

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority

Monday 2/16

Related Verses

Matt. 5:3

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

Isa. 66:2

2 For all these things My hand has made, And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Luke 6:20

20 And He lifted up His eyes to His disciples and said, Blessed are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Matt. 19:13-15

13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.

14 But Jesus said, Allow the little children and do not prevent them from coming to Me, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens.

15 And after He laid His hands on them, He went on from there.

Gal. 6:3

3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

John 15:5

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Isa. 57:15

15 For thus says the high and exalted One, Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I will dwell in the high and holy place, And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, To revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Heb. 1:9

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners";

Related Reading

The spirit referred to [in Matthew 5:3] is our human spirit, not the Holy Spirit. To be poor in spirit does not mean that one has a poor spirit. To be poor in spirit is to have the best spirit. It is not only to have a humble spirit but also to be emptied in our spirit, in the depth of our being, not holding on to the old things of the old dispensation but unloaded to receive the new things, the things of the kingdom of the heavens...Human beings are filled with many things in their spirit. Now that we have turned to the Lord, we have to evacuate our spirit to be poor in spirit. (*CWWL*, 1965, vol. 2, "The Tree of Life," pp. 183-184)

It may be that our spirit is not empty for something more of the Lord to be deposited into us. According to Matthew 5, we have to deal with our spirit first. The first condition for the nine blessings in Matthew 5 is to be poor in spirit. We need to pray, "O Lord, empty me. Evacuate and empty my spirit of anything other than Yourself. Even empty my spirit of the old experiences of Yourself..." Our old experiences of Christ can hinder us from experiencing Christ in a new, fresh, and up-to-date way. Our spirit has to be emptied. This is the real humility. It is possible for a person to be humble outwardly yet still be so proud in his spirit. The real humility is a matter in the spirit. This is why Peter tells us that there is the need for a meek and quiet spirit. The real meekness is in the spirit. A person may be quiet outwardly but may be full of opinions inwardly.

Day by day we have to learn the lesson to deal with the Lord to be poor in spirit by emptying our spirit of many old things such as old knowledge and old experience. If our heart is not open, the Lord has no possibility to dispense Himself into us. If our spirit is full, the Lord also has no way to impart something fresh of Himself into our being...We need to ask the Lord to empty our spirit and clear up our heart. Then the Lord will have the free way in us and the adequate room in our being to fill us. (*CWWL*, 1965, vol. 2, "The Tree of Life," pp. 191-192)

Today a great many Christians are...loaded in their spirit...Nearly every kind of Christian today is filled in his spirit with something other than God.

When the Lord Jesus came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near" (Matt. 4:17), not many could receive His word, because their spirit was filled with other things. The best drink was being offered, but their vessel was already filled. Thus, they were not thirsty. When our spirit is filled, we have no capacity in our vessel for even the best drink. Therefore, when the Lord spoke to the disciples on the mountain, the opening word of His decree was that we must be poor in spirit, that our spirit must be emptied of everything.

We all need to heed the Lord's word about being poor in our spirit and say, "Lord, unload me. Empty my spirit. I don't want to store anything in my spirit. Lord, I want the full capacity in my spirit to be available to You."

If we are poor in spirit, the kingdom of the heavens is ours: we are in its reality now in the church age, and we will share in its manifestation in the kingdom age.

If we are overcomers, at His coming back the Lord will bring us into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens. To have the kingdom of the heavens is first to participate in the proper, normal church life and second to inherit the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the...millennium. This is the meaning of the words for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 156-158, 160)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1965, vol. 2, "The Tree of Life," ch. 13; *Life-study of Matthew*, msgs. 13—14

Tuesday 2/17

Related Verses

Luke 1:53

53 The hungry He has filled with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority

Phil. 3:13

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Psa. 81:10

10 I am Jehovah your God, Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Josh. 7:3-4

3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, Not all the people need go up; let about two or three thousand men go up and strike Ai. Do not make all the people labor there, for the enemies are few.

4 So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled before the men of Ai.

Rom. 8:28-29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Luke 18:17

17 Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

Psa. 139:17

17 And how precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Related Reading

[Luke 1:53] shows us that God's grace is reserved for one type of person—a hungry one. If a person comes to the meeting only for the purpose of observing and listening, he will not see anything or hear anything. If all that a person wants is some Bible knowledge, his real spiritual problems will not be solved. Only those with a pressing inward need and those who are determined to meet God will receive His blessing. We must realize that spiritual progress is based on our hunger...Those who hunger and thirst will be filled; they are the ones who are blessed [cf. Matt. 5:6]. (CWWN, vol. 37, p. 132)

© Living Stream Ministry, 2026, used by permission

Everything ordered by the Lord in our circumstances is intended to create a need in us and make us realize that we cannot overcome by past experience...We have to realize that God does not want us to have yesterday's manna. With each new difficulty there comes a new need that we have never realized before...We cannot go on without new knowledge of the Lord and a new vision of Him. Whenever He brings us to our end and whenever we find ourselves crying, "I cannot make it!" our progress has begun. Then God is able to easily create a desire for Him in us.

Thank God that everything we have is the result of His work; even the heart that seeks after Him comes from Him...There is a condition: we must be conscious of our weakness and inability as well as the hindrance and pride of the flesh. If we persist in our self-reliance, presume that we are already rich, and do not forget our Jericho victory, it will be impossible for God to give us a seeking heart even if He wants to. If we cannot forget our past victory, we will never make any progress...*Past victory can never be our present strength.* We should remember that God gives difficulties to us in order to dig more deeply in us so that He can fill us more with Himself.

Second Kings 4 shows us an important spiritual principle.

What did the woman and her sons have? They only had a pot of oil. This same pot of oil was later poured into many empty vessels. The little bit of oil that she had at the beginning was crucial. In the Bible oil represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works only on those who already have the Spirit abiding in them.

The widow's problem was that she had too few vessels. Elisha told her, "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full" (2 Kings 4:3-4). What did the woman do? "So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said

unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed" (vv. 5-6). She had to borrow empty vessels—this speaks of the need for empty room within us for the Holy Spirit. She was to borrow not a few—this means the more the better. There should not be only one empty room but many empty rooms...The more empty spaces there are, the more fullness there will be. This is a principle which the Lord has shown us: spiritual progress is a matter of being continually emptied out and continually filled up. The work of the Holy Spirit is not "once empty then forever full" but "always empty and always full." Therefore,...do not think that as long as we have been emptied once, we will not need any more emptying. The work of the cross in us is ever-increasing and ever-deepening. (CWWN, vol. 37, pp. 135-136, 138-139)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 37, chs. 22—23

Wednesday 2/18**Related Verses****Matt. 5:8**

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2 Cor. 3:18

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Matt. 13:19-23

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way.

20 And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled.

22 And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority

23 But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

2 Cor. 2:10

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

2 Cor. 3:16

16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Tim. 4:22

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

Isa. 6:5

5 Then I said, Woe is me, for I am finished! For I am a man of unclean lips, And in the midst of a people of unclean lips I dwell; Yet my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.

Related Reading

We must be pure in heart, seeking nothing besides Him. The reward for being pure in heart is to see God...God is our reward. We gain this reward by being strict, righteous, with ourselves, by being merciful toward others, and by being pure in heart toward God. To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31). This is for the kingdom of the heavens. Our spirit is the organ by which we receive Christ (John 1:12; 3:6), whereas our heart is the ground where Christ as the seed of life grows (Matt. 13:19). For the kingdom of the heavens we need to be poor in spirit, empty in our spirit, that we may receive Christ. We also need to be pure, single in our heart, that Christ may grow in us without frustration. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, we will see God...This blessing is both for today and for the coming age. (*Life-study of Matthew*, p. 172)

[In Matthew 5:8], seeing God is a great reward in the kingdom. According to the clear view in the New Testament, to see God is to receive God into us. If seeing God is merely an objective seeing of God and nothing

else, that means very little. But seeing God is to receive God, and this means that God comes into us as our element to renew us, to transform us, because God's coming in adds the divine element into our being. This divine element works on us and in us to renew us, discharging all our old element. Eventually, our entire being becomes new. This is transformation.

First we behold God, that is, see God; then we reflect Him and are transformed [cf. 2 Cor. 3:18]. In our seeing God we are being transformed into His glorious image, from one degree of glory to another. This is from the Lord Spirit.

Our way of looking at God today is altogether a matter in the spirit. The God whom we may look at is the consummated Spirit, and we can look at Him in our spirit...In our morning watch, even if only for fifteen or twenty minutes, we have time to be with the Lord, time to remain in the Spirit. At such a time we may pray-read His word, talk to Him, or pray to Him with short prayers. Then we will have the sense that we are receiving something of God's element, that we are absorbing the riches of God into our being. In this way we are under the divine transformation day by day.

Our Christian life is a life not of changing outwardly but of being transformed from within by having the divine element added into our inner being to replace our old element. This is altogether by our looking at the processed and consummated God, who is the all-inclusive Spirit.

"I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You; / Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6). This indicates that Job gained God in his personal experience (in addition to knowing God in his vain knowledge by tradition) and that he abhorred himself.

Seeing God equals gaining God (Matt. 5:8). To gain God is to receive God in His element, in His life, and in His nature. Eventually, this not only makes us one with God—it even makes us a part of God...We see God that we may be constituted with God, yet we do not have any share in the Godhead.

To see God is to be transformed into the glorious image of God. This makes us a part of God that we may express God in His life and represent Him in His authority.

According to our experience, the more we see God and love God, the more we abhor ourselves. The more we know God, the more we deny ourselves. (*Life-study of Job*, pp. 116-118, 157-158)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1950-1951*, vol. 2, "The Pure in Heart," chs. 1-2, 8-9; *Life-study of Job*, msgs. 21, 30"

Thursday 2/19

Related Verses

Psa. 119:140

140 Your word is very pure, And Your servant loves it.

Col. 2:19

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

1 Tim. 4:15

15 Practice these things; be in them, that your progress may be manifest to all.

Col. 2:19

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Prov. 4:23

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, For from it are the issues of life.

Matt. 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

Psa. 12:6

6 The words of Jehovah are pure words, Silver refined in a furnace on the earth, Purified seven times.

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and***That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority*****Related Reading**

The world is very mixed. But God's word of reality sanctifies us and makes us pure...The more a person is in the word of God, the purer he becomes. A man who is not in God's word but is in the world is complicated and impure...However, if we have God's word within, this word with God's reality will do a sanctifying work within us to separate us unto God, thus making us pure...The word of reality sanctifies us and delivers us from the mixed-up world, turning us back to the purity in God. (*CWWL*, 1990, vol. 2, "The Oneness and the One Accord according to the Lord's Aspiration and the Body Life and Service according to His Pleasure," pp. 71-72)

Spiritual progress is the increase of the element of God in us...If we have made any progress in spiritual matters, then the element of God has increased in us.

God's goal is for man to become His vessel. As long as we are occupied by something other than God, and as long as we do not yield the proper place to God, we are fallen.

Whether or not something is occupying God's place in you is judged by whether you love God. Therefore, it is very easy to find the meaning of spiritual progress and the ways and means to spiritual progress. We have mentioned the positive aspect of spiritual progress, which is the increase of the element of God in us. Now let us look at the negative aspect of spiritual progress. Spiritual progress on the negative side is the shedding of certain things from us, that is, from our inner being. As soon as something is shed from us, we have spiritual progress. When something that usurps God's place is shed from us, we have spiritual progress.

The Lord said to the disciples, "Everyone of you who does not forsake all his own possessions cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33). Some people forsake all things, only to pick them up again shortly. When the Lord Jesus spoke of forsaking all, He meant for it to be accomplished by the Spirit in us. Consequently, the work of the cross can only be executed by the Holy Spirit in us, and only then will things drop off...As long as our heart is open toward the Lord, the Spirit will execute the

work of the cross in us. On the cross the Lord Jesus stripped away everything for us already.

The extent of this decrease depends on the degree to which our heart is turned toward God. How we wish that something would be removed from us daily! This is dying daily. (*CWWN*, vol. 37, pp. 141-145)

Though [Solomon] asked only for wisdom, God gave him, in addition to wisdom, also a large heart. First Kings 4:29 says, "God gave Solomon wisdom and very much understanding and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore." It says that largeness of heart is like the sand on the seashore. A Chinese proverb speaks of the heart being as large as the capacity of the sea, but here the heart is as large as the sand on the seashore. The seashore encloses the sea. The Scriptures say that God has "set the sand as a boundary for the sea" (Jer. 5:22). Therefore, Solomon's heart was larger than the sea.

At the time when God gave Solomon wisdom, He also gave him a large heart. We have to know that all wise ones have large hearts, and everyone with a narrow heart is a foolish person. If you want to be a foolish person, let me teach you a way: simply make your heart small. In the same principle, if you enlarge your heart, you will become the wisest person. (*CWWL*, 1960, vol. 2, "The Elders' Management of the Church," p. 157)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1960, vol. 2, "The Elders' Management of the Church," ch. 3

Friday 2/20**Related Verses****2 Cor. 4:16-18**

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.

Rom. 6:4

4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

Rom. 7:6

6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Psa. 91:1

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Luke 1:78-79

78 Because of the merciful compassions of our God, in which the rising sun will visit us from on high,
79 To shine upon those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Prov. 4:18

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

Judg. 5:31

31 May all Your enemies so perish, O Jehovah. But may those who love Him be like the sun When it rises in its might. And the land had rest forty years.

Related Reading

In God's design all of us who are His chosen people have to go through sufferings. There is no exception to this because...He wants us to be transferred from the realm of the old creation into the realm of the new creation. This transfer is a process of suffering. You may think that you made a mistake in your choice of a partner in marriage, but regardless of how much wisdom you exercised in choosing a spouse, eventually your choice was a "mistake." After hearing this fellowship, some who are not married may feel that it is better not to marry, but not to marry will bring us more sufferings. Then what shall we do? We have to be inwardly happy in our sufferings. The apostle Paul says that he rejoiced in his sufferings (Col. 1:24) because he realized that all sufferings are the process to make us new. (*CWWL*, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," p. 348)

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority

In 1 Thessalonians 3:3 [Paul says], "That no one would be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed for this." Footnote 2 on this verse...says, "God has destined, appointed, that we should pass through afflictions. Hence, afflictions are God's allotted portion to us, and He has set us, located us, in a situation of afflictions." We have been appointed to sufferings...The reason I am calm in the midst of sufferings is that I realize that the real blessing is not outward peace and joy but the actual renewing in our Christian life.

In Matthew 13:43 the overcomers are likened to the sun shining forth in the kingdom of their Father. The sun rises afresh every morning. If we are to be the overcomers, the sun, we must also rise up every morning to be revived by the Lord...We should follow the sun to be revived and to have a new start every morning. Our path is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the full day [Prov. 4:18]. I like Paul's expression in 2 Corinthians 4:16—"day by day."...We are being renewed day by day. This means that day after day we have to be revived by the Lord. Yesterday morning we may have had a revival, but this morning we need another one, and tomorrow we need another one. Every year we need three hundred sixty-five revivals to be renewed day by day.

God has the best provisions to help us to receive the renewing. The first provision is the cross, the putting to death of Jesus. According to 2 Corinthians 4, Paul was always under the killing of the cross, the Lord's death. The cross is the greatest help to accomplish the renewing for us.

The second provision is the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 speaks of the "renewing of the Holy Spirit." We have the Holy Spirit within us. His main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day. We are receiving the new supply of the Spirit daily to renew us metabolically...The third provision God gave us is our mingled spirit, our human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit. In our human spirit, the Holy Spirit dwells, works, and renews us. Ephesians 4:23 says that we need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Our spirit is the place

where we receive the renewing. Our mingled spirit spreads into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of our mind. It is in such a spirit that we are renewed for our transformation.

Many times when we are suffering, we are questioning, "Why am I suffering? What is the reason?"...While we are in the midst of suffering, we need to receive the renewing. Otherwise, the suffering we pass through means nothing to us. Within us there is a refuge. This refuge is our spirit. We need to turn from our mind to our spirit. Then we are safeguarded, hidden, and concealed from any attacks. It is in our spirit that we will be renewed. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," pp. 350-352)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," chs. 1—2

Saturday 2/21

Related Verses

Matt. 26:29

29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

Psa. 119:105, 130

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

130 The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

Eph. 4:3-4, 17-18, 23

3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,

18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Related Reading

In addition to the cross, the Holy Spirit, and our spirit, we have the holy Word. The Head of the Body cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word (Eph. 5:26). Because I have studied the Bible for such a long time, I can recall chapters such as Matthew 1 and Romans 8. When I just think about the contents of these chapters, I get washed...We all need to receive the washing of the water in the word daily. (CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," p. 352)

No suffering is fair. The Lord could respond to us in this way: "Yes, the suffering itself is not fair, but My calling you to suffer is fair. I am fully right in placing you into this unfair treatment so that you can receive the renewing." Some of us may still be under a certain amount of suffering. We have to learn how to turn to our spirit. That is our refuge, our hiding place, to receive the renewing. Because we are human, according to our thinking and our consideration, what we are passing through is not fair. We may not even be able to take the situation we are in, but when we come to the Word, regardless of what chapter or verse, the word will wash us...*Washing* is a synonym of *renewing*. By these four items—the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the holy Word—we can receive the renewing.

Whenever we come to the Lord's table, we need renewing. When the Lord Jesus established the table, He said, "I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father" (Matt. 26:29). The Lord established a principle here. He will never take an old table. The table He set up was new, and the table He will take in the kingdom of His Father will be new. We have to come to the Lord's table in a new way, in the principle of newness...We need to realize that anything negative is a cause and a factor of oldness.

When we come to the Lord's table, we first have to make a thorough confession of all the negative things, and we have to deal with all the negative things. We have to confess and deal with any negative things between us and God and between us and men. Our relationship

The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be under Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life and Represent Him with His Authority

should be right and positive with God and with man (Acts 24:16). If it is not, we need a thorough confession and a thorough dealing. Another thing that makes us old is not forgiving others. Always forgive people (Matt. 18:21-22, 35; Eph. 4:32; 5:2), and always seek to be forgiven (Matt. 5:23-24). Because we are human beings, people offend us, and we offend people...Because God has placed two people together in marriage and because they are so close to each other, they will offend each other frequently. These offenses are the cause of oldness. What is the way to get rid of this oldness? The way is to forgive each other. We need to forgive others and seek to be forgiven. One of Brother Nee's "proverbs" for a healthy marriage life was that both the husband and the wife needed to learn how to say, "I'm sorry. Forgive me."...We need to pray that [this] fellowship...will become our experience day by day so that we can enter more into the reality of being renewed day by day.

God desires us to be the new creation. When all of the Lord's children pass through the process of renewing to become the New Jerusalem, they will be in a state of being fully renewed. The holy city is called the New Jerusalem because it has no old element of God's old creation. As we pass through afflictions, there needs to be a continual renewing taking place in us day by day so that God can accomplish His heart's desire. (*CWWL*, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," pp. 352-353, 363)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1990, vol. 2, "The Oneness and the One Accord according to the Lord's Aspiration and the Body Life and Service according to His Pleasure," ch. 1

Lord's Day 2/22

Related Verses

Rom. 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Isa. 11:2-3

2 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Jehovah.

3 He will delight in the fear of Jehovah: He will neither judge by what His eyes see, Nor decide by what His ears hear.

Luke 14:26

26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.

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

2 Cor. 4:10-12

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.

Further Reading:

Further Reading: *Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, Set 2, Vol. 17, chs. 22-23

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis

Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 40

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 95-96

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: The Murderous Sin of Covetousness and Dealing with Lust

Scripture: Gen. 37-39

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 111

Supplemental Reading: *Truth Lessons, Level One*, Vol. 1, ch. 8

Study Questions: See the church website at

churchinnyc.org/bible-study

Hymn: #743

1 God created us His vessels
His expression to achieve;
Thus He made a heart to love Him
And a spirit to receive.

2 With our heart we have to love Him,
With our spirit Him possess
As our life, of Him partaking,
That Himself we may express.

3 Satan has our heart corrupted,
To our spirit death did give,
That the Lord we should not contact
But by self attempt to live.

4 Thus the Lord in His salvation
Heart and spirit has renewed
To recover our receiving
And our loving aptitude.

5 It is by our heart's renewal
We may God in love pursue,
And in newness of the spirit
We may contact God anew.

6 Ever true and pure and single
To the Lord our heart must be,
Poor in spirit, ever seeking
God to contact constantly.

7 Keep our heart, Lord, in love's freshness,
And our spirit strengthen more,
That in newness of the spirit
We may touch Thee o'er and o'er.