

## The Oneness in the Triune God Typified by the Tabernacle

We need more of God as gold. This oneness in the Triune God is typified by the boards of the tabernacle. In this type, we see our need to sink deeply into the Triune God until we are fully overlaid with Him as gold. The forty-eight boards of the tabernacle were fully overlaid not with a thin layer of gold but with a thick layer of gold. Without such a thick layer of gold, the boards would break apart. What keeps the oneness is the gold overlaying the boards of acacia wood. We are one by being in the gold, which signifies our being in the Triune God. Our problem is that we are short of God, and our need is to gain more of Him.

The Lord's recovery consists of God overlaying His recovered people with Himself. Everyday we need to pray, *"Lord, overlay me with Yourself as gold today. I want more gold today."* The Laodiceans thought that they were wealthy and had need of nothing, but they did not know that they were wretched, miserable, poor blind and naked. In the type of the boards of the tabernacle, we see three aspects of the oneness signified by the **three gold rings**, the **overlaying gold**, and **the golden bars**.

### THREE GOLD RINGS

The **first** aspect of the oneness is the **linking Spirit**, as seen in the three gold rings on each standing board. The three gold rings hold the connecting bars that pass through them. The connecting bars were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. These connecting bars hold the boards together. The receptacles of these bars are the gold rings. We are one in the gold of the gold rings, which signify the linking Spirit, who has the function of linking us together in oneness.

We need the linking spirit, who is also the sealing Spirit. The Triune God is embodied in Christ and realized as the sealing Spirit. In ancient times, a signet ring was used as a seal. Hence, the ring put on the prodigal son in Luke 15 signifies the sealing Spirit. The nose-ring put upon Rebekah's nose in Genesis 24:47 also signifies the sealing Spirit. The gold ring upon the nose signifies a golden sense of discernment. Our having a golden "nose-ring" signifies that we have a spiritual "nose" to detect what is of God and what is not of God. A nose-ring also signifies a beautiful expression. In Song of Songs 7:4 the beloved says, *"Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, / Which faces Damascus."* The loving seeker has a nose like the tower of Lebanon, which means that she has a high and sharp spiritual sense of discernment. We all need this spiritual discernment that comes from having the sealing Spirit.

When we have the sealing Spirit, we have the essence of the seal mingled with us. The essence of the sealing Spirit is the "ink" of the Spirit that is mingled with us. A seal also indicates ownership. Our being sealed with the Triune God indicates that we belong to the Triune God. Thus, the mingling of the divine essence with the human essence indicates divine ownership. Moreover, when we seal something, the image of the seal is impressed upon the object being sealed. This shows that we have the divine image. Therefore, by our being sealed with the linking spirit, we have the divine essence, the divine ownership and the divine image.

The **second** aspect of the oneness is the **overlaying Spirit** as seen in the gold overlaying the boards of acacia wood. We need to be overlaid with the Spirit everyday.

The **third** aspect of the oneness is the crossing Spirit seen in the golden bars that cross the boards. The north, south and west sides of the tabernacle were walls of boards. On each side, there were five crossing and uniting bars made of acacia wood overlaid with gold.

This matter of being overlaid with God as gold relates to the revelation of God's economy in the **book of Job**. Job was a good man, but he was not a God-man. The problem with Job was that he was short off God. Job did not fully understand the reason for all his sufferings. In the midst of his sufferings he had a group of three friends with him. The best thing the three friends did for Job was to not say anything. As soon as they began to speak, they become

not a vital group but an unvital group. There was no prayer and no exercise of the spirit; rather, they engaged Job in multiple rounds of debates. They were all in the mind... At the end of the book God came in to condemn the three friends and to vindicate Job to a certain extent (42:7-9).

The key to the book of Job is found in 10:13 where Job spoke to God, saying, *"You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You."* Job knew that there was something hidden in God's heart concerning him, yet he did not know what it was...What was hidden in God's heart concerning Job was **God's economy**. God wanted to dispense Himself into Job to make Job a man filled with God so that he would know God as God, that is, that he would know God subjectively and experientially and would be filled with God to be a God-man.

## BOARDS OVERLAID WITH GOLD

The overlaying of gold occurs simultaneously with this **transformation**; wherever transformation is, there the overlaying of the gold is also. When we are transformed, we are simultaneously being overlaid with God. Transformation depends upon our **loving the Lord, our contacting Him, our listening to His word, our praying to Him, and our walking according to the spirit**; as long as we have these five things, we are living Christ.

We need to pray, *"Lord, constrain me with Your love."* We live by His love, we love Him by His love, and we live to Him by **loving** Him. We need to now only love the Lord but also **contact** Him. Transformation depends on our loving the Lord and our contacting Him. One time, during a meeting, Brother Lee asked, "Why did you come to this meeting?" After several saints attempted to answer the question, he said, "You came to this meeting for one reason – to contact God in your spirit." The reason we are here is to contact God in our spirit. Transformation also depends on our **listening** to the Lord's word. In [Luke 10:38-42, we can see that] it is not wrong to serve, but it is not good to be drawn about and distracted from the Lord with much serving. We need to give priority to the "good part," which is to listen to His word. We need to sit at the feet of the Lord Jesus, listening to His word, in order to be infused with His desire, preference, **up-to-date** burden, and **up-to-date** speaking. As we do so, He will overlay us more and more with Himself so that we may become gold-men, God-men, for His expression and representation in the universe. Transformation also depends on our **praying** to Him. Colossians 4:2 says, *"Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving."* We need to watch in our prayer [by] not falling asleep in our prayer, not only physically but also mentally and spiritually. Finally, we need to **walk** according to the spirit, that is, to live, move and have our being according to the spirit. As long as we have these five things – loving the Lord, contacting Him, listening to His word, praying to Him, and walking according to the spirit – we are living Christ and are being overlaid with God as gold.

## GOLDEN UNITING BARS

The initial Spirit, which is the sealing Spirit, becomes the uniting Spirit, signified by the bars crossing the boards of the tabernacle, to join all the members of Christ into one Body. We may also call this uniting Spirit the crossing Spirit, because it crosses the boards of the tabernacle. Whenever we are in the Spirit, the cross is there to cross us out. As the Spirit with our spirit passes through us on to another brother, we are crossed out. Thus, the uniting Spirit is the crossing Spirit...The uniting of the boards of the tabernacle involved the passing of the bars through the rings on each board to join the boards together; this signifies that the believers in Christ are united when their spirit cooperates with the Spirit, thus allowing the uniting Spirit to pass through them to join them to other believers. Our spirit needs to cooperate with the Spirit and allow the uniting Spirit to pass through us in order to join us to other brothers and sisters...The Spirit always leads us to the cross, and the cross issues in more abundance of the Spirit. This can be seen in Galatians 2:20, which indicates that the more we are crucified with Christ, the more Christ lives in us... Thus, the Spirit always brings us to the cross, and the cross issues in more abundance of the Spirit.

Let us gain more gold, more of the Triune God, and more of this oneness! (*Excerpt from The Ministry of the Word, vol. 20, no. 7, July, 2016. Ministry Magazine, pp. 147-171*)