

KEY STATEMENTS FOR THE 2024 MEMORIAL DAY BLENDING CONFERENCE

**We need to realize that everything through which we
pass has only one purpose—
that God's life would be released through us and expressed in us;
may our outer man be broken to such an extent
that the inner man can be released and expressed;
this is precious, and this is the way of the servants of the Lord.**

**To abide in the Lord is to be one spirit with
Him, and effective prayers are the issue
of our abiding in the Lord and of His words abiding in us.**

**Our enjoyment of Christ as the flow of life is for us to be
sowers, planters, waterers, begetters, feeders, and builders with the ministry of life for the
marvelous organic building of God, the magnificent house of God.**

**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.**

HWMR: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (Week 2)

Scripture Reading: John 15:1, 4-5; Rom. 11:17-24; 1 Cor. 6:17

A Grafted Life

John 15:1	I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
John 15:4	Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
John 15:5	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.
Romans 11:17	But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,
Romans 11:18	Do not boast against the branches; but if you boast, remember that it is not you who bear the root, but the root you.
Romans 11:19	You will say then, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.
Romans 11:20	Rightly said: they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be high-minded, but fear;
Romans 11:21	For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.
Romans 11:22	Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
Romans 11:23	And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.
Romans 11:24	For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
1 Corinthians 6:17	But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Day 1

1 Corinthians 6:17 - But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

John 15:4-5 - Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 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.

- I. As believers in Christ, we should live a **grafted life**—a life in which we are **one spirit** with the Lord and live in an **organic union** with Him—1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:4.
- II. The Bible reveals that the relationship God desires to have with man is that He and man become **one**—1 Cor. 6:17:
 - A. God desires that the divine life and the human life be **joined together** to become one life— John 15:1, 4-5.
 - B. This oneness is an organic union, a **union in life**—a grafted life.
 - C. The concept of the divine life and the human life being grafted into one is **mysterious**, beyond the natural concept, and foreign to human thought.

The Christian life is a **grafted life**, not an exchanged life. Some in Christianity take the phrase it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ in Galatians 2:20 as the basis for describing the Christian life as an exchanged life. But Paul's word says, "*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,*" that is, by union and mingling with Him. If we pay attention only to no longer I, but Christ, it may appear that this speaks of an exchange. Yet in actuality, no longer I does not mean that there is no more "I," because the verse goes on to say that it is Christ who lives in "me." Moreover, "I" still live in the flesh. Hence, this is not an exchanged life but a grafted life. When two trees are grafted together, it does not mean that one tree takes the place of the other tree, and the other does not live any longer. Rather, it means that the lives of these two trees have been **grafted** to become **one life**. The respective elements of the two trees still **remain**; however, the two trees have become one tree and bring forth fruit that is a mingled fruit.

Today we, the God-men, are those who have **both** the human nature and the divine nature. We have within us **two lives** and **two natures**. These two lives and two natures are living together. This thought is expressed in a new hymn, which says, "No longer I alone that live,/But God together lives with me." The building up of the Body of Christ is the issue of this kind of co-living. The building up of the Body of Christ is not a work but a **co-living**. It is not something that is worked out but something that is lived out. When two trees are grafted together, they both grow and live together to eventually bring forth fruit. This fruit is not produced by building or making but by growing. Hence, the building of the Body of Christ is something that comes out of growth. The building up of the Body of Christ is the growth itself. (*The Issue of the Union of the Consummated Spirit of the Triune God and the Regenerated Spirit of the Believers, Chapter 5*)

Day 2

Romans 11:17-18 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree, Do not boast against the branches; but if you boast, remember that it is not you who bear the root, but the root you.

Day 3

Romans 6:5 - For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

1 Corinthians 15:45 - So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

III. In grafting, two similar lives are **joined** and then **grow** together—Rom. 11:17-24:

- A. Grafting can be effective only if the lives to be grafted are **similar**.
- B. Because our human life was made in the **image of God** and according to the **likeness of God**, it **can** be joined to the divine life.
- C. Our human life **resembles** the divine life; therefore, the divine life and the human life can be grafted together and then grow together organically.

IV. In order for us to be grafted into Christ, He had to pass through the processes of **incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection**:

- A. Christ became **flesh** to be the seed of David, the branch of David, the Shoot, so that we might be grafted together with Him; He became the **same** as we are so that He and we could be grafted together—John 1:14; Matt. 1:1; Zech. 3:8; Jer. 23:5; 33:15.
- B. Christ was "**cut**" on the cross so that we could be grafted into Him:

1. Christ's becoming the branch of David does not by **itself** mean that He could be grafted together with us.
2. Grafting requires **cutting**; two branches cannot be grafted together unless both are cut:
 - a. Christ was **cut** when He **died** on the cross.
 - b. We were **cut** when we **repented** and **received** the Lord.
3. After the cutting occurs, the joining and the organic union take place; therefore, in grafting we have the **cutting**, the **joining**, and the **organic union**.
- C. After Christ was cut on the cross, He was **resurrected** to become the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a:
 1. By becoming such a **Spirit**, Christ was ready for grafting.
 2. Once we **repent** and **receive** the Lord, He as the life-giving Spirit **enters** into our spirit, bringing the divine life into us, and we are **grafted** together with Christ—John 20:22; Rom. 8:11:
 - a. This life is a life of **death** and **resurrection**.
 - b. As the life-giving Spirit, Christ **brings** the key to death and resurrection into us, the believers, that we may die and be raised with Christ—Gal. 2:20.
 - c. In this death and resurrection we are **grafted together** with Christ.

Romans 6:5 goes on to say, “*For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.*”

The words “have grown together with Him” in the Greek imply an **organic union**. The meaning is quite rich. It can be likened to a skin graft. The surgeon may cut a piece of flesh from a patient's leg and attach it to his arm. After a few days the skin taken from the leg will **grow together** with the flesh of the arm; they will be organically joined to each other. Life growth will occur.

This is the very kind of union meant in Romans 6:5. We have been grafted to the Lord Jesus and are now supplied by His life and His riches. A **growth** is taking place as we are **enjoying** Him. This union is not like two dead pieces of wood put together; however closely they may be placed to each other, there is no growing together. There must be a living branch grafted into a living tree for there to be not only a joining but also an organic growing together, with the branch enjoying the riches of the life of the better tree.

The Chinese version translates “grown together with Him” as “identified with Him.” This is quite good, but we do need to include the thought of being **joined** and **growing** together with Him. Both the joining and the growth are essential for a successful graft. If the two pieces of flesh do not grow together after a graft, within a few days the grafted skin will decay. The joining together must bring the growth; then the two lives become **one**. (*Life Messages*, Vol. 2 (#42-75), Chapter 17)

Day 4

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.*

Romans 8:4 - *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.*

V. As **regenerated ones**, we should **live a grafted life**—a life in which two parties are **joined to grow organically**—John 15:1, 4-5:

- A. After we have been grafted into Christ, we should no longer live by ourselves; rather, we should **allow** the pneumatic Christ to live in us—Gal. 2:20.

- B. We should no longer live by our flesh or by our natural being; instead, we should **live** by our regenerated spirit, a spirit grafted with Christ—Rom. 8:4.
- C. Through this grafting we are **united** with Him, **mingled** with Him, and **incorporated** with Him to become the Body of Christ—12:4-5.

Day 5

Romans 6:3-5 - Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 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. For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

VI. The grafted life is not an exchanged life but the **mingling** of the human life with the divine life—Gal. 2:20:

- A. The concept of the exchanged life is that we **yield** our human life to the Lord, and He **replaces** it with His divine life.
- B. The Christian life is not an exchanged life but a grafted life—the **mingling** of the human life with the divine life—Rom. 6:3-5; John 15:1, 4-5:
 - 1. There is **no** exchange, or trade, of lives.
 - 2. Instead of exchange there is the **dispensing**, the **infusing**, of the divine life into the human life and the **mingling** of the divine life with the human life.
- C. The most wonderful reality in the Christian experience is that the believers in Christ are **united** with Christ in the way of **life**—1 Cor. 6:17:
 - 1. Whatever Christ is and whatever He has done are altogether for one thing: that He and we could be **organically united** and live a grafted life—John 15:4-5.
 - 2. In His recovery the Lord is **recovering** this neglected matter of the grafted life.

Day 6

Romans 11:17 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,

VII. In the grafted life the human life is not eliminated but is **strengthened, uplifted, and enriched** by the divine life—Rom. 11:17-24:

- A. In the grafted life the branch still retains its same essential characteristics, but its life is **uplifted** and **transformed** by being grafted into a better life:
 - 1. The higher life **subdues** the lower life.
 - 2. The higher life **enriches, uplifts, and transforms** the lower life.
- B. In the grafted life the divine life **works within us** to discharge the negative elements—2 Cor. 3:18:
 - 1. The divine life works in a **gradual** way to eliminate whatever is natural.
 - 2. The negative element in our disposition is **killed**, and then, instead of casting away our disposition, the Lord **uplifts** it and **uses** it.
- C. In the grafted life the divine life **resurrects** God's original creation—John 11:25:
 - 1. Instead of giving up His creation, God will **reclaim** it.
 - 2. God **intends** to bring all the aspects of our being into resurrection—Phil. 3:11:
 - a. As the divine life discharges the negative things, it **works to resurrect** God's original creation.

- b. In this way our original **functions**—the functions given us at creation—are **restored**, **strengthened**, and **enriched**—Gal. 2:20.
- D. In the grafted life the divine life **supplies** the riches of Christ to our inward parts—Rom. 12:2:
 - 1. Our resurrected and uplifted faculties are **supplied** with the riches of Christ.
 - 2. Through such a supply we are **renewed** in our mind, emotion, and will.
- E. In the grafted life the divine life **saturates** our whole being—8:29-30:
 - 1. The riches of Christ **saturate** us and **transform** us—12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 2. By this saturation of the divine life we are **conformed** to the image of Christ—Rom. 8:29.

Jesus was a fully grafted person, a person of **two natures**. On the one hand, when He lived on the earth He was the real God. On the other hand, He was a man expressing God. He was God expressed through man. We also are **persons of two natures**, the human and the divine. When we receive the divine life, our human life is not ended. Our human life still exists.

Even though the human and divine lives are of one kind, one is stronger than the other. We are now living by a **weaker** life **with** a **stronger** life. Whenever a weaker life is put with a stronger life, the stronger one **subdues** the weaker one. The sisters are the weaker vessels married to the brothers, who are the stronger vessels. For this reason, the wife takes the husband's surname as her own. In this sense, the wives are subdued. On their wedding day, the sisters realize this and put a covering over their head. During the wedding only the husband's head can be seen. This indicates that the two should live **one life**.

In the meeting we may joyfully proclaim, "I am a part of Christ, I am one with Christ, and I am mingled with Christ." However, after the meeting, we may desire to be the head and want Christ to be the covered one. We must always remember that we are the wife and He is the Husband. As such, we are two persons living one life together without separation. One lives **in** the other and **through** the other. This is the way the grafted life can come into being.

We must learn to see the grafted life and learn to exercise and practice it. We should not be joined with Christ as a pair. We must be joined to Him in the way of **coinherence**. He lives in us and we live in Him.

The Christian life is a grafted life, the mingling of two lives which are close in kind. To see this and practice it requires us to be **in our spirit**. We need to walk in life according to the spirit and do nothing without Christ. We should do everything **with** Christ and **through** Christ. If we do not have the assurance that we are doing something with Christ and through Christ, we should stop. This principle must be practiced throughout our entire Christian life. (*The Experience and Growth in Life, Chapter 4*)