

HWMR: THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST AND OUR GROWTH IN LIFE UNTO MATURITY

(Week 3)

Scripture Reading: Matt. 5:8; 13:3-9, 18-23; Prov. 4:23; Jer. 32:39; Eph. 3:16-17

**Dealing with Our Heart for the Growth of the Divine Seed of Life within Us
unto Our Maturity in Life for God's Building in Life**

Matthew 5:8	Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 13:3	And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.
Matthew 13:4	And as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them.
Matthew 13:5	And others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much earth, and immediately they sprang up because they had no depth of earth.
Matthew 13:6	But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered.
Matthew 13:7	And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.
Matthew 13:8	But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.
Matthew 13:9	He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
Matthew 13:18	You therefore hear the parable of the one who sowed.
Matthew 13:19	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.
Matthew 13:20	And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
Matthew 13:21	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.
Matthew 13:22	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.
Matthew 13:23	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.
Proverbs 4:23	Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.
Jeremiah 32:39	And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear Me all the days, for their own good and for the good of their children after them.
Ephesians 3:16	That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Ephesians 3:17	That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

Day 1

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.

I. We must deal with our heart in the light of the Lord's presence for the growth of the divine seed of life within us unto our maturity in life; the heart is the conglomerate of man's inward parts, man's chief representative, his acting agent:

A. Our heart is a composition of all the parts of our soul—the mind, the emotion, and the will

(Matt. 9:4; Heb. 4:12; Acts 11:23; John 14:1; 16:22)—plus one part of our spirit—the **conscience** (Heb. 10:22; 1 John 3:20).

- B. The exercise of the spirit works only when our **heart is active**; if man's heart is indifferent, the spirit is imprisoned within and is unable to show forth its capability—Matt. 5:3, 8; Psa. 78:8.
- C. The soul is the person himself, but the **heart is the person in action**; the heart is the acting agent, the acting commissioner, of our entire being.
- D. The activities and movements of our physical body depend on our physical heart; in like manner, our daily living, the way we act and behave, depends on what kind of psychological heart we have.
- E. The **heart** is the **entrance and exit of life**, the “switch” of life; if the heart is not right, life in the spirit is hindered, and the law of life cannot work freely and without obstruction to reach every part of our being; though life has great power, this great power is controlled by our small heart—Prov. 4:23; Matt. 12:33-37; cf. Ezek. 36:26-27.

Day 2

Ezekiel 36:26 - I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Matthew 13:8 - But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

II. Our growth in life builds up the church as the Body of Christ, which takes place by the **growth of Christ as the seed of life in our heart** (1 John 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23; Col. 2:19; Eph. 2:21; 4:15-16; Matt. 13:18-23); we need to **cooperate** with the Lord by dealing with our heart so that it can be kept with the following characteristics:

- A. God wants our heart to be **soft**:
 - 1. When God deals with our heart, He **takes away the heart of stone** out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh, a soft heart—Ezek. 36:26.
 - 2. To be soft means that our heart is **submissive** and **yielding** toward the Lord, not stiff-necked and rebellious—cf. Exo. 32:9.
 - 3. A soft heart is the **good earth in which Christ can freely grow**; it is a heart that is not hardened by worldly traffic, that is without self-seeking, and that is without the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches—Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23.
 - 4. God softens our heart by using **His love** to move us; if love cannot move us, He uses His hand through the environment to discipline us until our heart is softened—2 Cor. 5:14; 4:16-18; Heb. 12:6-7; cf. Jer. 48:11.
- B. God wants our heart to be **pure**:
 - 1. A pure heart is a **heart that loves God and wants God**; besides God, it has **no other** love, inclination, or desire—Matt. 5:8; Psa. 73:25; cf. Jer. 32:39.
 - 2. Our heart should be **single for God** so that we are fearful of nothing except offending Him and losing His presence—Psa. 86:11; Isa. 11:1-2.
 - 3. To be pure in heart is to have the **single goal** of accomplishing God's will for God's glory; our goal should be the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ—Phil. 3:7-14.
 - 4. We must pursue Christ “with those who **call on the Lord out of a pure heart**”—2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Tim. 1:5; Psa. 73:1.

For our heart to be established blameless in holiness includes much more than simply for our heart to turn to the Lord and to be pure toward the Lord. This is to have our **turned** and **pure** heart **separated** unto the Lord, **occupied** by the Lord, and **saturated** with the Lord. Such a heart not only has turned to the Lord but it also has a **pure motive**. It is separated unto Him, fully occupied by Him, and thoroughly saturated with Him. It is here in such a state that our heart will be established. Once our heart has been established, it will be set, and it will be no longer movable or changeable. Furthermore, when our heart is in such a condition, it will become blameless.

When we were **away** from the Lord, our heart also was **turned away** from Him. Instead of being occupied by the Lord, our heart was **occupied by many other things**. Furthermore, our heart certainly was not saturated with the Lord. Thus, our heart was away from the Lord, it was not occupied by the Lord, and it was not saturated with the Lord. However, we can praise the Lord that, through His mercy and grace, we are now on the way to being separated fully unto the Lord, to being occupied wholly by Him, and to being saturated thoroughly with Him. When this process has been completed, our heart will be in the state of being holy, in the state of holiness.

To be blameless is not the same as to be perfect. When something is perfect, it is without blemish or defect. This goes beyond blamelessness. In other words, to be without blame is not as good as to be without blemish. In 3:13 Paul does not require perfection. Rather, he requires only that our heart be blameless. The way for our heart to be blameless is for it to be established by the Lord. If our heart is established by Him, we shall be those whose heart has been separated unto the Lord, occupied by Him, and saturated with Him. Then our heart will be set, established, built up, in holiness. Here, in this state of holiness, the state of being made holy, our heart will become blameless. (*Life-Study of 1 Thessalonians, chapter 21*)

Day 3

1 Timothy 1:5 - But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

C. God wants our heart to be **loving**:

1. A loving heart is a heart in which the emotion **loves** God, **wants** God, **thirsts** after God, and **yearns** for God, having a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with the Lord—42:1-2; S. S. 1:1-4.
2. We must turn our heart back to the Lord **again and again** and have it **continually** renewed so that we may have a new and fresh love toward the Lord—2 Cor. 3:16.
3. All spiritual experiences **start with love in the heart**; if we do not love the Lord, it is impossible to receive any kind of spiritual experience—Eph. 6:24; Rev. 2:4-5.
4. Our love for the Lord qualifies, perfects, and equips us to speak for the Lord with His authority; if we **love the Lord to the uttermost**, we will be **filled** and **overflowing** with Him—John 21:15-17; Matt. 26:6-13; 28:18-20.

D. God wants our heart to be at **peace**:

1. A heart at peace is a heart in which the conscience is **without offense**, **condemnation**, or **reproach**—Acts 24:16; 1 John 3:19-21; Heb. 10:22.
2. If we **confess our sins** in the light of God's presence, we receive His forgiveness and His cleansing so that we may enjoy **uninterrupted fellowship** with God with a **good and pure conscience**—1 John 1:7, 9; 1 Tim. 1:5; 3:9.

3. The result of practicing **fellowship with God in prayer** is that we enjoy **the peace of God**, which is actually God as peace mounting guard over our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil—Phil. 4:6-7.
4. We need to let the peace of Christ **arbitrate in our hearts** by forgiving one another to put on the one new man—Col. 3:13-15.

Day 4

Philippians 1:21 - For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Galatians 2:20 - 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.

III. We need to see the **obstacles** that God's life encounters in our heart:

- A. The first problem that God's life encounters in us is that we do not realize the **darkness of our human concepts**—2 Cor. 3:14; 4:4:
 1. We need to see that the only thing that matters in the Christian life is **how we take care of the living Christ in us**—Gal. 1:16; 2:20; 4:19; Phil. 1:19-21; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 2. Being a Christian means **not taking anything other than Christ as our aim**; many people have difficulty in their spiritual life after they are saved because they do not know the pathway of life, and they do not take Christ as their life—Rom. 8:6.
- B. The second problem that life encounters in us is **hypocrisy**—Matt. 6:2, 5; 7:5; 23:13-29:
 1. A person's spirituality is not determined by outward appearance but **by how he takes care of the indwelling Christ**.
 2. Our **natural goodness is false spirituality** and is actually a great hindrance to life; the expression of life involves the rejection of our natural disposition and preference and **simply allowing Christ to operate in us and break us**.
 3. If we always do things **according to our disposition and natural being**, the outcome will always be **hypocrisy**.

Day 5

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, as we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

- C. The third problem that life encounters in us is **rebellion**—2 Cor. 10:4-5:
 1. Christ **operates** and **moves in us** in order to make us clear about His will and requirements for us and about His leading and dealing with us.
 2. However, if we **do not obey** but **go against** the feeling within, **not accepting** His leading or paying the price, this **unwillingness** and **opposition** are rebellion.
 3. The sin that we commit the most frequently and most severely is not outward and visible; rather, it is the **sin of disobeying** the sense of Christ in us; Christ is living in us, and He is constantly giving us an inward sense of life—Rom. 8:6; 1 John 2:27; cf. Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20; 2 Cor. 2:12-14.
- D. The fourth problem that life encounters in us is our **natural capability**:
 1. Many brothers and sisters truly love the Lord, are zealous for the Lord, and are very godly; nevertheless, their greatest problem is the **strength and greatness of their capabilities and abilities**; consequently, Christ has no ground or way in them.

2. We may be capable and talented, but we do not consider these things as sin or filthiness; instead of despising our natural capabilities, we treasure them; if they **remain unbroken** in us, they will **become a problem** to Christ's life.
- E. If we want Christ's life to be unhindered in us, we must experience the **breaking of the cross** and allow these obstacles to be dealt with and removed—Matt. 16:24-25.

Day 6

2 Thessalonians 3:5 - And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-17 - That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

IV. We need to see the **subjective obstacles** encountered by God's life in our heart:

- A. The first subjective problem is the problem of our **mind**:
 1. If the things we want to do **originate from our thoughts**, then these things will be **nothing more than religious activities**, even if they are successful; they are not a testimony of Christ lived out from our spirit—cf. Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:2.
 2. Although we have the life of Christ within, **we do not cooperate** with Christ's life in our thoughts and actions, and so this life cannot be lived out from us.
 3. When our mind is **set on the spirit**, our outward actions are **in agreement** with our inner man, and there is **no discrepancy** between us and God; He and we are at **peace**, not at enmity; the result is that we feel peaceful within—8:6.
- B. The second subjective problem is the problem of our **will**:
 1. Even though our mind often understands the intention in our spirit, and we know the will of God, we are **unwilling** to submit and obey.
 2. We may understand, know, apprehend, and deeply sense that the Lord wants us to do a certain thing, **but our will refuses to submit and surrender**, and we lose the Lord's presence.
 3. **Both** a strong will and a weak will to carry out the Lord's will **are hindrances** to God's life; a will that has been dealt with is both strong and pliable by being subdued and resurrected by the Lord; having a will that can cooperate with God is a great matter—Phil. 2:13.
- C. The third subjective problem is the problem of our **emotion**:
 1. Our emotion needs to have **God's emotion**, and we need to fully enter into God's emotion—2 Thes. 3:5; Phil. 1:8.
 2. We should love whatever **God loves**, like whatever **God likes**, and hate whatever **God hates**; our emotion and His emotion should become **one emotion**—Eph. 5:25; 2 Cor. 12:15; 1 Cor. 16:24; Rev. 2:6; Phil. 1:8.
- D. We daily need to be **strengthened into the inner man** so that Christ as life can make His home in the main parts of our heart—our mind, will, and emotion—Eph. 3:16-17.

V. May the Lord **have mercy upon us and open our eyes** to see that the central work of God in this age is that man may **gain** His life and **grow** and **mature** in His life; our work should be the **imparting** and **supplying** of the Lord's life to others; only the work that comes out of His life can reach His eternal standard and be **accepted** by Him—John 7:37-39a; 2 Cor. 4:10-12; 1 John 5:16a; 2 Cor. 3:3, 6.

For this reason we must **deal with our heart** so that we might have a proper relationship with the Lord. How can we deal with our heart? Again, it is quite simple. The Scripture says, “Blessed are the pure in heart” (Matt. 5:8). Some translators have changed the word pure to clean—that is, “clean in heart.” But the word clean is not adequate. It is not just a matter of a clean heart but of a **pure heart**. We may be clean but mixed and therefore not pure. To be mixed does not mean to be dirty but to have more than one goal and one aim.

This is the problem with many brothers and sisters. They think that they have nothing wrong with their hearts because they are clean and without condemnation. But they are not pure, because they have **more than one goal, more than one aim**. Yes, they are aiming at God, but at the same time they are aiming at several other things. They may be aiming at God and at a doctor’s degree. When they have two things as their aims, they are mixed and complicated. For example, we cannot see two things with our eyes at the same time. If we try to look at two items at the same time, both of them will be blurred.

Even many Christian workers have too many goals. One brother testified that he had a great goal: he wanted to be the biggest preacher in his denomination. His heart was clean, but he was not pure. **His heart must be purified until he has only one goal**—the Lord Himself. Some Christian workers have the Lord Himself and His work as their goal. They have two goals. They need to purify their heart until they seek nothing other than the Lord Himself as their goal. Their aim, their goal, and their interest should only be the Lord Himself. When they seek absolutely nothing but Him, their heart is pure, and if they have such a pure heart, the “sky” will not only be open but very clear to them. Sometimes the sky is open but cloudy. Why is the spiritual sky cloudy? It is because the heart is mixed and not pure. **When the heart is purified from many goals, the sky is clear.** (*The Economy of God, chapter 8*)