

The Coordination of the Four Living Creatures

"Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward...And thus their faces were. And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches; the fire went to and fro among the living creatures, and the fire was bright; and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt." Ezekiel 1:9, 11-14

The revelation that God needs a group of living creatures is the central point in Ezekiel 1. This is God's need—a group of living creatures who can coordinate together as one corporate entity. This corporate entity is the corporate Christ. God needs the corporate Christ for His expression, move, and administration. If we do not have this kind of coordination as one corporate entity, as the corporate Christ, we cannot have God's expression, move, and administration. Therefore, coordination is very, very crucial. Coordination is the key to understanding the vision in Ezekiel 1.

The eagle's wings, which signify the divine power, the divine strength, and the divine grace, are the means by which we are coordinated and move as one. The eagle's wings represent the resurrection power of Christ. Our coordination is in the resurrection power of Christ, and this resurrection power of Christ is God's power in life becoming our grace. Practically speaking, grace is God in Christ as the Spirit for our enjoyment; therefore, we can coordinate together only if we are enjoying the Lord. If we do not enjoy the Lord, there can be no coordination. There is no coordination if we are not enjoying the Lord, because the eagle's wings are God's power in life becoming our grace, which is God in Christ as the Spirit for our enjoyment.

When one member functions, he moves "straight forward" to fulfill his function, and the other members accommodate him by moving in the same direction, some moving "backward" and others moving "sideways," doing everything through the cross and by the Spirit to dispense Christ into others for the sake of His Body... When we coordinate with other brothers and sisters, we should have this in our being. We should even pray, "Lord, I want to do everything in this meeting and in this fellowship through the cross. I want to be by the Spirit. I want to dispense Christ into my brothers and sisters, and I want to do this for the sake of the building up of the Body." The Lord will answer such a prayer.

To demonstrate this matter, we can have four brothers standing in the shape of a square with their backs to one another and holding their hands up to touch the hands of the two who are next to them. The brothers each represent one of the four living creatures, and their arms represent the wings of the four living creatures. Suppose the most prominent function of one of the four brothers is that of preaching the gospel. Perhaps the function of the brother directly behind him is that of shepherding. The function of the brother to his right may be that of life and the growth in life, and the function of the brother to his left is that of being immersed in the truth and of perfecting others in the truth. This is a picture of some coordinating together in the church life.

When the first brother is functioning in the gospel, he should not run off to function on his own. Rather, his function is in the Body, joined to his fellow members. He therefore needs to function through the cross and by the Spirit to dispense Christ for the sake of the Body. Because he functions as one joined to the other members, when he moves, the other members also move. As he moves forward in the gospel, the brother on his right and the brother on his left must move sideways, and the brother behind him must move

backward, with none turning. Moving in such a way may seem **awkward, but** in the eyes of the Lord and in reality, it is **beautiful**. If the brothers linked together in such a way could run like **a lightning bolt** as the four living creatures in Ezekiel 1 ran, we could see how beautiful this is. According to verse 14, when the living creatures run, they run like the appearance of a lightning bolt. Moreover, they are like **burning coals** and flaming torches, and they burn one another in this kind of coordination with the fire going to and fro among them (v. 13). The fire is not static, because they **burn one another**.

We need to see that when one brother is functioning, another is walking backward. In our demonstration, when the gospel brother is functioning, the shepherding brother has to learn to walk backward. We all have to learn to walk backward sometimes—when another of our fellow members is walking forward. This is not easy. However, it is also not easy for the one functioning. The brother who is functioning in the gospel cannot simply run off and leave the other brothers. Rather, he has to stay attached to the other brothers and function together with them. He must be **limited, restricted, and controlled** by these brothers. Also, the brothers on either side, representing those functioning in life and in truth, need to learn to walk sideways. This is a picture of a beautiful, coordinated walk.

There is a forward walk, a backward walk, a sideways walk to the right, and a sideways walk to the left, and all these walks are going on at the same time to move together in a single direction in coordination. After a time, there will be the need for the shepherding brother to go forward in his function, and the brother who is functioning in the gospel has to go backward, with the other two brothers needing to walk sideways in the other direction. Then, after another period of time, the brother functioning to help the saints in life will need to walk forward and the other brothers will follow him backward and sideways. Then when it is time for the brother functioning in the truth to move forward, the others all move in his direction, two sideways and one backward. As they function together and move in this coordinated way, **they go fast, like a lightning bolt**. We need to see that coordination **does not slow us down**; what slows us down is doing things independently. Coordination speeds us up, even making us as fast as a lightning bolt. Furthermore, through the coordination we become God's expression, move, and administration on the earth. We need to see this and see how beautiful this is. Only our God could devise a picture like this—four living creatures joined and moving together with a forward walk, a backward walk, and two sideways walks. We could even say that they move at a forward run, a backward run, and two sideways runs. They can go in any direction as fast as a lightning bolt. We need to see the reality behind this picture, and we need to learn and practice it.

The burning in the coordination **produces the power and impact** of the church (Acts 1:14). The burning in the coordination is the one accord. The one accord is the master key to every blessing in the New Testament... The one accord is the key and life pulse of prayer, the Spirit, and the word; it is the key and life pulse of the means we use to spread the gospel. The one accord in turn is the divine and mystical coordination we are seeking to demonstrate in this message as seen in the move of the four living creatures.

The fire being bright indicates that in their coordination the living creatures manifest a **glorious and majestic condition**. The kind of coordination that we see among the four living creatures and that is described in this message manifests a glorious and majestic condition. Brother Lee once sent two co-workers and me to Russia. While I was there, I was with one of these co-workers in a tiny apartment that he had. At that time, things were very busy. At one point, just as he was about to do something, this co-worker said, *"My goodness! I need to stop and fellowship with the brothers before I do this."* He realized that before he did anything, he needed to **stop and fellowship**... If you do, you will manifest a glorious and majestic condition. *(Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word: Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1), 88-121)*