Living in the Divine Trinity (2)

Living in the Divine Trinity by Enjoying Christ as Our Life Supply, by Living Christ for His Magnification, and by the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in Our Spirit

Apr. 11–Apr. 17 2022

Monday 4/11

Related Verses

John 6:63

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.

1 Cor. 12:13

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.

John 4:14

14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.

John 7:37

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

Lam.3:55-56

55 I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit.

56 You have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.

Rom. 10:12-13

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2 Tim. 3:16

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

<u>Related Reading</u>

The most important thing in living in a home is eating. In the home nothing is as crucial as food. If we are going to live in the Divine Trinity, to abide in the Divine Trinity as our home, we must enjoy Christ as our food. We need to live by Christ as our life supply [cf. John 6:57b-58]. He is our food. He is eatable because He is now in resurrection....Now Christ is good for us to eat. After accomplishing death and resurrection, He became perfected for us to eat Him. Because He is living in resurrection, He is good for us to eat organically. (*CWWL*, *1988*, vol. 1, "Living in and with the Divine Trinity," p. 348)

Most Christians neglect the spirit and take the Bible as a book of letters. The Lord Jesus once said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63). Furthermore,...every word of the Bible is part of God's breath. Thus, we should not only study the Word, but also breathe in the divine breath embodied in the Word [cf. 2 Tim. 3:16]. If we do not breathe the divine breath by exercising our spirit, we shall not receive life from our study of the Bible. But when we breathe in God's breath, we are enlivened by a divine, heavenly, and spiritual element.

We thank the Lord for showing us that in reading the Word we need to exercise our eyes, our mind, and our spirit. We may say that with the eyes we contact the body of the Word, that with our mind we contact the soul of the Word, and through the exercise of our spirit to pray the Word, we contact the spirit of the Word. Then we not only understand the meaning of a certain portion of Scripture; we also inhale the divine breath to receive the life supply. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, p. 53)

God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to satisfy His chosen people for their enjoyment. The goal of this enjoyment is to produce the church as God's increase, God's enlargement, to be God's fullness for His expression. This is the heart's desire, the good pleasure (Eph. 1:5, 9), of God in His economy. The full development of this thought is in the New Testament, but it is sown as a seed in Jeremiah 2:13.

In 1 Corinthians 10:3 and 4 Paul, using the Old Testament types, speaks not only of drinking but also of eating....The spiritual food refers to manna (Exo. 16:14-18), typifying Christ as our daily life supply; the spiritual drink refers to the living water that flowed out of the cleft rock (Exo. 17:6), typifying the Spirit, who flowed out of

the crucified and resurrected Christ as our all-inclusive drink. Our drinking of God as the living water is for the church as His increase; our drinking is for the producing of His enlargement, His fullness, for His expression. (*Life-study of Jeremiah*, pp. 17-18)

The flowing of the water of life in resurrection is for the formation of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Because we all drink of the same Spirit, we can be one Body. Drinking of the one Spirit in resurrection makes us members of the Body and builds us up as the Body.

The flowing of the living water in resurrection is also for the preparation of the bride of Christ. According to Revelation 22:17, the Spirit and the bride sound forth the call to come and drink of the water of life. The bride is prepared by drinking. The water which the bride drinks is the Spirit. By drinking the Spirit, the bride becomes one with the Spirit. This should not be a mere doctrine or teaching, but should be something we practice in our daily living. If we drink of the living water day by day, the Body of Christ will be built up, and the bride of Christ will be prepared. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 496-497)

Further Reading: *HWMR Living in and with the Divine Trinity - Week 3, Day 1*

Corporate Reading of "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God" Chapter 21 – Sections: The Practice Of Intercession, Beholding, Waiting, And Musing, Intercession (paragraphs 1-4)

Tuesday 4/12

Related Verses

Num. 20:8

8 Take the rod, and gather the assembly, you and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, so that it yields its water. Thus you shall bring forth water for them out of the rock and give the assembly and their livestock a drink.

John 6:57

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.

Morning Watch

Living in and with the Divine Trinity – Week 2

Living in the Divine Trinity (2) Living in the Divine Trinity by Enjoying Christ as Our Life Supply, by Living Christ for His Magnification, and by the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in Our Spirit

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Isa.12:4-6

4 And you will say in that day, Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! Make His deeds known among the peoples; Remind them that His name is exalted.

5 Sing psalms to Jehovah, for He has done something majestic! Let it be made known in all the earth!

6 Cry out and give a ringing shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Lam.3:22-25

22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail;

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

24 Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; Therefore I hope in Him.

25 Jehovah is good to those who wait on Him, To the soul that seeks Him.

Jer. 15:16

16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Related Reading

We want to consider the way to draw water from the springs of the divine salvation....[We] need to be those who are praising Jehovah, calling upon His name (Isa. 12:4a). Furthermore, in order to draw water from the springs of salvation, we should make God's saving deeds known among the peoples and exalt His name among them (v. 4b). We also need to sing to Him for He has done something majestic, and we must let this be made known in all the earth (v. 5). (*Life-study of Isaiah*, p. 282)

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When we have problems in our daily life, we do not have to seek advice from others, because we have a spirit in us and the Lord as the Spirit dwelling in our spirit is very near to us....You can talk with Him and confer with Him in everything. The Lord's Word says, "In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). Hence, if you have some problem, you just need to tell Him. He is right within you, and He is with you face to face. The Triune God-the Father, the Son, and the Spirit-is in us not to trouble us but to be our Paraclete, Comforter, and Supporter. I always pray, "O Lord, now I am going to take a walk. Support me, sustain me, and strengthen me." This is to drink the Lord....When anxiety comes, you should say, "O Lord, this anxiety is Yours, not mine; I give it to You because You bear it for me." Thus, you receive the Lord's element into you, and metabolism will work constantly in you. Consequently, what is expressed through you outwardly is Christ. This is to live Christ. Those who do not know this secret consider that to live Christ is a difficult thing. Actually, you just need to practice speaking with the Lord constantly; then spontaneously, you will live Christ. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 3, "The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation," p. 418)

In John 6:57 the word *because* implies that there is a factor. The word by (used in the KJV), however, indicates an instrument, not a factor. To walk *by* Christ implies that Christ is the instrument for walking, as a cane is used for walking. To walk *because* of Him indicates that He is the factor of our walking. This understanding is also the meaning in the Greek. John 14:19 reveals that we live Christ in His resurrection. After His resurrection He lives, and also we live. We do not merely live by Him but because of Him.

We do not live by Christ, taking Christ as our instrument; rather, we live because of Christ, taking Christ as a factor of our living. The food that we eat is not an instrument but a supplying factor. We live not by food but because of the food. Food supplies us so that we can live because of its supply....Without eating, food cannot become a factor of our living. We live Christ in His resurrection, and we live Christ by eating Him....The energizing element of Christ is a supply, a factor, for us to live Christ.

Christ has been eaten by us, and now He is within us, living within us [Gal 2:20]....The way Christ lives in us is by being digested by us. He now has become the supply, the very factor, with which we live. We live with Christ as the supplying factor. The clause *it is no longer I who* *live* means that we are finished. Yet the later clause *the life which I now live* indicates that we continue to live....Christ lives within us to be the factor for us to live with Him. (*CWWL*, *1989*, vol. 3, "The Experience and Growth in Life," pp. 17-18)

Further Reading: *HWMR Living in and with the Divine Trinity - Week 3, Day 2*

Corporate Reading of "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God" Chapter 21 – Sections: Intercession (paragraphs 5-10)

Wednesday 4/13

<u>Related Verses</u>

Phil. 1:19-21

19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

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.

Phil. 2:12-13

12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Phil. 3:7-10

7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the

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loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Col. 1:24

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

Related Reading

To live in the Divine Trinity is to live Christ for His magnification (Phil. 1:20-21a)....We live Christ for His magnification only through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (v. 19). When we live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit, spontaneously we live Christ to magnify Him. The factor, the element, and the sphere of our living should be the life-giving Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ as the bountiful supply. The term the Spirit of Jesus Christ means that the Spirit is Jesus Christ. He is the rich Spirit as our life supply, and He is in our spirit. This is why we need to stress the matter of our spirit....We need to turn to our spirit, exercise our spirit, and stir up our spirit because in our spirit is the very resurrection, who is the living One, the pneumatic Christ, the life-giving Spirit. (CWWL, 1988, vol. 1, "Living in and with the Divine Trinity," p. 351)

In the bountiful supply of the Spirit we have Christ's divinity, humanity, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

The Spirit today is not merely the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jehovah, or the Holy Spirit. Having passed through the process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the Spirit is now the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Within Him there is a living supply which includes all kinds of divine, spiritual, heavenly ingredients. Through this bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, Paul's circumstances turned out to his salvation. He was saved constantly and instantly through this bountiful supply.

In Paul's bodily sufferings, Christ was magnified, that is, shown or declared great (shown to be without limitation), exalted, and extolled. His sufferings afforded him opportunity to express Christ in His unlimited greatness. Only Christ would he have magnified in him, not the law or circumcision....To magnify Christ under any circumstances is to experience Him with the topmost enjoyment.

The word magnify means to make something large to our sight. Perhaps you are wondering how Christ can be magnified since He is already universally great. According to Ephesians 3, the dimensions of Christ—the breadth, length, height, and depth-are immeasurable. They are the dimensions of the universe. Although Christ is vast, extensive, and immeasurable, in the eyes of the praetorium, the imperial guard of Caesar, Christ was virtually nonexistent. In their eyes, there was not such a person as Jesus Christ. However, Paul magnified Christ; he made Him great before the eves of others, especially before the eyes of those who guarded him in prison. As a result, some eventually turned to Christ. Evidence of this is found in Philippians 4:22, where Paul speaks of the saints of Caesar's household. Through Paul's magnification of Christ, even some in Caesar's household were saved.

At the time of Paul's imprisonment, the Jews were despised by the Romans. The Romans were the conquerors, and the Jews were the conquered ones. Among these conquered ones there was a man named Jesus. Although He is great and most wonderful, in the eyes of the Romans He was nothing. But as Paul was held captive in a Roman prison, he magnified Christ, making Him to appear great in the eyes of his captors.

Where you work or go to school people may look down on Christ. They may ridicule Him and take His name in vain....Therefore, you need to let others see Christ not in a small way, but in the way of enlargement, of magnification. (*Life-study of Philippians*, pp. 422, 424, 47-48) **Further Reading:** *HWMR Living in and with the Divine Trinity - Week 3, Day 3*

Corporate Reading of "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God" Chapter 21 – Sections: Intercession (paragraphs 11-16)

Thursday 4/14

Related Verses

Phil. 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **Eph. 3:8**

8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Psa. 34:3

3 Magnify Jehovah with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Psa. 69:30

30 I will praise the name of God with a song And will magnify Him with thanksgiving;

Luke 1:46-47

46 And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 And my spirit has exulted in God my Savior;

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can anyone forbid the water so that these would not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we?

48 And he charged them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 19:17

17 And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

John 17:11, 21

11 And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.

21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

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Related Reading

At the time Paul wrote the book of Philippians, he was an elderly person. No doubt, the guards expected him to be exhausted by his imprisonment. But far from being exhausted, Paul was full of joy and rejoicing in the Lord. I am confident that he was shining forth Christ and expressing Him. Such an expression was a declaration of the unlimited greatness of Christ and a declaration that Christ is inexhaustible. (*Life-study of Philippians*, p. 49)

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Our natural patience is limited, but Christ as our patience is without limit. We all have the capacity to be patient, but only to a certain extent. Then we become provoked and angry....Although our natural patience is so limited, Christ as patience is inexhaustible and immeasurable.

Even though Paul must have been mistreated in prison, he could be happy and display to the guards the unlimited greatness of Christ. In particular, Paul displayed Christ's inexhaustible patience. Christ certainly was magnified in Paul's physical body. Day by day, Paul was happy in the Lord. His happiness did not diminish as time went by. In his happiness he could show forth the immeasurable Christ he experienced and enjoyed. By this way Paul expressed, exhibited, exalted, and extolled Christ. I do not believe that Paul was offended by the jailers or that he offended them. Rather, he was a living witness of Christ, testifying of His ability, power, patience, love, and wisdom, all without measure. The guards may have considered Paul to be strange or peculiar, viewing him as possessing something which they did not have. What they sensed in Paul was Christ magnified. While he was in prison, Paul expressed the greatness of Christ in an enlarged way. He magnified Christ with all boldness both through life and through death. By magnifying Christ in this way, Paul could overcome any situation. (Life-study of Philippians, p. 50)

Paul's living was actually the expression of the lifegiving Spirit. In every situation of his daily living, Paul was the expression of the very Christ he preached....On the island of Malta he lived such a Christ as the allinclusive Spirit....As we read Luke's account [in Acts] of Paul's living, we see that his living was the all-inclusive Spirit as the consummation of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ.

On the sea in the storm, the Lord had already made the apostle not only the owner of his fellow voyagers (Acts 27:24), but also their life-guarantee and comforter (27:22-25). Now on the land in peace, the Lord made him further not only a magical attraction in the eyes of the superstitious people (28:3-6), but also a healer and joy to the native people (vv. 8-9). All during his long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept the apostle in His ascendancy and enabled him to live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety, but fully dignified with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes, a life that resembled the one that He Himself had lived on earth years before. This was Jesus living again on the earth in His divinely enriched humanity! This was the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in Acts through one of His many members! This was a living witness of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ. Paul in his voyage lived and magnified Christ. No wonder the people honored him and his companions with many honors (v. 10), that is, with the best respect and highest regard! (*Life-study of Acts*, pp. 616-617)

Further Reading: *HWMR Living in and with the Divine Trinity - Week 3, Day 4*

Corporate Reading of "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God" Chapter 21 – Sections: Beholding; Waiting (paragraphs 1-2)

Friday 4/15

Related Verses

Gal. 6:18

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Heb. 4:16

16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Gal 3:6-9, 14

6 Even as "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

7 Know then that they who are of faith, these are sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles out of faith, announced the gospel beforehand to Abraham: "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

9 So then they who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Rom. 5:17, 21

17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Related Reading

Grace is the resurrected Christ as our enjoyment....By this grace we experience the resurrected Christ, who is the embodiment of the Divine Trinity. Christ, the pneumatic One, is our resurrection producing the faith for our enjoyment of Him as grace. We live in the Divine Trinity by the grace of the Lord Jesus in our spirit. (*CWWL*, 1988, vol. 1, "Living in and with the Divine Trinity," p. 352)

To say that the Spirit is the Spirit of grace [cf. Heb. 10:29]does not mean that the Spirit is one thing and grace is another, just as the expression the Spirit of life does not mean that the Spirit and life are two different things. Rather, just as the Spirit and life are one, so the Spirit and grace are one....When the Bible speaks of the Spirit of grace, it means the Spirit as grace.

If we would receive grace and enjoy grace, we need to realize that our spirit is the only place we can

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experience grace. Just as electricity can be applied only by turning on the switch, so we can contact the moving, anointing Spirit only in our spirit. If you wish to receive grace and enjoy grace, do not exercise your mind, emotion, or will. Instead, turn to your spirit and exercise it....We need to turn from our mind and emotion back to the spirit, where we shall meet the Lord.

The throne of grace is not only in heaven; it is also in our spirit. If it were not in our spirit as well as in heaven, how could we come forward to it? Some may argue that our spirit is not large enough to contain the throne of grace....The fact that we can come forward to the throne of grace indicates that, experientially, it is in our spirit. From my experience I know that when I turn to my spirit and call, "Lord Jesus," I immediately have the sense that the throne of grace is in my spirit.

Whenever we approach the throne of grace by turning to our spirit and calling on the name of the Lord, we should enthrone the Lord. We must give Him the headship, kingship, and lordship in us....Sometimes as we are praying we sense that the Lord is within us, but we are not willing to give Him the throne. Instead of recognizing His kingship, we exalt ourselves above Him and put ourselves on the throne. In a very practical way, we dethrone the Lord. Whenever we fail to enthrone the Lord, the flow of grace stops. At the very time we are praying, we need to allow the Lord to be on the throne within us, honoring Him as the Head, the Lord, and the King. Then grace will flow within us as a river.

In Revelation 22:1 and 2 we see that the river of water of life proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. God's throne is thus the source of the flowing grace. To dethrone Him, to take the throne away from Him, is to disregard the source of grace. This causes the flow of grace to cease....Many of us can testify that whenever we fail to enthrone the Lord, we do not receive much grace in our times of prayer.

The best way to practice turning to the spirit and staying in the spirit is to have fixed times for prayer. Suppose you set aside ten minutes in the morning to contact the Lord in prayer. During this time, the only thing you should do is exercise yourself to turn to the spirit and stay in the spirit. Do not be concerned about all the things you must do that day. Reject your natural mind, emotion, and will and exercise your spirit to contact the Lord.

As we receive the Triune God as our grace and enjoy Him as grace, we shall be constituted of Him. Little by little, we shall become one with Him organically. He will become our constituent, and we shall become His expression. (*Life-study of Galatians*, pp. 326-330)

Further Reading: *HWMR Living in and with the Divine Trinity - Week 3, Day 5*

Corporate Reading of *"How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God"* Chapter 21 – Sections: *Waiting* (paragraphs 3-5); *Musing*

Saturday 4/16

Related Verses

Gal. 6:16-18

16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

17 Henceforth let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the brands of Jesus.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Isa. 12:1-6

1 And you will say in that day, I will praise You, O Jehovah. You were angry with me, But Your anger has turned and You have consoled me.

2 God is now my salvation; I will trust and not dread; For Jah Jehovah is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

3 Therefore you will draw water with rejoicing From the springs of salvation,

4 And you will say in that day, Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! Make His deeds known among the peoples; Remind them that His name is exalted.

5 Sing psalms to Jehovah, for He has done something majestic! Let it be made known in all the earth!

6 Cry out and give a ringing shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

John 12:23-26

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.

26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Rom. 1:1

1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Related Reading

It is important to know the reason Paul inserted a word [in Galatians 6:17] about the brands of Jesus between his mention of peace [in verse 16] and grace [in verse 18]....As he was writing about peace and grace, he had the realization within him that he enjoyed peace because he was bearing the brands of Jesus....Through the enjoyment of grace, Paul was brought into a peaceful state. He was maintained in this peace by bearing the brands of Jesus.

Bearing the brands of Jesus will also keep us at peace. But if we refuse to bear these brands, we shall be troubled, and our peace will disappear. Then, having lost our peace, it will be difficult for us to continue in the enjoyment of grace. (*Life-study of Galatians*, pp. 271-272)

The word brands in Galations 6:17 refers to the marks branded on slaves to indicate their owners. With Paul, a slave of Christ (Rom. 1:1), physically the brands were the scars of his wounds received in his faithful service to his Master (2 Cor. 11:23-27). Spiritually, they signify the characteristics of the life he lived, a life like that lived by the Lord Jesus when He was on this earth. Such a life is continually crucified (John 12:24), doing the will of God (6:38), seeking not its own glory but the glory of God (7:18), and submissive and obedient to God, even unto

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the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8). Paul followed the pattern of the Lord Jesus, bearing the brands, the characteristics of His life. In this he was absolutely different from the Judaizers.

Paul had been wounded many times because of his faithfulness in service to Christ. In 2 Corinthians 11:24 and 25 he tells us that five times he received "forty stripes less one," that three times he was beaten with rods, and that once he was stoned. Therefore, there were many scars on his body testifying of his years of service to Christ. These scars may also be considered the brands of Jesus.

As we read the four Gospels, we see the portrait of a Man constantly living a crucified life. This kind of life is a brand. Thus, when the Lord Jesus was on earth, He bore such a brand. He was persecuted, ridiculed, despised, and rejected. However, He did not say anything to defend Himself. Instead, living a crucified life, He bore a brand to show that He belonged to God the Father. Paul followed the Lord Jesus to live this kind of life. In Philippians 3:10 he refers to "the fellowship of His sufferings." As one who lived in the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings, Paul bore the brands of Jesus as the sign that he lived a crucified life. When Paul was greeting the Galatians with a word of peace, he was reminded of the fact that it was the brands of Jesus that kept him in this peace. Because he was persecuted, despised, ridiculed, rejected, and condemned, he could truly say that he bore the brands of Jesus.

After referring to the brands of Jesus, Paul says, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen" [Gal. 6:18]. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is actually the bountiful supply, the all-inclusive enjoyment, of the life-giving Spirit. On the one hand, we bear the brands of Jesus, are persecuted, and live a crucified life; on the other hand, we enjoy the grace of Christ and experience the bountiful supply of the Spirit. Oh, the rich and bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit is with our spirit!

Paul was accused of being the ringleader of a sect, a cult, but he knew that he was living a new creation and was enjoying the bountiful supply of the all-inclusive

Spirit in his spirit. As the book of Galatians indicates, if we bear the brands of Jesus and live a crucified life, we shall enjoy the supply of the life-giving Spirit in our spirit. (*Life-study of Galatians*, pp. 272-276)

Hymns, #770

In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace,

Grace as a river shall flow;

In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace,

Grace as a river shall flow.

Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Grace as a river shall flow;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Grace as a river shall flow.

In the holiest place, live before His face,

Light of glory thru me will shine;

In the holiest place, live before His face,

Light of glory thru me will shine.

Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine. To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life; To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life; Lord's Day 4/17

Related Verses

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. 3:6, 9

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

Acts 27:22-25

22 And now I advise you to cheer up, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

23 For this very night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood by me,

24 Saying, Do not fear, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.

25 Therefore, cheer up, men, for I believe God that it shall be so, even in the way in which it has been spoken to me.

Acts 28:15, 31

15 And from there the brothers, having heard about the things concerning us, came as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

31 Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.

Further Reading:

Life-Study of 2 Timothy, msg. 32 CWWL 1989 vol. 3, "The Experience and Growth in Life," ch. 2, Life-Study of Philippians, msgs. 31-32 Life-Study of Acts, msgs. 70-72 CWWL 1994-97, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," ch. 24