

Monday 3/22

Related Verses

**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.

**Phil. 4:6-8**

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

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

**8** Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

**2 Cor. 4:7-9**

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

**8** We are pressed on every side but not constricted; unable to find a way out but not utterly without a way out;

**9** Persecuted but not abandoned; cast down but not destroyed;

**2 Cor. 12:10**

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

**Rom. 8:36-37**

**36** As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter."

**37** But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

Suggested Reading

In Job chapter 3 Job cursed the day of his birth. He was a good man and he was trying to keep his perfection, uprightness, and integrity, but due to his vexation he could not contain himself, and he did not know what to do. No doubt, he expected to have a time to deal with God, but this was not something that he dared to initiate. Not wanting to lose his perfection, he released his vexation by cursing his birthday.

Job was disturbed, perplexed, and entangled to the uttermost by his suffering of the disasters that befell his possessions and his children and the plague on his body, in spite of his perfection, uprightness, and integrity. When Job cursed his birthday, he surely was not perfect and upright. In doing this...he became bankrupt in integrity....To curse his birthday meant that he cursed his mother. (*Life-study of Job*, p. 25)

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Job indicated that he preferred death instead of life (Job 3:11-23). It is difficult to believe that Job actually preferred death instead of life....Perhaps Job did not [put an end to himself] because he wanted to keep his integrity.

Job's experience of God's consuming and stripping in the Old Testament was far behind that of Paul in the New Testament. God's consuming is to exhaust us, and God's stripping is to take away our riches from us. First, God stripped Job of his possessions, and then God consumed him. Job's suffering of the plague on his body was a consuming. Day by day and hour by hour, Job was being consumed. In the New Testament God's consuming and stripping become pleasant things. Since the day he was converted, Paul was a person under God's consuming and God's stripping (2 Cor. 4:16).

Paul was born destined to be crucified, and he was reborn crucified that it would be no longer he who lived but Christ who lived in him (Gal. 2:20a). When we were regenerated, we, like Paul, were reborn crucified for the purpose that from that time it would be no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us.

In his experience of God's consuming and stripping, Paul was not constricted under the pressures on every side and did not perish despite his being cast down (2 Cor. 4:8-9)....Every day he was cast down, but he did not perish. Paul did not curse the day of his birth, and he did not say

that he preferred to die rather than to live. On the contrary, after much consideration Paul said that he still preferred to live, not to die, because to him to live was Christ (Phil. 1:21-25). Paul's living Christ was for him to magnify Christ. His desire was to magnify Christ whether through life or through death (v. 20).

When Paul was suffering distresses for the sake of Christ (2 Cor. 12:10), he was well pleased, he was happy, and he was even rejoicing in the Lord for his experiences (Col. 1:24). Paul's reaction to his sufferings was very different from Job's. Job did not rejoice but was all the time vexed.

Paul pursued to be conformed to Christ's death in the fellowship of His sufferings (Phil. 3:10). He took Christ's death as a mold for his life. To Paul it was a great pleasure to be molded in the death of Christ.

Paul said that he was always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus and was always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus might be manifested in his mortal flesh (2 Cor. 4:10-11). Every day in his Christian life Paul was put to death. The only way for him to manifest Christ's life was to experience Christ's death. (*Life-study of Job*, pp. 26-28)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Job*, msgs. 4, 16; *Life-study of Philippians*, msg. 7

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 1*

**Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 5 – Sections: The Church; The Ekklesia**

Tuesday 3/23

Related Verses

**Phil. 3:9**

**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,

**2 Cor. 4:17**

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

Morning Watch

Job's Experience of God's Consuming and Stripping in the Old Testament Being Far Behind That of Paul in the New Testament

Mar. 22 - Mar. 28 2021

Job 27:5-6

5 Far be it from me to declare you righteous! Until I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

6 To my righteousness I will hold fast, I will not let it go; My heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

1 Tim. 6:11

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

2 Tim. 3:17

17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

Phil. 3:10, 12-14

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

12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

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,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Luke 9:23

23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Suggested Reading

Through his eight times of speaking to his three friends, Job exposed...many negative things concerning himself....[He] exposed himself as being self-righteous (Job 6:30; 9:20; 27:5-6; 32:1)...[and] as a person...full of reasons. A self-righteous person is always ready to give many reasons regarding his situation.

Job was unaware of his miserable situation before God. He acknowledged God in name but not in reality. He had not been saturated by God and filled with God. He had not been mingled with God and had not become one with God. Furthermore, Job did not possess any element that indicated some aspect and some feature of the New Jerusalem as God's organism to live God and to express God for eternity. Job did not know his situation, and he did

not know the New Jerusalem. (*Life-study of Job*, pp. 126, 128)

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In his experience of God's consuming and stripping, Paul did not lose heart. Though his outer man was being consumed, yet his inner man was being renewed day by day. He said that his momentary lightness of affliction worked out for him an eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:16-17).

[Paul] was such a man [who expected to be consumed every day] because he wanted to be renewed. Renewing can be consummated only by consuming....This kind of renewing by consuming adds to the weight of glory that you will share in the coming ages. We will all share the Lord's glory, but the weight of glory will differ among the believers. Through God's consuming, the glory that we will share will become an eternal weight.

Job considered his suffering of affliction something very heavy, but Paul considered his affliction momentary and light. Instead of caring about our affliction, we need to care for the increase of the weight of glory. How much weight of glory we will have depends on how much we suffer in our present affliction for the Lord's sake. Paul...knew that the more he suffered, the more weight of glory he would share in eternity.

Paul magnified Christ by living Him, whether through life or through death, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19-21a). This is the Christian life. When God created man, this is the kind of life He wanted man to live.

God's intention with Job was to consume this "perfect and upright" person and to strip his attainments, his achievements, in the highest standard of ethics in perfection and uprightness (Job 1:1).

God's intention was also to tear down the natural Job in his perfection and uprightness that He might build up a renewed Job in God's nature and attributes.

Eventually, God's intention was to make Job a man of God (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17), filled with Christ, the embodiment of God, to be the fullness of God for the expression of God in Christ, not a man of the high standard of ethics in Job's natural perfection, natural uprightness, and natural integrity....Such a person, constituted with God according to His economy, would never be entangled by

any troubles and problems so that he would curse his birth and prefer to die rather than to live. (*Life-study of Job*, pp. 28-29)

In [Hebrews Christ] is the present Christ, who is now in the heavens as our Minister (Heb. 8:2) and our High Priest (4:14-15; 7:26), ministering to us the heavenly life, grace, authority, and power and sustaining us to live a heavenly life on earth. He is the Christ now, the Christ today, and the Christ on the throne in the heavens, who is our daily salvation and moment-by-moment supply. (Heb. 1:3, footnote 4)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Job*, msgs. 21, 23, 27-28

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 2*

**Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 5 – Sections: The House Of God**

Wednesday 3/24

Related Verses

**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.

**Rom. 1:9**

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

**Rev. 1:10**

10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

**1 Cor. 6:17**

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

**Rom. 8:14**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**Gal. 5:25**

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

Morning Watch

**Job's Experience of God's Consuming and Stripping in the Old Testament Being Far Behind That of Paul in the New Testament**

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**Eph. 4:1-6, 29**

1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,  
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,  
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;  
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.  
29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Suggested Reading

Job was suffering, and his three friends came to comfort him. Elihu was also there to help the situation. However, these godly people did not pray for Job nor did they fellowship with one another by exercising their spirit that all of them might receive a certain amount of spiritual supply. That would have helped them find out the real purpose of God's dealing with Job. They talked about God, and they also referred to their spirit, but in all their debates there is no hint that they were exercising their spirit. Rather, they were exercising their mind, searching for words from the heavens, from the air, from the birds in the air, from the beasts on the earth, and from the fish in the sea, to compose their poetry. (*Life-study of Job*, p. 149)

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If we would have vital groups today, we need to be warned by these talks. The group we see in the book of Job affords us a negative example, an example of the kind of group meeting we should not have in the church life today.

When we come together in the vital groups, the first thing we must do is to pray. The vital groups are groups of vital prayer. In the vital groups, learn not to pray old prayers with old terms, prayers according to your tradition. Learn always to pray new and fresh prayers. Try to exercise your spirit, because the very God, our present God, our God today, is right in our spirit with all His bountiful supply. Thus, when you come to the vital groups,

you should remain in your spirit and exercise your spirit. In your spirit you will pick up some new terms and new expressions. You can do this because you have the Triune God as the consummated Spirit in your spirit.

The groups are vital in these two spirits....Acts through Revelation [cover] the matter of the divine Spirit who is now in our spirit to become one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17)...God moves in man and man moves in God in these two spirits. Therefore, when you come to the vital groups, you should turn to the spirit, remain in the spirit, and exercise the spirit.

Do not come to the vital groups to talk naturally yet quite intimately. That kills the groups. Instead, exercise your spirit to praise God or to sing a stanza or a few lines of a hymn. This kind of praising and singing stirs up the spirits of those in the vital group. Then everyone will follow to pray.

After...prayer, we should fellowship...in our spirit by exercising our spirit. Our speaking concerning a saint who is sick should not be in ordinary words but in words from the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit...Try to bring the group into the two spirits. This will make a great difference, and...will help to lay the foundation for the vital group to move in the two spirits. Furthermore, when you visit others, at your home, in their home, or in the meeting hall, exercise your spirit.

Learn to touch the divine Spirit in your spirit. This is the Christian life, and this should also be the Christian work. This is the move of God in man and the move of man in God to fulfill God's economy, His plan concerning Christ with His Body. We are here on earth for this, and for this we should live by the two spirits, follow the two spirits, and do everything according to the two spirits.

The way to be such a person is very simple—the way is to be in our spirit....We all need to learn of John to be in our spirit [cf. Rev. 1:10, 12] to see the vision and to enjoy the Lord, to enjoy the Body, and to enjoy the speaking of the Spirit to the churches. (*Life-study of Job*, pp. 149-151, 146)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1967, vol. 2, "An Autobiography of a Person in the Spirit," ch. 2; *CWWL*, 1985, vol. 5, "The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move," ch. 6

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 3*

**Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 5 – Sections: The Body Of Christ**

**Thursday 3/25**

Related Verses

**John 3:5**

5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**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 in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Col. 2:12**

12 Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**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.

**John 12:24**

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.

**1 Cor. 15:31, 36**

31 I protest by the boasting in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

36 Foolish man, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies;

**Rom. 8:4-6**

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

5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit.

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**Job's Experience of God's Consuming and Stripping in the Old Testament Being Far Behind That of Paul in the New Testament**

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

1 Jn. 2:20, 27

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

27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

Suggested Reading

When we were regenerated, we were crucified....No one was born crucified in a physical sense, but every believer is regenerated crucified. This corresponds with the Lord's word in John 3:5: "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."...The water refers to John's ministry, and the Spirit refers to the Lord's ministry.

To be born of water, according to John's ministry, is for the termination of people of the old creation. When we are buried in the water of John's ministry, this indicates that we realize that we are good for nothing but death. When people came to John to repent, John threw them into the water to bury them, to end them, to terminate them. When a sinner repents to God, he should repent to such an extent that he realizes he is good for nothing but death. Thus, he hands himself over like a corpse to the baptizer. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," pp. 463-464)

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When we preach the gospel and lead people to repent and believe into Christ, we may tell them, "You have to realize that as a person who has repented and believed into Christ, you, as a person of the old creation, are now a dead person. You have handed yourself over to me as a corpse, and I will now put you into a tomb of water to terminate you." Paul tells us clearly in Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12 that in baptism we are buried together with Christ into His death. When we raise up a baptized one from the water, that indicates resurrection. In resurrection we are now in the Spirit. Through the terminating water of death and the germinating Spirit, we are born spiritually. To be reborn

through termination and germination is to be regenerated. Thus, every regenerated person is regenerated crucified.

We are regenerated crucified and are dying to live (1 Cor. 15:36). We were born dead, and now we are dying to live. *Dying to live* means to live under the crucifixion of Christ. Every day we are dying. Paul says that he died daily (v. 31; 2 Cor. 4:11). Our environment is putting us to death every day. Our dying is a continuous matter. The Christian life is a long life of dying. Every day we die to live. We were reborn crucified, and now we are dying to live. This is a living under the crucifixion of Christ. In Galatians 2:20..., on the one hand, Paul had been terminated, but on the other hand, a resurrected Paul, one who had been regenerated, still lived. Paul had been crucified with Christ, yet Christ lived in him and he lived Christ (Phil. 1:21a). Christ and Paul had one life and one living.

Now we need to consider once more who died on the cross. We need to say, "I died on the cross." When Christ was incarnated, He took us upon Himself. He put on blood and flesh (Heb. 2:14). Therefore, when He was crucified, we were crucified with Him. All of us as a part of Christ, received the injection of His death on the cross.

In the phrase *regenerated crucified and dying to live* the conjunction *and* conjoins *regenerated* and *dying*. We are regenerated, and we are dying. We have been regenerated crucified, and now we need to die that we may live. After our baptism, we live by dying and we die to live. Dying to live is the proper meaning of bearing the cross. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," pp. 464-465, 469)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," chs. 9, 12-14

**Further Reading:** HWMR *Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 4*

**Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 5 – Sections: The Fullness (Expression) Of The One Who Fills All In All; The Fullness (Expression) Of God (paragraphs 1-2)**

Friday 3/26

Related Verses

2 Cor. 4:11-12

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.

2 Cor. 1:8-9

8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

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;

2 Cor. 12:9-10

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

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

Rom. 8:6, 10-11

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

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

11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Suggested Reading

The putting to death of Jesus in our environment cooperates with the indwelling Spirit to kill our natural man (our outer man), comprising our body and our soul. This is mentioned emphatically in 2 Corinthians 4:10-12. Paul says that he was bearing about in his body the putting

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to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus might be manifested in his body.

Second Corinthians 4:16 says, “Our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” The word *decaying* means “being consumed, being wasted away, being worn out.”...As our outer man is being consumed by the killing work of death, our inner man is being renewed with the fresh supply of the resurrection life. (*CWWL, 1991-1992*, vol. 2, “The Christian Life,” pp. 438-439)

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We all like to have a nice environment, with everything smooth, peaceful, sweet, and nice....[Instead], we are under an environment of sufferings and pressures that works with the Spirit to kill our natural man. Brother Nee referred to this kind of environment as the discipline of the Holy Spirit....In speaking about the application of Christ’s death, Romans 8 refers to the indwelling Spirit, and 2 Corinthians 4 refers to the outward environment. The outward environment cooperates with the inward Spirit to carry out the killing of our natural man.

Second Corinthians 4:10 indicates that the death of Christ kills us. The apostle Paul always was under the killing of Christ’s death....He was continually under the persecution of the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Judaizers....Daily he risked death, faced death, and died to self (2 Cor. 11:23; 4:11; 1:8-9; Rom. 8:36). He was bearing about in his body the killing of Jesus so that the life of Jesus could be manifested in him.

Christ’s death and its effectiveness, with which the Spirit has been compounded, become prevailing in the Spirit....If we enjoy and experience the Spirit, His death becomes prevailing in us. The death of Christ is in the Spirit.

The compounded Spirit dwells in our spirit to dispense Christ’s death and its effectiveness from our spirit to our soul and even to our mortal body (Rom. 8:6, 9-10). This dispensing is the anointing (1 John 2:20, 27), and the anointing is the moving of the indwelling Spirit. Those Christians who love the Lord and maintain fellowship with the Lord, always have the feeling and sensation that something is moving within them. That moving is the anointing, and that anointing is the dispensing of the Triune God, of the death of Christ, and of the resurrection

of Christ. That dispensing comprises all these elements: divinity, Christ’s humanity, Christ’s death, the effectiveness of His death, Christ’s resurrection, and the power of His resurrection.

It is under this dispensing, this anointing, this moving of the indwelling Spirit, that we experience the death of Christ. When we are about to lose our temper, we may stop ourselves and go to pray. After our prayer, our anger is over. This is because our prayer activates the moving of the indwelling Spirit, and within this moving there is the killing power.

We should cooperate with the operating Spirit and accept the environment in our spirit, soul, and body. In every part of our being, we must be willing to cooperate with the indwelling Spirit and to accept the outward environment....This killing is carried out by the indwelling Spirit with the environment as the killing weapon.

We need to experience the Lord’s killing, His putting to death, every day. Then we will daily have the victory and joy in Christ’s resurrection. (*CWWL, 1991-1992*, vol. 2, “The Christian Life,” pp. 438-439, 480-481, 437-440)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 2 Corinthians*, msgs. 33-35; Watchman Nee—a Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age, ch. 15; *CWWN, vol. 5*, “The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit,” ch. 6 Enlightenment and inspiration

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 5*

**Corporate Reading of “The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures” Chapter 5 – Sections: The Fullness (Expression) Of The One Who Fills All In All; The Fullness (Expression) Of God (paragraphs 3-6)**

**Saturday 3/27**

Related Verses

**2 Cor. 4:10, 16-17**

**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.

**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, **2 Cor. 3:17-18**

**17** And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**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.

**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;

**2 Cor. 5:17**

**17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

**Rev. 21:2, 5**

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

**5** And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

Suggested Reading

To us Christians there should be no thought of revenge or avenging ourselves....To forgive and forget others’ mistakes is the conformation to the death of Christ.

We have the capacity within us to do this, and this capacity is the power of resurrection....Within a small seed there is not only life but also resurrection. If that seed falls into the earth and dies, a sprout will eventually rise up from underneath the earth. That is the power of resurrection. We are like small seeds. The more we are put into death, the more we have the expression of the power of resurrection. This is why we like to forgive people and forget their mistakes. (*CWWL, 1991-1992*, vol. 2, “The Christian Life,” pp. 492-493)

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Morning Watch

**Job's Experience of God's Consuming and Stripping in the Old Testament Being Far Behind That of Paul in the New Testament**

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Through our sufferings, we have the opportunity to gain more of God. Eventually, after passing through many sufferings, we have more of God in us. As long as we have more of God, this is what really matters.

For [Paul], to live was Christ, and to live Christ was to magnify Christ (Phil. 1:20-21a). Even when he was in a Roman prison, he did not want to be put to shame....Even when he was in prison, people saw Christ in him. The manifested Christ is the life that comes out of the killing of Christ. This is what it means to live and walk under the crucifixion of Christ.

If the Christian life were merely a happy life, the apostle Paul would not have needed to charge us to rejoice (Phil. 4:4). While we are suffering and wiping away our tears, we should rejoice. In order to weep, we do not need any kind of encouragement. Paul does not charge us to weep in the Lord, but he does charge us to rejoice in the Lord. If we do not exercise our spirit to rejoice in the midst of our killing environment, we cannot have any joy.

God in His sovereignty is putting us all the time under the killing of the cross. The apostle Paul was under the killing of the cross, and so are we....This is God's divine arrangement. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," pp. 493, 481-482)

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," p. 363)

In every situation related to our daily living, we need to ask ourselves whether we are living by the divine life or by our natural life. If we do this, quite often we will realize that we are living by our natural life, our self. At such times we need to go to the cross (Luke 9:23). To go to the cross is to be conformed to the death of Christ....We are those who have been chosen, called, and sanctified by God to do His will. Doing the will of God is altogether a suffering to our natural life. Moreover, we are those who have been saved, regenerated, and separated to live not by our natural life but by the divine life....We like to do things by

ourselves. To do something not by our life but by the life of another is a suffering. This is the Christian life. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," p. 500)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Christian Life," chs. 15-16; CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," ch. 2 Enlightenment and inspiration

**Further Reading:** HWMR *Crystallization-Study of Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes - Week 3, Day 6*

**Hymns, #622**

1

If we take up the cross, will we but suffer pain?  
Nay, if we bear the cross, be sure that we will die!  
The meaning of the cross is that we may be slain;  
The cross experienced the self will crucify.

2

Divine deliverance e'er slays man by the cross;  
Though cruel it may seem, it is a grand release.  
Christ ne'er will be our life if we escape the cross;  
Christ ne'er will be expressed but by our sure decease.

3

The cross's final goal, that God's will be fulfilled;  
His will's arch enemy is but the self of man.  
If self be done away and all the soul-life killed,  
God's will shall then prevail and prospered be His plan.

**Lord's Day 3/28**

**Related Verses**

**2 Tim. 1:7-14**

7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me His prisoner; but suffer evil with the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,

11 For which I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

12 For which cause also I suffer these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard my deposit unto that day.

13 Hold a pattern of the healthy words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

**Further Reading**

*Life-Study of Job*, msgs. 4, 16, 27-28,

*Life-Study of Philippians*, msg. 7

CWWN, vol. 5, "The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit," ch. 6 10