

Four Crucial Journeys to Enter into the Ministry of the Age by Closely Following the Minister of the Age with the Vision of the Age**Monday 11/7****Related Verses****1 Kings 18:18**

18 And he said, I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of Jehovah and have gone after the Baals.

Phil. 3:7-8

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

Mal. 4:5-6

5 I am about to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and terrible day of Jehovah comes;

6 And he will turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.

Luke 1:16-17

16 And many of the sons of Israel he will turn to the Lord their God.

17 And it is he who will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the prudence of the righteous, to prepare for the Lord a people made ready.

1 John 5:20-21

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Related Reading

In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish. He has His own recoveries and His own works to do. The particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the ministry of that age.

It is God's mercy that a person can see and come into contact with the ministry of that age. Yet it is altogether a different thing for a man to take up the courage to

forsake the past ministry...Yet whether or not one can set aside his past ministry is entirely up to God's mercy. (CWWN, vol. 57, "The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry," pp. 260-261)

Elijah's ministry was an anti-testimony. When all Israel was worshipping idols, Elijah told them that the idols they worshipped were false gods, and only Jehovah was the true God (1 Kings 18:18, 21, 36; 2 Kings 1:16)...Elijah, as an anti-testimony, told them that idolatry is a sin that offends God. (CWWL, 1954, vol. 4, p. 549)

Elijah...was the most prominent and the most representative of the prophets before the captivity, and he was an overcomer. When the people worshipped idols, he stood fast and did not worship them; thus, he was an anti-testimony. At that time, under the leading of the king of Israel, the people forsook God and went far away from Him; thus, God raised up Elijah to stand before the king and the people as an anti-testimony. At that time the people worshipped Baal, but Elijah told them to worship Jehovah instead. When the people said that all was peaceful and well, he told them that there would be no rain for three and a half years (1 Kings 17:1). He was a living testimony before the king and the people, and his conduct was contrary to that of the people.

There were many prophets of Baal during the time of Ahab, and they called themselves prophets of God. Although there were seven thousand hidden ones who did not worship Baal at that time, only Elijah openly bore an anti-testimony and did not fear death. Elijah alone stood before the king, the people, and the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal without any fear (18:17-40). Elijah represents the principle of not caring for one's own life in order to maintain God's testimony. When Elijah stood up to testify, the whole earth was against him; he alone testified for God. In this matter Elijah was special. Throughout the ages, among God's people, some have been this kind of overcomer.

These matters in the Old Testament typify matters of the church in the New Testament. When the church is desolate and the majority of the believers forsake God's testimony, God raises up overcomers to be an anti-

testimony. Today the church needs overcomers according to this principle, that is, ones who do not care for their own life. Every overcomer and witness for God has the feeling that he alone is standing...Although God had hidden seven thousand who did not worship Baal, Elijah's feeling was that he alone was standing (19:10)...To be an overcomer, one cannot fear the consequences, hold on to the past, or care for the attitudes of others; he must care only for God's will. Elijah did not care for his life but stood as an anti-testimony, maintained God's testimony, and told the people that they should follow Jehovah instead of Baal...The principle of the overcomers that he represented in this period is that of rising up to be an anti-testimony when God's people forsake His testimony. (CWWL, 1954, vol. 1, pp. 429-430)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1986, vol. 2, "The Vision of the Age," chs. 1-3; CWWN, vol. 11, "What Are We?" pp. 843-859; CWWN, vol. 57, ch. 25

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s):
Exercising the Spirit

Tuesday 11/8**Related Verses****1 Kings 18:21, 37**

21 Then Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you go hopping between two opinions? If Jehovah is God, follow Him; but if Baal is, follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.

37 Answer me, O Jehovah; answer me, that this people may know that You, O Jehovah, are God and that You have turned their heart back again.

Matt 4:8-10

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me.

10 Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Four Crucial Journeys to Enter into the Ministry of the Age by Closely Following the Minister of the Age with the Vision of the Age**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.

1 John 2:18-20

18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.

20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.

Rev. 12:11

11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Related Reading

Elijah rose up to be an anti-testimony. At that time all Israel was worshipping Baal, and only Elijah said that Jehovah is God. He was a prophet raised up when the darkness and desolation were most severe. At that time King Ahab and Jezebel not only worshipped idols but also killed the prophets of God; the entire kingdom was following a pattern of idolatry...God raised up Elijah to declare that the children of Israel had been troubled because of idolatry and that only Jehovah is God (1 Kings 18:18, 37). Elijah warned them that if they did not believe, he would ask Jehovah, and there would be no rain for three and a half years...(17:1; 18:1). Nevertheless, Ahab still would not repent.

One day on Mount Carmel,...Elijah challenged [the people of Israel and the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal] to prove who really was God (v. 21). (CWWL, 1954, vol. 4, p. 543)

Elijah was strong and courageous; he went against the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and all the people of Israel.

To stand up as an anti-testimony at the time of desolation, one must have the spirit of Elijah, the courage of Elijah, and the testimony of Elijah. Every age of desolation needs overcomers like Elijah to step forward; while everyone is going after idols, there needs to be ones who can stand up and denounce everyone's mistake. Today the church is still in desolation; thus, there is still the need for people like Elijah to rise up to be an anti-testimony, not caring for their own lives, not caring for the extent of the outward opposition, and not caring about their numerous opponents. In the end all the prophets died, but not Elijah; rather, he was raptured alive (2 Kings 2:1). We do not need to fear death; people may want us to die, but God wants to rapture us. This was Elijah's testimony. (CWWL, 1954, vol. 4, p. 544)

There is a sinning factor, an addiction to sinning, within man...[that] is Satan himself...In the Bible, Satan is also called Beelzebul...Beelzebul means "the lord of the dunghill," from the name meaning "the lord of flies"...As the lord of the dunghill, Satan specializes in leading flies to feed on dung; hence, he is also the lord of flies. Since he is the lord of flies, all sinners are like flies that follow Satan to "feed on dung."

All the descendants of Adam are the captives of Satan...After he captured us, he entered into us as...the lord of flies and began leading us about to commit sins. Deep in his heart, no one wants to sin, but when a person becomes addicted and is stirred up by Beelzebul, he has to follow, allowing himself to be led around "by the nose"...Although deep in his heart no one wants to sin, eventually everyone sins. No one has control over himself, and everyone has become a slave of sin. This is why the Lord Jesus said, "Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). (CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, "The Jubilee," pp. 29-30)

In this age Satan is the ruler of this world. In his entire life Satan's aim is to receive worship from men by hiding behind numerous idols and religions. Many idols have spirits because Satan is behind them. Satan's intention is to rob God of the worship from men. Therefore, the Scriptures say that God is a jealous

God...John 4:23 says, "The Father also seeks such to worship Him"...The Father has to seek for worshippers because Satan is trying to rob God of the worship from men. (CWWN, vol. 15, pp. 28-29)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, "The Jubilee," ch. 3; CWWN, vol. 15, ch. 4; CWWL, 1954, vol. 4, pp. 537-549; Life-study of 1 John, msgs. 31, 33

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s): The Proper Concept of Consecration

Wednesday 11/9

Related Verses**James 5:17-18**

17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth sprouted forth with its fruit.

1 Kings 19:11-12

11 And He said, Go out, and stand upon the mountain before Jehovah. And suddenly Jehovah passed by, and a great, strong wind rent the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before Jehovah - Jehovah was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake - Jehovah was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake, a fire - Jehovah was not in the fire. And after the fire, a gentle, quiet voice.

1Kgs 18:36-39

36 Then at the time of the offering up of the meal offering, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Jehovah, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things by Your word.

37 Answer me, O Jehovah; answer me, that this people may know that You, O Jehovah, are God and that You have turned their heart back again.

38 And the fire of Jehovah fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said, Jehovah - He is God! Jehovah - He is God!

Four Crucial Journeys to Enter into the Ministry of the Age by Closely Following the Minister of the Age with the Vision of the Age**Rom. 11:2-5**

2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage concerning Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

3 "Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars; and I am left alone, and they are seeking my life."

4 But what does the divine answer say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

5 In the same way then at the present time also there has come into being a remnant according to the selection of grace.

Isa. 45:15

15 Surely You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.

Related Reading

[“Earnestly prayed” in James 5:17 means literally] “prayed in prayer.” This indicates that a prayer from the Lord was given to Elijah, in which he prayed. He did not pray in his feeling, thought, intention, or mood, or in any kind of motivation, arising from circumstances or situations, to fulfill his own purpose. He prayed in the prayer given to him by the Lord for the accomplishing of His will. (James 5:17, footnote 1)

“Elijah was a man of like feeling with us” (James 5:17), and he also could not stand the test of God’s hiddenness. On Mount Carmel God was obviously with him. After that time, however, God tested him. When God withdrew and hid Himself, Elijah could not bear it and went into a cave. When God asked him, “What are you doing here?” he answered, “I have been very jealous for Jehovah the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and slain Your prophets with the sword; and I alone am left, and they seek to take my life” (1 Kings 19:9-10). God knew that Elijah wanted God to be a manifest God; he did not realize that God likes to hide Himself. (CWWL, 1956, vol. 3, p. 33)

God charged Elijah to go out and stand upon the mountain before Jehovah (1 Kings 19:11a). Elijah waited

for the word of commission, thinking that it must be in the big windstorm or in the earthquake or in the fire, but Jehovah was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire (vv. 11b-12a). When Elijah became fully disappointed, a gentle, quiet voice came (v. 12b)...The fact that God spoke to Elijah in a gentle, quiet voice indicates that God was ushering Elijah into the New Testament age. Today God does not speak to us by thundering. God always speaks to us gently and quietly. (*Life-study of 1 & 2 Kings*, p. 71)

God does not like an intimidating display...Elijah told God, “I alone am left” (1 Kings 19:14)...Outwardly, it seemed that God had not done anything, but secretly He had left Himself seven thousand men. This was God’s hidden work.

God is a God who hides Himself, and His work is always hidden. Do not keep hoping for a great touch, a great vision, or a great seeing. These are not necessarily of God. I would like to tell all of God’s children that the truest work of God is His hidden work in us—just a little voice, a little feeling, or a little thought, which seems to be both God’s moving as well as our own impression. Moreover, it is often so faint that it seems as if it is not there. This is God’s most precious and truest work. Sometimes in the deepest part of our being there is a small thought, feeling, voice, or word, telling us, “This is your flesh. This has not passed through the cross. This is not of the Lord.” This is the mightiest, greatest work of God in us. There is not one day or one moment in which God is not working in us...We may become cold or backslidden, even to the point of not coming to the meetings or of doing what is most displeasing to Him, but at this point, this reality is still present within us. This is the irrefutable proof of our salvation.

When we are committing sins, it seems that He is saying, “This is enough. Do not do this anymore. Stop at this point and repent.” When we have not gone to the meetings for two months, it seems as if a tiny voice within us is saying, “Go to the meetings. For how much longer will you wait?...” We may doubt such a voice and say, “Is this God’s speaking? Isn’t this coming from myself?” But...this is God’s truest speaking, and this is His most precious work. (CWWL, 1956, vol. 3, pp. 33-34)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1956, vol. 2, “A God Who Hides Himself,” pp. 3-11; *Life-study of 1 & 2 Kings*, msgs. 10-12

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s): Consecration Being to Take the Lord as Our Person

Thursday 11/10

Related Verses**2 Kings 2:1**

1 And when Jehovah was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind into heaven, Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

Phil. 3:3-8

3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

4 Though I myself have something to be confident of in the flesh as well. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day; of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 As to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

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

Gal. 2:20

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal 5:24

24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Rom. 8:6-9

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

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7 Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.

8 And those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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.

Related Reading

Elijah is a type of the Old Testament age with the Old Testament economy, and Elisha is a type of the New Testament age with the New Testament economy. The age was changed by passing through four places—Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the river Jordan (2 Kings 2:1-8). Gilgal was a place where God's people were circumcised to deal with their flesh (Josh. 5:2-9). (2 Kings 2:1, footnote 1)

The Bible reveals that the strongest and most evil enemy of God is our flesh [cf. Rom. 7—8]...The flesh is thoroughly and absolutely hated by God. God will not tolerate it. In a sense, God may tolerate our mistakes and transgressions, but He will never tolerate the flesh...At the time of the third fall, the entire human race became flesh. Thus, God stepped in and told His servant Noah that He was going to destroy that whole generation. (*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 369)

In [2 Kings 2:1-14] there are four journeys. These include setting out from Gilgal, the journey to Bethel, the journey to Jericho, and the crossing of the Jordan River. Before Elijah was taken into heaven and Elisha received a double portion of the Holy Spirit, they passed through these four places. If we want to be like Elijah, who was taken into heaven, or like Elisha, who received the outer clothing of the Holy Spirit (that is, the Holy Spirit descending upon him like an outer garment), the crucial lesson is that we must travel on these four journeys. Whether we are raptured or receive the power of the Holy Spirit, we all must set out from Gilgal and journey until we cross the Jordan.

Gilgal means "to roll away." Joshua 5:2-9 tells us that the generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt were circumcised; however, those of the second generation, who were born in the wilderness, were not.

At that point, they were about to enter Canaan and to receive the inheritance; they needed to have the old flesh and shame of Egypt rolled away so that they could begin a new living. Therefore, the meaning of circumcision is to put off the body of the flesh (Col. 2:11).

In the Bible the flesh is condemned by God and is very displeasing to God. The flesh is everything we possess from our birth. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6)...In the flesh there is not only sin, uncleanness, and corruption, but also natural kindness, talent, zeal, wisdom, and ability. The most difficult lesson for a believer to learn in his life is recognizing his flesh. God must bring him through every kind of failure and exposure before he will know the flesh.

God says the flesh must be put off; we must, therefore, agree with Him. When God says it must be cut off, we have to cut it off. We must start from Gilgal, and we must reject the flesh. It is not a matter of how much cutting should be done, but a matter of judging the flesh. The present error is that men pay attention to being zealous, doing good, and working, while forgetting to reject their flesh. But it is very important to judge the flesh the way God judges it. According to what I have learned before God, regeneration, sanctification, perfection, the overcoming of sin, and the acquisition of power are not the highest expressions of spiritual life. Rejecting the flesh is the proper spiritual path and goal of spiritual living. All those who have not set out from Gilgal have not started on the spiritual pathway. All those who have not learned to reject the flesh do not truly know the spiritual life. They can be zealous, work, and rejoice, but they do not truly know the spiritual life. (*CWWN*, vol. 9, pp. 307-309)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 9, pp. 307-314; *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 27; *CWWL*, 1979, vol. 2, "Basic Lessons on Service," lsns. 17-18

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s): Being Delivered from a Mistaken Concept

Friday 11/11

Related Verses**2 Kings 2:2**

2 And Elijah said to Elisha, Stay here, for Jehovah has sent me as far as Bethel. And Elisha said, As Jehovah lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they went down to Bethel.

Gen. 12:8

8 And he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah.

1 John 2:15

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;

Josh. 6:1-2, 16, 20

1 Now Jericho was shut up so tight because of the children of Israel that no one went out and no one went in.

2 And Jehovah said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho and its king and the mighty men of valor into your hand.

16 And at the seventh time the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, Shout! For Jehovah has given you the city.

20 So the people shouted and the trumpets were blown; and when the people heard the trumpet sound, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat. And the people went up into the city, each straight ahead, and they captured the city.

2 Cor. 4:13

13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Eph. 6:12, 17-18

12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Related Reading

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Bethel is the place to give up the world and turn to God absolutely, taking God as everything (Gen. 12:8); Jericho, the first city that Joshua and the people of Israel had to defeat when they entered into the good land, signifies the head of God's enemy, Satan (Josh. 6:1-27). (2 Kings 2:1, footnote 1)

Bethel is the place where Abram built an altar [Gen. 12:8]. The altar is a place of fellowship and communication with God. It is the place where we consecrate ourselves to God, the place where we are totally given to Him. (CWWN, vol. 9, p. 309)

While Gilgal refers to the victory over the flesh, Bethel refers to the victory over the world, because Egypt signifies the world. Victory over the world is a condition for being raptured and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit.

If our heart has not completely overcome the world and the people, affairs, and things of this world, and if these things have not lost their place in our heart, we will not be able to arrive at the goal before us. If a believer truly desires to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be raptured, he must pay the price to take the way of the Lord, which is to journey to a place where the Lord can give him His Spirit. We must forsake the world and learn to fellowship with God on the altar of total consecration.

In the world there are no trials; but the pathway of obedience to God is full of trials. This is the road that must be traveled in order to be raptured and receive power...Even though we can avoid trials in Egypt, there is no altar there.

Joshua 6:26 says, "...Cursed be the man before Jehovah who rises up to rebuild this city Jericho!" Thus, the name of this city means "cursed." This portion of history speaks of the Israelites' first victory over the enemies in Canaan. The Canaanites signify evil spirits, which are of the devil. They are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies mentioned in Ephesians 6:12.

We have overcome the flesh and the world; now we still must overcome the enemy. The only way to overcome the enemy is to believe in God's Word, act according to His Word, and believe that we will receive

the results of carrying out His Word. God has spoken, and it is sufficient. The men of Jericho said that they had a city; we say that we have God's Word. The men of Jericho said that their city was as tall as heaven; we say that our God is in heaven. The men of Jericho said that every place surrounded by their city belonged to them; we say that God has promised us every place that the soles of our feet will tread upon.

The real spiritual warfare is the warfare between us and Satan with his evil spirits. Every mature believer should join in this warfare. God's children on earth are often attacked by evil spirits. Some of these attacks are in the environment, some are in the physical body, mind, emotion, or spirit.

It is not by power that Jericho fell, but by the Israelites' relying on God's Word and standing firm in their position. In order to overcome the attack of evil spirits, we first must disregard every situation and feeling and believe in God's Word of promise. This will defeat the enemy. Second, we must stand in the position that Christ has given us, which is in the heavens, and must put down Satan and his evil spirits to their inferior position. Without God's Word and without exercising our faith to choose the position God has given, we cannot overcome the enemy. (CWWN, vol. 9, pp. 309-312)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 50, "Messages for Building Up New Believers (3)," ch. 43; *Life-study of Daniel*, msg. 15

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s): Receiving the Help

Saturday 11/12

Related Verses

2 Kings 2:8, 14

8 And Elijah took his mantle and wrapped it together and struck the water; and it parted to this side and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

14 And he took Elijah's mantle, which had fallen from him, and struck the water and said, Where is Jehovah, the God of Elijah? And when he also struck the water, it parted to this side and that, and Elisha crossed over.

2 Cor. 4:10-18

10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.

13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

14 Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will make us stand before Him with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,

18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Related Reading

The river Jordan, where the New Testament baptism began, signifies death (Matt. 3:5-6 and footnote 2 on v. 6). To cross the river Jordan, Elijah struck the water with his mantle, which typifies the outpoured Spirit, the Spirit of power (2 Kings 2:8). The Spirit of power dealt with the river of death so that the way was opened for Elijah and Elisha to cross over. All this signifies that in order for the age to be changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament in our experience, we must deal with our flesh (Gal. 5:24), give up the world and turn to God (1 John 2:15-17), defeat Satan (Rev. 12:11), and pass through death (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 2:20). (2 Kings 2:1, footnote 1)

The Jordan signifies the power of death. Crossing the Jordan is overcoming death. This is to be raptured.

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The Lord's baptism [in the river Jordan] signifies death, and coming out of the water signifies resurrection. By the power of resurrection, the Lord overcomes death. The greatest power of Satan is death. The Lord seems to have said to the enemy, "Try your best to do what you can to Me." Satan exhausted what he could do; but God resurrected Him. Satan wanted the Lord to die, but the Lord has a life which death cannot touch or hold down. The Lord passed through it on dry land!

There is no power other than the Lord's resurrection which can overcome death. We obtained this resurrection life at regeneration.

There is a difference between crossing the Red Sea and crossing the river Jordan. The crossing of the Red Sea was forced upon the Israelites at that time. They had no alternative but to cross over because there were enemies pursuing. But crossing the river Jordan comes out of man's willingness and is man's own choice. There are some who will not cross the river Jordan. Many do not want the power of resurrection. Paul regarded the power of resurrection as important, and he pursued it (Phil. 3:10-12). Many people have already resurrected with the Lord, yet they still do not know the power of the Lord's resurrection. Therefore, they do not have the experience of overcoming death.

At this hour when the rapture is imminent, the last enemy that believers should overcome is death. Whether it is the death of the body, the death of the mind, or the death of the spiritual life, everything should be overcome. The present world is truly filled with the atmosphere of death...While preparing to be raptured, the believers must learn how to cross the Jordan and overcome death. They must learn to resist the power of death that exists in them and in their environment and must manifest the power of resurrection in all things. We should prove more and more that our Lord is resurrected. At the same time, we should demonstrate that we are joined to Him and have also been resurrected.

If we want to receive the rapture of Elijah and the outer garment of Elisha (the Holy Spirit), we must start from Gilgal and continue until we cross the river Jordan. The Holy Spirit can only descend upon those who are full of the resurrection life...We must pass through Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the river Jordan. We must pass

through all these places before we can be raptured, just as Elijah did in that day. God has told us that we will be raptured. Now we need to follow our course. We should...go on until we cross the Jordan. God is waiting for us there! (CWWN, vol. 9, pp. 312-314)

Further Reading: CWWN, 1994-1997, vol. 3, "Crystallization-study of Song of Songs," chs. 5-6; *Life-study of Song of Songs*, msgs. 3, 9

Corporate Reading: *The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration*, chapter 6, section(s): Being Filled and Having a Thorough Consecration

Lord's Day 11/13

Related Verses**Eph. 6:10-20**

10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Further Reading:

CWWN, vol. 9, "Four Crucial Journeys"
CWWN, 1979, vol. 2, "Basic Lessons on Service chs. 17-18

Hymns, #477

1 Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee
Thy soul is still forlorn.
The Cross on Golgotha,
Will never save thy soul;
The Cross in thine own heart,
Alone can make thee whole.

O, Cross of Christ, I take thee
Into this heart of mine,
That I to my own self may die
And rise to thy life Divine.

2 What e'er thou lovest, man,
That too become thou must;
God, if thou lovest God,
Dust, if thou lovest dust.
Go out, God will come in;
Die thou and let Him live;
Be not and He will be;
Wait and He'll all things give.

3 To bring thee to thy God,
Love takes the shortest route;
The way which knowledge leads,
Is but a roundabout.
Drive out from thee the world,
And then thy heart shall be
Filled with the love of God,
And holy like as He.