

The Intrinsic Building Up of the Organic Body of Christ (1) – Governed by a Vision of the Universal Body of Christ as the Goal of God's Economy

We have seen that we need to arrive at the practical oneness, at the full growth, and at the complete building up of the Body... This ministry is strictly for the building up of the Body of Christ. No matter who we may be, leaders or followers, we all are working to carry out the ministry in the New Testament economy to build up the Body of Christ. We are not here to go on alone, but to go on with others, even to bring others on. As we ourselves go on, we need to bring others on. We take others on by **speaking for Christ**, by teaching, and by shepherding.

Once again I wish to point out the need in all the churches for some kind of practical training. We need to be trained in the matters of **teaching, shepherding, and preaching the gospel**. Through this training the saints will learn how to function as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers. As we function in all these ways, we have one goal: the building up of the Body of Christ. As we participate in the work of ministry for the building up of the Body, we arrive at the practical oneness, at full growth, and at the completion of the building up of the Body of Christ.

If our only **goal** is the building up of the Body, we shall spontaneously be **regulated**. As we carry on a particular work, it will be with the consciousness that this work is for the building up of the Body. Formerly, we may have preached the gospel without realizing that gospel preaching must be for the building up of the Body. Now we see that whatever we may do as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers must be for the **unique goal** of building up Christ's Body. If we have seen the goal, then we shall be burdened to help others arrive with us at the practical oneness, at the full growth, and at the full building up of the Body. If we are clear about this, then the Lord will have a way to come back, for He will have a way to obtain the Bride He desires.
(Excerpt from the Life-Study of Ephesians, Chapter 43)

Our God is living and active, the Lord is moving, and the Spirit is flowing: our Triune God is a living, active, moving, and operating God. As a result, He has a move, which is to have the increase and spread of Christ through the propagation of the resurrected Christ by proclaiming the gospel of God. The Lord's move has a direction; we need to both be in the Lord's move and know what it is, and to follow the direction of the Lord's move. The Lord's move in His recovery today involves four things, which are crucial to the God-ordained way of meeting and serving.

The Lord's move is to recover the priesthood of **the gospel** in all of its fulness; He is moving in His recovery to recover home meetings so that new ones may be **nourished and cherished**. The Lord moves to have the **perfecting of the saints** unto the work of the ministry, and to bring us into **prophesying** for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. All these four matters – **preaching the gospel, nourishing in the homes, perfecting the saints, and prophesying for building up** – are related to and practiced in the local churches, on campuses, and all over the earth.

The direction of the Lord's move today is to build up the Body of Christ, prepare the Bride of Christ, and to bring in the kingdom of God. The direction of the Lord's move today is to build up the church as the Body of Christ, and to prepare the bride as the counterpart for the Bridegroom. The Lord will come openly as the Son of righteousness and as the king of kings, but prior to that He will come as the bridegroom, for what His desire is His counterpart, His bride. Sooner or later in the churches through the saints the Body will be built up, the bride will be made ready, and the kingdom of God will be brought in.

We need to enter into the reality of the Body so that we may be prepared as the bride, and we need to know the kingdom of God both personally and corporately. We need to know what the reality of the kingdom is, we need to live under the ruling of the divine life, and we need to see the connection between the kingdom of God and the church. We need to be impressed with **the direction of the Lord's move** so that His direction would become personally **the direction of our Christian life** inwardly. No matter what is happening outwardly, whether health or sickness, life or death, joy or sorrow, and no matter what our stage is in our human life, inwardly we are on course – we have a direction, and in all the churches we follow the direction of the Lord's move.

The first aspect of the direction of the Lord's move today is to build up the organic Body of Christ, which Body is the organism of the processed and dispensing God in His Divine Trinity for His full expression (see Eph. 4:12, 16). The Body of Christ must be built up, because the building up of the church as the Body of Christ is **the turning point in this age**. The building up of the Body is the preparation of the bride.

When the Lord estimates that there's a sufficient reality of the Body built up on earth, He will return as the Bridegroom to rapture the bride; then, within three and a half years, the earth will witness the greatest dispensational change in history. This change involves the bride being raptured, the great tribulation beginning on earth, the wedding feast taking place in the heavens, and three and a half years later, the Bridegroom will assume His function as the commander-in-chief of His army, the bride will be His army, and He will return with His overcoming army to destroy Antichrist and his armies. At the same time, Christ with His bridal army will be the corporate smiting stone to strike the toes of the great image and terminate human government all over the earth. That stone will become a great mountain – the kingdom of God – filling the whole earth.

All this will take place within the three and a half years pending the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. If the enemy keeps on delaying the building up of the Body, the Lord will keep on delaying His return for His bride. There's an **intrinsic building up** going on in the Body of Christ: the Triune God is working Himself into us through His dispensing for His full expression.

The organic Body of Christ is Christ Himself; the Body is built up with Himself as the life-giving Spirit – the essence and reality of the Body of Christ. In the Body of Christ, Christ is all and in all – He is in us, His believers, and He is becoming us, to constitute us as His members (Col. 3:11; Eph. 4:4). We need to be in the process of being filled with Christ, having the essence and reality of the Body saturating our being little by little and day by day.

The Body of Christ becomes the **organism** of the processed and consummated Triune God, who is dispensing Himself in His Divine Trinity to saturate the Body of Christ organically, so that it might be His full expression in the universe. The Body of Christ allows the Lord to move and be expressed on earth, to accomplish His will, and to carry out His administration.

God and Christ are aspiring to see the Body of Christ built up for the bride may be prepared and the kingdom of God may come in, so that Christ may have a Body and a Bride, and that God may have a kingdom on this earth for His eternal economy. All this relates to us, so we do well to pray,

Lord Jesus, saturate us all day today for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. Dispense Yourself into us for the Body. Make us in reality and practicality the Body of Christ, the organism of the processed and consummated Triune God.¹ Lord, we want the direction of Your move to be the direction of our life and move; we want to build up the church as the Body of Christ so that the bride may be prepared and the kingdom of God would come in and fill the whole earth! (Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, The Direction of the Lord's Move Today)