without Him. Therefore, we depend on Him and rely on Him.... Today it is shameful for someone to be referred to as a dependent person; rather, it is considered an honor to be self-supporting and independent. However, for a Christian... it is glorious... to be dependent.... We depend on another One—God—at every moment and in

## Joshua, Judges, Ruth Training – Week 4

Morning Watch

**The Need for God's People to Seek the Lord's Direction and Have the Lord's Presence to Display His Victory for the Building Up of His Body and the Spreading of His Kingdom**

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every matter. (*CWWL*, 1959, vol. 3, "Lessons for New Believers," pp. 282-284)

**Further Reading:** *CWWL*, 1994-1997, vol. 3, "The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation," ch. 4

### Hymns, #792

- 1 Waiting on Thee, Lord, waiting on Thee;  
Let me now rest in Thee;  
Make Thy will clear to me,  
This is my earnest plea-  
Waiting on Thee, waiting on Thee.
- 2 Waiting on Thee, Lord, waiting on Thee;  
While here with Thee I stay,  
Show me Thy glorious way,  
Ever by Thee to pray-  
Waiting on Thee, waiting on Thee.
- 3 Waiting on Thee, Lord, waiting on Thee;  
Mingle Thyself with me,  
Till truly one with Thee  
Thine image I will be-  
Waiting on Thee, waiting on Thee.
- 4 Waiting on Thee, Lord, waiting on Thee;  
Make me Thy will to know,  
Help me Thy way to go,  
That life thru me may flow-  
Waiting on Thee, waiting on Thee.
- 5 Waiting on Thee, Lord, waiting on Thee;  
Make all my prayer to Thee  
Thyself expressed thru me,  
Give me Thy secret key-  
Waiting on Thee, waiting on Thee.

35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

38 This is the great and first commandment.

**Jer. 2:2**

2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says Jehovah: I remember concerning you the kindness of your youth, The love of your bridal days, When you followed after Me in the wilderness, In a land that was not sown.

**Jer. 31:32**

32 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by their hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, declares Jehovah.

**Ezek. 16:8**

8 Then I passed by you and saw you; and then was your time a time of love. And I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness; indeed I swore unto you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord Jehovah, and you became Mine.

**John 14:21, 23**

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

### **Further Reading**

*Life-study of Isaiah*, msg. 26

*Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 3

*CWWL*, 1958, vol. 2, "The Building Work of God," chp. 7

*CWWL*, 1961-1962, vol. 4, "The All-Inclusive Christ," chp. 11

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### Related Verses

**Matt. 22:35-38**