

The Knowledge of Life

[This message] is the crux of the three messages on life in this series of messages. When we speak of the knowledge of life, we are referring not to the knowledge about life but the subjective knowledge of God, that is, the experiential and enjoyable knowledge of life... We need to enjoy this wonderful person as our life. We need to be exercised to be poor in spirit so that we can receive something fresh from the Lord. The contents of this message are very precious, enlightening, and exposing... My prayer is that this message would become spirit and life to us, that it would not just be logos but rhema to us.

[T]he primary matter **in the church life** is that we eat Christ as the **tree of life**. We must take care of this primary matter in all the meetings of the church. If we do not eat Christ as the tree of life in a meeting, we are missing the purpose of that meeting... Eating Christ as the tree of life, which is to enjoy Christ as our life supply, **solves** all the problems of the church through the work of the cross. When we genuinely and purely enjoy the Lord, all our personal problems and all the problems in the church will be solved. The **church in Corinth** had many problems. We may perhaps be encouraged by the situation in our local church once we compare it to the situation of the church in Corinth as seen in Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians. However, in those Epistles Paul not only **addressed the problems** but also **presented twenty aspects** of the all-inclusive Christ for their church through the work of the cross.

There are many ways we can enjoy Christ as the tree of life, but here we will highlight **two ways**. The first way is to **love Christ with the first love**. In Revelation 2:4 the Lord spoke to the church in Ephesus, saying, *"I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love."* If we do not leave our first love, we will have the reward of enjoying the tree of life in verse 7... We should have the habit to often say, *"Lord Jesus, I love You."* When we declare our love for the Lord with a turned heart and an exercised spirit, we are enjoying Him as our first love. We need to be romantic with the Lord. Song of Songs presents the romance of a seeker with the Lord... **How is our romance with the Lord?** Therefore, one way we enjoy the Lord as our life supply is by giving Him the first place in our being, in our heart, in our life, and in our work.

The second way we enjoy the Lord as our life supply is to **take Christ as the basic factor and energizing supply for our living**. John 6:57 says, *"As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me."* How do we eat Christ as our supply? Verse 63 says, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."* It is the Spirit who gives the divine life, zoe, the uncreated, eternal, and unlimited life. This means that the way to enjoy Christ as our life supply is to eat His words... We may think that to have morning revival means to read the verses and the ministry for the day in The Holy Word for Morning Revival. That would be analogous to only drinking a cup of coffee instead of eating a proper breakfast before leaving for work. In order to have a proper morning revival, we need to **find God's words every morning**. In other words, we need to make a **fresh discovery** in the Word every morning. The gladness and joy factor in our being is determined by how much we eat God's words...

Obstacles of God's Life in Man

The first problem that God's life encounters in us is that we do not realize is the darkness of **our human concepts**. Ephesians 4:17 says, *"This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind."* Here Paul is saying that it is possible for us as believers to

walk in the vanity of our mind. Although we have the life of God in our spirit, it is possible for us to neglect our spirit and to walk in the vanity of our mind...

The second problem that life encounters in us is **hypocrisy**. We should not judge the hypocrisy in others. Rather, we need the light to shine on us personally, because **we all need to be saved from hypocrisy...**" The reward of hypocrites is that they are glorified by men. Hypocrites sound a trumpet to announce their giving of alms. Some congregations post a list of the people who gave. The names of those who gave the most are listed at the top, while those who gave the least are at the bottom. Such congregations would place the poor widow in Mark 12:41-44 at the bottom of their list because she cast into the temple treasury only two lepta. However, in the Lord's eyes she gave all her living to Him (v.44). We should not give alms to be glorified by men. Likewise, we should not pray to be seen by men. If we do that, we will have our reward in full.

The third problem that life encounters in us is **rebellion**. The sin that we commit the most frequent...is disobeying the sense of Christ in us [as] He constantly gives us an inward sense of life. We need to take care of the **inward sense of life**. In Ephesians 3:1 Paul referred to himself as "the prisoner of Christ Jesus." Then in 4:1 he regarded himself as "the prisoner in the Lord." In other words, Paul not only saw himself as the Lord's prisoner but also took **the Lord as his prison**. In 6:20 Paul says, "I am an ambassador in a chain." Paul took care of the rest in **his spirit rather than the outward environment**. We need to follow his example.

The fourth problem that life encounters in us is our **natural capability**... Moses was full of natural capability. He was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in power and in deed. He thought he could deliver the children of Israel by his capability. One day he saw an Egyptian abusing one of the Hebrew slaves; Moses then struck the Egyptian, killed him, and buried him in the sand. Eventually, Pharaoh found out, and Moses had to flee to the wilderness. After forty years in the wilderness, Moses lost all trust in his natural disposition and natural strength, and he **learned to trust and rely on the Lord** for everything.

There is one solution to these obstacles in us – **we must pass through the cross and let the cross break us**; if we want Christ's life to be unhindered in us, we must experience the breaking of the cross and allow these obstacles to be dealt with and removed. We need to see the pathway of life. Matthew 7:13-14 says, *"Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it."* The real constricted way is the church life. We need to pray, *"Lord, make me one of the few who find the constricted way."* (Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word)

"What every church today needs most is the things of **life**. All our work and activity must come out of life...Unless it comes out of life, our work and service will neither last nor bear much weight. If we want our work to bear abundant and lasting fruit, we must have **a foundation in life**...Our work should just be the releasing of the life of the Lord, the imparting and supplying of the Lord's life to others. May the Lord have mercy upon us and open our eyes to see that the central work of God in this age is that man may gain His life and grow and mature in His life. Only the work which comes out of His life can reach His eternal standard and be accepted by Him" (*The Knowledge of Life*, pp. 57-58)