

The Revelation, Experience, and Enjoyment of the Ascended Christ as a Merciful, Faithful, and Great High Priest

Christ today is in His ascension in the heavenlies, and **for us to cooperate with Him in His heavenly ministry** we need to experience the **dividing of the soul and spirit**. We need to allow the living and operative word of God to separate the soul from the spirit just as the joint and marrow are divided. All the matters concerning the heavenly ministry of Christ are accessible through the spirit, by the exercise of our spirit. **Using our mind** will only help us comprehend **the knowledge** of the heavenly ministry of Christ with so many items, such as Him being the King, the Lord of all, the Leader and the Savior, the High Priest, the Heavenly Minister, the Administrator of God's economy, etc. In order for us to **be joined to the Lord** in His heavenly ministry and cooperate with Him we have **no other way** but **the exercise of our spirit**.

The chiefest point in Hebrews is that Christ, the Son of God, is the great High Priest according to **the order of Melchizedek**, doing many wonderful things to execute God's economy among God's people... This High Priest ministers not only in the outer court or in the Holy Place but in the **Holy of Holies**, bringing the people of God on His shoulders and breast into God's presence before the mercy-seat, and there He **ministers to God**, so that through this He would have something to **minister to God's people**. This High Priest needs us to cooperate with Him, less His ministry is hindered. We have a high calling – we are called not only to come forward to enjoy the Lord a little or be saved a little more, but come forward to be joined to Him and be one with Him in His heavenly ministry!

In His intercessory ministry He always lives to interceded, and we as those joined to Him need to be the echo on earth corresponding to His ministry in the heavens. The church as a whole has become degraded, failing God, and it will remain like this until He returns; the Lord's call today is for the overcomers. In most of our common and natural understanding, when we think of a priest we think of someone who serves God with the offerings; however, the basic significance of a priest in the Bible is that a priest **ministers God to man**. Yes, Christ in His earthly ministry offered Himself as a replacement of all the sacrifices to be the eternal sacrifice for the accomplishment of an eternal redemption, but right now He is our High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and as such a One, **He ministers God to us**. In His heavenly ministry Christ was designated by God to be a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:6, 10) not to offer sacrifices for sin as Aaron did but to minister to us the very God who was processed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection, signified by the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28).

Christ as our great High Priest ministers to God and goes in God's presence in the Holy of Holies. When He is in the Holy of Holies before God, He is not alone: we are with Him, on Him, being borne by Him on His shoulder of strength and breast of love. When God looks at Christ, our High Priest in the Holy of Holies, He sees us upon His shoulder and upon His breast. Christ bears us before God continually in His strength and in His love. Even right now, no matter whether we're up or down, weak or strong, open or not too open to the Lord, Christ as our great High Priest bears us before God in strength and in love. Thank the Lord for this. **Where would we be without Him bearing us before God continually?** By ourselves we are not strong enough to go on, but because He is bearing us constantly in His love and strength before God, we advance in the Lord little by little every day. As Christ bears us before God in the Holy of Holies, He also ministers the processed and consummated Triune God into our being (Heb. 8:2).

He is the minister of the heavenly places, in the heavenly tabernacle; on the one hand the Lord sustains us and bears us before God, and on the other, He constantly ministers God into our being for us to grow in life, be

perfected, be brought on to maturity, be built up in the Body, and fulfill His purpose. It is very encouraging and comforting to know that Christ is our great High Priest caring for us today; however, even though Christ's care for us may not be what we expect, His heart and care for us are always positive.

Our Christ is a great High Priest – He is great in His person (He is both God and man), in His work (He did so many things in His incarnation, death, and resurrection), and in His attainments (He accomplished so much). Our High Priest is great, yet at the same time, since He was tempted in all respects like us – yet without sin, He is touched with the feeling of our weaknesses. He is so High, so Great, so Glorious, and yet He is so near, so available, so able to empathize with us, being touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Christ as our great High Priest bears us before God in the Holy of Holies – our names and our being is on His shoulder of strength and on His breast of love.

When we feel that we just can't go on anymore, that we have no more strength to fight, or that we want to give up, we are always being reminded that Christ, our great High Priest, still bears us before God in love and strength. How we thank Him that He always lives to intercede for us, and He knows what we need – therefore He ministers to us according to what we need. He is our merciful, faithful, and great High Priest, and we are on His shoulders (His bearing strength) and on His heart (His love). As Christ ministers to God in the Holy of Holies, He bears us before God, and at the same time He ministers the processed and consummated Triune God into our being.

How can we respond to such a One, and how can we enjoy His ministry as a great High Priest? It is by coming forward with boldness to the throne of grace, that is, by coming to the Lord in our spirit again and again. Our spirit is mingled with the divine Spirit, and our spirit is the gate of heaven; here Christ as the heavenly ladder joins us to heaven and brings heaven down to earth. All we need to do is turn to our spirit, exercise our spirit, and remain in the Spirit, and we will enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder. In this way we enjoy His ministry, we receive His dispensing, and we have a way to go on in the Lord and be built up together as the church, the Body of Christ. We all have our own thought and feeling as to how the Lord as the High Priest should care for us, what should He do for us, and what should He give us; however, many times Christ's care for us is different from what we desire or expect.

Often the Lord's way of caring for us is different from what we desire. We may want Him to heal us, to save us from some financial problems, or to bring in peace in some troubled situations, but He may not do this but rather allow things to happen to us that we may not consider positive. We think we know what's good for us, but the truth is that we don't – **only the Lord knows**; He knows what is needed for our life on earth, and He knows what we need in order to fulfill His purpose. However, even though Christ's care for us is not according to our feeling and thought, **it is always the best and it is always positive**. We may not agree with the Lord's way of caring for us today, but one day when we see Him we will thank Him and worship Him.

We may even ask for forgiveness for complaining to Him or to others about our situation, for we will realize that God's will for us is good. Our Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, is taking good care of us. Consider the example of the apostle Paul; he prayed three times to the Lord that He would remove the thorn from his flesh, but the Lord didn't; rather, He said, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness"*. We may think that it's best for Paul – who wants to serve God and preach the gospel where the Lord sends him – to have this thorn removed, but the Lord's answer is that He wants to impart Himself into Paul as grace, enabling him to know how precious and sufficient He is. The Lord may not remove a troublesome situation or a sickness from us simply that we may be enabled to know how precious and sufficient He is. *(Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, Cooperating with the Heavenly Ministry of the Ascended Christ)*