

Joshua, Judges, Ruth Training – Week 12

Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery

according to the divine regulation....Samson had power by taking God as his Head, which is according to regulation, not according to life. Because he had nothing of life, he did not know how to restrain the lust in his flesh....The matter of sex was a big stumbling block to Samson. He had no restriction in his indulgence and indulged himself wherever he went. (*CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, p. 71)

Samson was the last judge in the book of Judges. Being last indicates the conclusion and consummation. The entire situation of the judges consummated in power without life. This is deplorable. It is difficult to explain how a Nazarite under God's headship, one who was full of submission in being separated for and unto God and full of the divine power, could also be full of the indulgence of lust. Everywhere and with everyone he was powerful and at the same time fleshly in his fornication....Although some of the Pentecostal preachers whom I saw in China were powerful, many were also reckless, without regulation, restraint, or control.

[Some] persons preached the true, living God and Christ as the Son of God becoming a man to be our Savior. Their preaching was fundamental and right, but they were living in fornication. These preachers may be considered today's Samsons. Judges tells us that the Spirit of Jehovah moved Samson (13:25), and the other judges likewise were powerful....Although they were powerful, they too indulged their lust without shame, care, or restriction.

After the dark and black situation in Judges, there is the short book of Ruth, which is bright, white, and shining. Ruth deals with life, not power. Although Elimelech did not commit sin, he was chastised by God for leaving the Holy Land and moving to Moab, because by doing so, he did not live a life according to God's eternal economy....God chastised him and his sons, leaving his wife and two daughters-in-law as widows without children (Ruth 1:1-5). Naomi did not rebel against God but instead acknowledged Him as the One who stripped her of her husband and sons (vv. 20-21).

Only life can maintain the lineage to bring God into humanity for the ministering of Christ as the supply to the entire human race. Neither Samson nor Gideon nor the other judges were qualified to do this. In the past I encouraged the saints to gain the increase, but I did not intend that anyone do it as a Samson or a Gideon by not

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caring for life. It would be better not to have the increase, to seem to be powerless and without the success of a work, yet to be part of the lineage that brings Christ from eternity into time. (*CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, pp. 71-74)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1955, vol. 4, "Further Talks on the Knowledge of Life," chs. 1-2, 4, 7, 10; *CWWL*, 1963, vol. 1, "The Enjoyment of Christ for His Increase," ch. 1

Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 12 – Sections: *Quenching Them with the Living Water; Defeating the Amalekites; Establishing Them as a Kingdom with Authorities*

Tuesday 11/16

Related Verses

Ruth 1:16

16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Matt. 1:18

18 Now the origin of Jesus Christ was in this way: His mother, Mary, after she had been engaged to Joseph, before they came together, was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit.

Zech. 4:6

6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

John 1:4

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

2 Cor. 3:6

6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Rev. 22:1

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.

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Monday 11/15

Related Verses

Judg. 13:25

25 And the Spirit of Jehovah began to move him at Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Rom. 8:2, 9-10

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Gen. 1:26

26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

John 20:22

22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Col. 3:4

4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Related Reading

The three books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth present a clear picture of the two aspects of God's move: His move in His economical Spirit, the Spirit of power, and His move in His essential Spirit, the Spirit of life.

In Joshua and Judges it is difficult to see God's move in life. With Joshua, Caleb, and all the judges we see the move of God in power. Samson is a typical illustration of this. He was powerful in his life and even more powerful in his death, which was a suicide. We see nothing of life in him. That he was a Nazarite indicates that he submitted himself under God's headship, not cutting his hair, eating unclean food, or drinking wine (Judg. 13:5-7). These may seem to be aspects of life, but they are actually only

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Rom. 8:4-5

4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

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.

Related Reading

Before going to Moab, Elimelech sold all his property. This left Naomi, a widow with two widowed daughters-in-law, empty-handed, not having any portion of land. As a godly woman, she returned to the Holy Land, that is, to the rest in God's economy, to participate again in the enjoyment of the God-promised land and to become related to Christ's genealogy. Although her returning was a great matter, it was not accomplished by power. Naomi believed in God, feared God, and regarded God, but she was simply like a beggar. For this reason Ruth, her daughter-in-law, went gleaned....Ruth was a poor beggar, depending upon others' mercy. To be sure, there was no power in this. Nevertheless, Ruth was very much in the line of life. (*CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, p. 73)

Naomi told Ruth that she had no more capacity to produce a husband to redeem her and bring forth a descendant of Elimelech, and she advised Ruth to return to her own parents. Ruth's reply was full of life. She told Naomi that she would return with her in poverty [cf. Ruth 1:16]....What Ruth did was in the spirit of the New Testament believers. The Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to forsake parents, children, relatives, houses, and all things and come to Him empty-handed (Matt. 19:29; Luke 14:26).

Besides Naomi and Ruth, the book of Ruth also has Boaz. The two widows were poor, and Boaz was rich, but all three were persons fully in life. Boaz altogether restrained, constrained, and controlled his lust. Naomi instructed Ruth, "Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes; and go down to the threshing floor. But do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. And when he lies down, notice the place where he lies, and go and uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what you should do" (3:3-4). Without the proper restriction and

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control, no man could endure such a temptation. Upon waking up at midnight, Boaz found a woman lying at his feet (v. 8). Ruth said to him, "I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for you are a kinsman" (v. 9). Boaz was not moved in his lust but instead addressed her as "daughter" (vv. 10-11), and he acknowledged that as her kinsman, and according to God's ordinance, he had not only the right but also the responsibility to redeem the possession that was her father-in-law's and her husband's. Moreover, he agreed to marry her. This man had the highest standard of life.

Today in the Lord's recovery we do not take the way of the judges to be powerful and to do a great work....None of the judges became a forefather of Christ....Rather, it was one couple, Ruth and Boaz, who did this (Matt. 1:5). They did not fight a war or exercise power. Although Boaz was rich, he was still a farmer who slept with the sheaves of grain in the field during harvest. Even when a young woman offered herself to him, he told her, "My daughter,...there is a kinsman closer than I. Stay for the night; and in the morning if he will do the kinsman's duty, fine; let him do it. But if he is not willing to do the kinsman's duty for you, I will do it for you, as Jehovah lives. Lie down until morning" (Ruth 3:11-13). Boaz knew that if he did not care for the closer kinsman, the holy society of God would condemn Ruth for overstepping. This shows how lawful Boaz was. This was not related to power; it was altogether based on life. (*CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, pp. 73-74)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ruth*, msgs. 2, 5, 8; *CWWL*, 1953, vol. 3, "The Knowledge of Life," chs. 1-2, 5

Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 12 – Sections: *Bringing Them To Himself At Mount Sinai; Making Them His Own Personal Treasure; Exposing Them by Giving Them the Law as His Testimony; Revealing to Them the Way to Partake of the Triune God; To Get Them Washed from the Dirt of the Earth in the Laver*

Wednesday 11/17

Related Verses

2 Cor. 11:3

3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Rom. 8:6

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Gen 2:9, 16-17

9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Prov. 16:25

25 There is a way which seems right to a man, But the end of it is the ways of death.

Deut. 30:16, 19-20a

16 If you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you today, to love Jehovah your God and walk in His ways and keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, then you will live and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,

20a In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life

1 John 5:11-12

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 Cor. 12:7, 13

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable.

Morning Watch

13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Related Reading

[In 2 Corinthians 11:3] the apostle Paul indicates that the teachings of the Judaizers can be compared to the deceitful word spoken by the serpent to Eve in Genesis 3. In other words, Paul likens the activities of the Judaizers to the serpent’s work on Eve. From reading Genesis 3 we know that the serpent distracted Eve from the enjoyment of the tree of life. The way he turned her away from the enjoyment of the tree of life was to point her to another tree, to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which issues in death.

The tree of life is simple. With this tree, there is just one element, and that element is life. The tree of life issues in life. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the contrary, is complicated and also complicating. With this tree, we have good, evil, knowledge, and death.

The Bible as a whole is a development of these two trees. The tree of life signifies God in Christ as the Spirit to be life to us. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as death. Satan is the power of death. The tree of knowledge of good and evil signifying Satan as death includes knowledge, good, and evil. The serpent distracted Eve from the tree of life by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with its complications. (*Life-study of 2 Corinthians*, pp. 465-466)

The proper understanding of death is that it denotes separation from the enjoyment of God. This means that if we do not have the enjoyment of God, we are in death. Likewise, if we are separated from the enjoyment of God, we shall die....In Romans 8:6 death is separation from the enjoyment of God. Life is the opposite, for it is the enjoyment of God. When we have the enjoyment of God, there is no separation between us and God, we are in life, and life operates in us.

In distracting the believers from the tree of life, Satan seeks to separate us from the enjoyment of God as our life. For centuries the subtle serpent has been using teachings to keep God’s chosen people from enjoying Him as their life. For the most part, these teachings are related to

knowledge, good, and evil. But such teachings result in separation from God.

The best way to discern a matter is to discern according to life or death. We need to ask questions like this: Does this teaching help me to enjoy the Lord more and bring me into life, or does it cause the poison of death to be injected into me? You may find that if you accept a certain kind of teaching or preaching, taking it into you, immediately your inward enjoyment of the Lord is cut off. Some things function like insulation that stops the flowing of the divine electricity. Therefore, we must learn to discern, to differentiate, matters by life and death.

Thank the Lord for the secret of real discernment. This secret is to discern a preaching or teaching by whether or not it helps us to enjoy the Lord and gain more life supply. If anyone’s preaching cuts us off from the enjoyment of the Lord, that preaching must be of the serpent, of Satan....Many of those who have left the Lord’s recovery have neither the life supply nor the enjoyment. This is an indication that they have taken in something that is not of the Lord.

The genuine ministry of the Lord always strengthens us in the enjoyment of Him as our life supply.

Anything that cuts you off from the enjoyment of the Lord is of the serpent. But anything that causes your enjoyment of the Lord to increase is of the Spirit and of the New Testament ministry. (*Life-study of 2 Corinthians*, pp. 468-470)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1988, vol. 3, “Our Urgent Need—Spirit and Life,” chs. 2-3; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msgs. 8, 41

Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 12 – Sections: *To Get Them Redeemed from Their Sins through the Offerings; To Enter into the Tabernacle as the Dwelling of the Triune God on Earth; To Feed on the Table of the Bread of the Presence; To Be Enlightened by the Lampstand; To Be Accepted by God in Prayer*

Thursday 11/18

Related Verses

Matt. 7:13-14

13 Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Psa. 16:11

11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

1 Cor. 3:12-16

12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

13 The work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare it, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built upon the foundation remains, he will receive a reward;

15 If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Cor. 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Related Reading

Who can enter through the narrow gate spoken of in Matthew 7:13? Only the kingdom people with the nature described in the nine blessings in chapter 5. Those who enter the narrow gate must be poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, making peace with all men, willing to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness, and willing to be reproached for Christ. Only those with such a nature can enter through the narrow gate. Furthermore, those who enter through this narrow gate must be under the higher laws of the kingdom, the complemented and changed laws, and they should not have any anxiety concerning their living. Rather, they must have the confidence that their heavenly Father is taking care of them. Moreover, they should not be lazy or idle, but diligent and industrious.

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free. Nevertheless, we still have the limitations, restrictions, and constrictions.

Life in Matthew 7:14 refers to the ever-blessed condition of the kingdom, which is filled with the eternal life of God. This life is in the reality of the kingdom today and will be in the manifestation of the kingdom in the coming age (19:29; Luke 18:30). In the Lord's recovery today we are taking the constricted way which leads to life. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 298-299, 301)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1979, vol. 1, "Basic Lessons on Life," lsns. 3, 7-8, 11-15; *CWWL*, 1981, vol. 1, "God's Eternal Intention and Satan's Counterplot," chs. 2-3

Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 12 – Sections: To Meet God through the Propitiatory Blood on the Propitiation Cover of the Ark

Friday 11/19

Related Verses

Matt. 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

John 11:10, 25

10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.

25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Eph. 1:19-23

19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

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Eph. 4:15-16

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Heb. 2:14-15

14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

15 And might release those who because of the fear of death through all their life were held in slavery.

Related Reading

Christ is the resurrection and the life. Since the church is the vessel of Christ on earth, it should express this life and resurrection. God intends for the church to manifest the life of Christ. Hence, the church must be full of life. In the church everything that issues from God is life, and everything that issues from Satan is death.

The main goal of the Lord coming to earth is for man to have life (John 10:10), that is, for man to receive God's life....God's Christ is life, and God's Christ is resurrection, and the church is the vessel of this life and resurrection....Through the church—the vessel of Christ—God dispenses His life and riches to men. (*CWWN*, vol. 44, pp. 881-882)

Satan is God's rival. He attacks everything that God wants to do. Since God's goal today is the church, Satan's attacks are directed specifically against the church. Satan does not necessarily stumble Christians or the church with the enticement of sin or the world, because these things are too obvious. While we may be free from sin and not love the world, we can still be under Satan's attacks....Dealing with sin and the world alone is not enough to stop the attacks of Satan. The ultimate weapon Satan uses to attack the church is death. Death is not easily identifiable; it can creep secretly into the church. This does not mean that Satan will not use the world and sin to attack the church. It means that Satan can use refined and moral things, not just filthy and treacherous sins to attack Christians. Many

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These are the people who enter through the narrow gate and walk on the constricted way. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 297-298)

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The gate is narrow and the way is constricted because the new law of the kingdom is stricter and the demand...is higher....It deals not only with outward conduct, but also with inward motive. The old man, the self, the flesh, the human concept, and the world with its glory are all excluded. Only that which corresponds to God's will can enter in....To enter the gate is simply to begin walking on the way, a way which is lifelong.

We all are happy to be in the Lord's recovery and appreciate the recovery very much....As one in the Lord's recovery, are you walking on the constricted way? We all must be able to say that we are not taking the way of Christianity, but the way of constriction....Those in Christianity can use rock music or other worldly methods in their services, but we cannot....All young people desire to be free,...to put off all restriction. When [they] graduate from high school, they are like caged birds wanting to be free. However, many are so free that they have no constriction, no restriction. We in the Lord's recovery, on the contrary, are taking a constricted way....We in the Lord's recovery must walk in our spirit. Living in spirit and walking in spirit restrict us. Even when we are loving, rejoicing, and happy, we must be under restriction. We must not be like those who throw off all restraint in their excitement. Rather, we must be excited within the limit of the spirit. This must even be true in the meetings. Although we may fully release our spirit, we should be restricted as far as physical activity is concerned. In everything, we need to take the constricted way, not the broad way.

We must take the constricted way in our fellowship with the brothers. Do you intend to praise a brother? You must praise him in a constricted way. Are you about to rebuke a brother? You must rebuke him in a constricted way. Are you having fellowship with some brothers? This is excellent, but you must fellowship with them in a constricted way. Sometimes when you are having fellowship, you forget all limitation. You go on hour after hour without taking care of the need for food or rest. Furthermore, in your fellowship you talk...about everyone without any restriction. Praise the Lord that we are truly

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refined and moral things are filled with death, and Satan can easily utilize these deadly things to attack the church.

Matthew 16:18 says that the foundation of the Lord's church is Christ the Rock, and the gates of Hades cannot prevail against this church. Hades is death. If the church has its roots in heaven, it will be impossible to cut it off from heaven, because...its roots are entrenched and death cannot prevail against it. The only reason that death cannot prevail over the church is that the church is built upon Christ the Rock....Many Christians...know whether or not a sermon is well-delivered. But it is hard for them to distinguish between death and resurrection. But if the church is built on Christ the Rock, it will distinguish between death and life, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Romans 8:10 corresponds with John 12:25. Romans 8:10 is on the body and the spirit, while John 12 is on the soul, both the preserving and the losing of the soul. In both cases the end result is related to death and resurrection. Everything that issues from the body or from the soul results in death, which is Hades, whereas everything that issues from the spirit results in life....A Christian should not ask whether a thing is good or evil but should ask from where a thing originates. Does it originate from the natural life, the flesh, the soul, or does it originate from the spirit? Of all the things that a Christian possesses, only those that originate from the spirit are of life, and only they can give others life. Nothing else—no matter how good, profitable, or nice—gives life.

The church needs life, the resurrection life of Christ. No doctrine, idea, theology, or exposition can replace the life of Christ. Only the life of Christ and that which issues from it will prevail against the gates of Hades. Everything else is just disguised forms of death and cannot withstand the attacks of Satan. May the Lord be merciful to us, and may He keep us from touching death or bringing death into the church. May God fill the church with life, and may Satan find no opening to attack the church. (CWWN, vol. 44, pp. 882-885)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1965, vol. 2, "The Tree of Life," chs. 1-10, 14, 16; *CWWL*, 1964, vol. 4, "Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life," ch. 5

No Corporate Reading today

Saturday 11/20

Related Verses

1 John 3:14

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

John 5:24

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

John 13:34

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 3:11, 16, 18, 23-24

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak that which we know and testify of that which we have seen, and yet you do not receive our testimony.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

18 He who believes into Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.

23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized;

24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

1 Pet. 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,

Rom. 12:9-10

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

Rom. 13:8

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves the other has fulfilled the law.

Related Reading

Death is of the devil, God's enemy Satan, signified by the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which brings death. Life is of God, the source of life, signified by the tree of life, which issues in life (Gen. 2:9, 16-17). Death and life are not only of these two sources, Satan and God; they are also two essences, two elements, and two spheres. To pass out of death is to pass out of the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of death into the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of life. This took place in us at our regeneration. We know (*oida*) this, we have the inner consciousness of this, because we love the brothers. Love (*agape*—the love of God) toward the brothers is a strong evidence of this. Faith in the Lord is the way for us to pass out of death into life; love toward the brothers is the evidence that we have passed out of death into life. To have faith is to receive the eternal life; to love is to live by the eternal life and express it.

Not loving the brothers is evidence of not living by the essence and element of the divine life and not remaining in its sphere. It is living in the essence and element of the satanic death and abiding in its sphere. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 236-237)

Through regeneration we have passed out of the source, essence, element, and sphere of death into the source, essence, element, and sphere of life....First we have the source. Then out of the source comes the essence. The essence forms an element, and eventually this element becomes a sphere. Therefore, regarding life, we first have the source of life. Out of this source of life comes the essence of life. The essence forms the element of life, and this element of life then becomes the sphere of life.

We may use a fountain to illustrate the difference between the source of life, the essence of life, the element of life, and the sphere of life. Water flows out of a fountain and becomes a river. The fountain is the source. We may say that H₂O is the essence of what comes out of the fountain. This essence then takes the form of water, and the flowing water becomes a river. Here we have the fountain as the source, the H₂O as the essence, the water as the element, and the river as the sphere. Therefore, in the sphere of the river we have the water as the element,

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and the essence of this element is H₂O. The source of it all is the fountain.

As children of God, we have received the divine life from God. God is the source, the fountain, of the divine life. The essence of the divine life is the very being of God. Hence, God's being, His essence, is the essence of the spiritual water we have received as the divine life. This life also is an element by which and in which we can live. When we live in the element of the divine life, the divine life becomes the sphere of our living. Now we are living in the sphere of the divine life, possessing the element of the divine life, and enjoying the essence of the divine life. Furthermore, as we enjoy the essence of the divine life, we are organically joined to God as the source of this life. This is the reason we say that with the divine life we have the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere.

The principle is the same with death....We were living in the sphere of death, possessing the element of death, and suffering the essence of death. Moreover, we were joined to Satan, the source of death. Therefore, before regeneration, we were experiencing and suffering the source, essence, element, and sphere of death. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 245-246)

Further Reading: *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Joshua Judges Ruth - Week 12, Day 6*

Hymns, #733

- 1 In Eden's garden fair we see
That God before two trees placed man,
The trees of life, and knowledge too,
Which for the Lord and Satan stand.
- 2 The tree of life the center is
Of God's eternal, perfect plan,
Denoting God in Christ as life
To be received as all by man.
- 3 The tree of knowledge standing there,
Bespeaks a sure and warning voice:
Outside of God there is a source
Of death to all who make this choice.
- 4 If man would eat the tree of life,

Joshua, Judges, Ruth Training – Week 12

Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery

- Then God as life he will receive,
And be transformed to precious stones,
God's will and Purpose to achieve.
- 5 If man the tree of knowledge takes,
Then Satan enters into man
As sin, which brings him into death,
That he may not fulfill God's plan.
- 6 This signifies that only God
Is our full source of life and breath;
To touch ought else is but to touch
The source of knowledge and of death.
- 7 For knowledge only bringeth death,
Though evil or though good it seem;
For any thing apart from God,
Is but the fruit of Satan's scheme.
- 8 Not only evil, but the good
Is contradictory to Christ;
Not only knowledge of the bad,
But even good is versus Christ.
- 9 Lord, teach us only Thee to touch,
That with Thy life we filled may be,
And not to touch the good or bad,
Or anything apart from Thee.

Lord's Day 11/21

Related Verses

1 John 4:7-13, 16-19, 21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God.

8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.

10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

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12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.
13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

17 In this has love been perfected with us, that we have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.

19 We love because He first loved us.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.

Further Reading

Life-study of Ruth, msgs. 2, 5, 8

The Conclusion of the New Testament, msgs. 8, 14

CWWL, 1981, Vol. 1, "God's Eternal Intention and Satan's Counterplot," chs. 2-3

Life-study of 1 John, msgs. 28, 34