

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OF JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS, Week 4

God's Words—the Divine Supply as Food

Scripture Reading: Jer. 15:16; Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; John 5:39-40; 6:50-51, 57, 63; Col. 3:16

- Jeremiah 15:16 **Your words were found and I ate them**, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
- Deuteronomy 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had never known nor your fathers had ever known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that **man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah**.
- Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- John 5:39 You **search the Scriptures**, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 **Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life**.
- John 6:50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die.
- John 6:51 I am the **living bread** which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- John 6:57 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**.
- John 6:63 **It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing; **the words** which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- Colossians 3:16 **Let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

The subject of this message is **God's words being the divine supply as food**. In the book of Jeremiah we are shown a very precious crystal concerning God's words being the life supply to His people. It is wonderful and encouraging that such a crystal is revealed in the midst of an apparently negative situation. Jehovah was chastising His people, and the prophet Jeremiah was in a state of disappointment and distress due to persecution by the children of Israel. But **Jeremiah 15:16 tells us that the word of God is our life supply as food**. Most of this message is on this one verse. We surely need the word of God to supply and strengthen us in a situation of God's judging, chastising, and dealing with us.

We thank the Lord that God is still speaking to us in these abnormal and special days, during which we are under all kinds of limitations and surrounded by turmoils. In such circumstances it is easy for people to become discouraged, disheartened, and disappointed. However, **God is still speaking to us, and His word is still with us**. Even in these days of great limitation, God has provided a way for us to continue to speak and hear His word. Without His word we would be left in our discouragement, disappointment, and distress. But because of the Lord's provision, we do not have to be discouraged and distressed. We have His word to us. **We not only can hear and be enlightened by His word but also be supplied by His word as food**. This is a great matter.

(Excerpt from *The Ministry of the Word, Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations Vol. 24, No.6, page 78*)

Day 1

I. "Your words were found and I ate them"—Jer. 15:16a:

- In the Bible we first have **God**, and then we have **God's speaking**, the word that proceeds out of His mouth—Gen. 1:1, 3; Matt. 4:4.
- All Scripture is God-breathed**; hence, the words in the Scriptures are the words that proceed out through the mouth of God—2 Tim. 3:16.
- The Bible as the Word of God is the **embodiment** of God, Christ, the Spirit, and life—John 1:1, 4; 6:63; 14:6, 17, 20; 15:7; 1 John 1:1; Rom. 8:2.
- The Bible as the Word of God is composed of **three elements**—**Christ**, the **death** of Christ, and the **resurrection** of Christ—Phil. 1:20-21; 2:16; 3:10-11; 4:13.
- The words spoken by the Lord Jesus are **spirit and life**—John 6:63:
 - The Lord's spoken words are the embodiment of the Spirit of life—Rom. 8:2.
 - Christ is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the **Spirit is embodied in His words**—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 1:1, 4; 6:63.
 - When we **receive His words by exercising our spirit**, we get the Spirit, who is life—5:39-40.

The **Word is outside of us**. When I receive the Word into me, it immediately **becomes the Spirit**. When I speak the Word out, the Spirit once again becomes the Word. When you receive the Word into you, the Word becomes the Spirit once more, and when you speak the Word out, it becomes the Spirit again. When we preach the gospel, we are actually preaching the Word. When people believe the gospel, they believe the Word. As strange as it may seem, when people receive the Word, the Word actually becomes the Spirit within them. For example, if you came to the Lord through John 3:16, you might have prayed, "Lord, I thank You that You are so good to me. You have given Your Son to me." What happened within you when you believed these words? When you believed these words, something within you was quickened and became living. I do not mean that you received some knowledge in your mentality, but that something became so living in your heart and spirit. **You believed the Word, yet you received the Spirit. The Word outside of you became the Spirit inside of you**. It was the Word without, but it became the Spirit within. When you listened to the Word and received it, you somehow received the Spirit also. This is very mysterious and marvelous.

(Excerpt from *The Life-Study of John, chapter 16, section 4*)

Day 2

- F. God's word is the **divine supply** as food to nourish us—Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4:
1. The **divine concept** concerning God's word is that it is food by which we are nourished—1 Cor. 3:1-2a; Heb. 5:12-14.
 2. The word of God is **God Himself as our food**—John 1:1, 4, 14; 6:33, 51, 57.
 3. **The Lord Jesus** took the word of God in the Scriptures as His bread and lived by it—Matt. 4:4.
 4. **Every word** that proceeds out through the mouth of God is spiritual food to nourish us; this is the food by which we must live—John 6:51, 57.
 5. **Through the word** as our food, **God dispenses** His riches into our inner being so that we may be **constituted** with His element.
- G. According to the entire revelation in the Holy Bible, God's words are good for us to eat, and we need to eat them—Psa. 119:103; Matt. 4:4; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2-3:
1. God desires that man eat, digest, and assimilate Him—John 6:50-51, 57:
 - a. To eat is to **contact things outside of us** and to **receive them into us**, with the result that they **eventually become our constitution**—Gen. 2:16-17.
 - b. To eat is to take food into us that it may be **assimilated organically into our body**—John 6:48, 50.
 - c. God's words as food eaten, digested, and assimilated by us actually become us; this is the word **becoming our constitution**—Matt. 4:4; Col. 3:16.
 2. **Whenever** we read the Bible, we must **come to the Lord** for life and **eat the bread of life**, which is Christ Himself—John 5:39-40; 6:48, 50-51, 57.

Day 3

3. To eat the Lord as the word is to **take Him in as our life supply**; He is the bread of life for us to eat—vv. 48, 51.
4. **The way to eat** the Lord is to **pray the Word**; to pray-read the Word of God is to exercise our spirit to eat the word—Eph. 6:17-18.
5. The more we **eat** God's words, the more **we will be constituted and saturated** with Christ—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17; Col. 3:4, 10-11.
6. As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have **proper spiritual digestion**—Ezek. 2:8—3:3; Jer. 15:16; Rev. 10:9-10:
 - a. If we have good digestion, there will be a **thoroughfare** for the food to get into **every part of our inward being**—Eph. 3:16-17a.
 - b. **Indigestion** means that there is **no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts**—Heb. 3:12-13, 15; 4:2.
 - c. We **need to keep** our whole being with all our inward parts **open** to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
7. Because we are what we eat, if we eat God as our food, we will **be one with God** and even **become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead**—John 1:1, 14; 6:32-33, 48, 51, 57.

Day 4

II. "Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart"—Jer. 15:16b:

- A. Although Jeremiah suffered more than all the other prophets, **he had gladness and joy in his heart whenever he found God's words and ate them**—v. 16.
- B. The word **became in** verse 16 indicates that gladness and joy are an issue of God's words being eaten, digested, assimilated, and constituted into our inner being, causing the Lord's joy to become our joy—John 15:7, 10-11:
1. When we eat God's words, His word becomes our heart's gladness and joy—Jer. 15:16.
 2. **After** God's words are taken into us and are assimilated into our inward parts, these words **become joy within and gladness without**.
- C. God is a **God of joy**, and He wants us to **enjoy Him**—Neh. 8:10; Psa. 36:8:
1. A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has given Himself to us as **grace to be our enjoyment**—John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14.
 2. In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presented Himself to man as food; this shows that God's desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psa. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.
- D. Romans 14:17 speaks of "joy in the Holy Spirit":
1. This verse indicates that the **Spirit** is related to joy; joy is an **attribute** of the Spirit—cf. 1 Thes. 1:6.
 2. **Joy is also a fruit of the Spirit**; the indwelling Spirit gives joy to the believers—Gal. 5:22.
 3. **When we are in the Spirit, we are joyful**, so joyful that we may sing and shout praises to the Lord—cf. Acts 16:25.
 4. We may "exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory"—1 Pet. 1:8:
 - a. The joy full of glory is **joy immersed in the Lord as glory**; thus, it is full of the **expression** of God—Acts 7:2, 55; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - b. We exult with a joy that is immersed in glory—1 Pet. 1:8.

When we read the Bible, we should realize that **God is contained in His Word**, and we should contact it in this way. We should exercise our spirit to touch the living Word. When we touch something in the Word, we should turn it into meditation and prayer. Consequently, we will gain more of the Lord, **absorb more of Him, and our inner being will be enlivened, refreshed, strengthened, and enlightened**. As a result, we will gain more God and enjoy more of Him. I hope that we will all learn to exercise ourselves in these two areas. We should exercise to have the kind of prayer we described in the previous chapter, and we should exercise to read the Word as described in this chapter. We should absorb God, gain Him, and **enjoy Him through praying and reading**. If we do this, we will express much glory, riches, and divine fullness. Furthermore, the church will rise to a higher plane. May we be faithful to continually learn to take this way and to live this life. (*Excerpt from How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God, chapter 6, section 3*)

Day 5 & Day 6

II. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”—Col. 3:16:

- A. The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ—John 6:63:
 - 1. In His New Testament economy **God speaks in the Son**—Heb. 1:1-2.
 - 2. **The Son speaks** not only by Himself in the Gospels but also **through His members**, the apostles and prophets, in Acts, in the Epistles, and in Revelation; all these speakings can be considered His word.
 - 3. The word of Christ includes the entire New Testament, and we need to be filled with this word—Col. 3:16.
- B. The word of Christ is actually the **person of Christ**—v. 16; John 15:4, 7:
 - 1. Paul almost **personifies** the word of Christ; he tells us to let this word dwell in us, as if it were a living person—Col. 3:16; cf. Eph. 3:17.
 - 2. First, we have Christ as our life; then we have His living word personified as His person dwelling in us—Col. 3:4, 16.
 - 3. Since the word of Christ can dwell in us, it must be a living person; therefore, to **let** the word of Christ dwell in us indicates that we **allow** a living person—Christ Himself—to dwell in us—v. 16; 1:27.
- C. We need to **let the word of Christ dwell in us richly** and have the first place in our being—3:16:
 - 1. The word **let** is important; the word of Christ is already present, but **we need to allow it to operate within us**.
 - 2. For the word of Christ to **dwell in us richly** means that it **inhabits** us, **indwells** us, in a rich way—v. 16.
 - 3. The Greek word rendered “dwell” literally means “to be in a house,” “to indwell,” “to inhabit”:
 - a. This indicates that we should **allow the word of Christ to dwell in us, to inhabit us, to make home in us**—v. 16.
 - b. The word of the Lord must have **adequate room** within us so that it may **operate and minister** the riches of Christ into us—Eph. 3:8.
 - 4. The word of Christ should be **given the freedom** to operate within us, inhabit us, and make home in us—Col. 3:16.
- D. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us so that we may experience the **functions of the word of God** operating within us, ministering the riches of Christ into our being—Eph. 3:8:
 - 1. The word of God **enlightens** (Psa. 119:105, 130), **nourishes** (Matt. 4:4; 1 Tim. 4:6), and **waters** us to quench our thirst (Isa. 55:8-11).
 - 2. The word of God **strengthens** (1 John 2:14; Prov. 4:20-22), **washes** (Eph. 5:26), and **builds us up** (Acts 20:32).
 - 3. The word of God **completes, perfects** (2 Tim. 3:15-17), and **edifies** us by **sanctifying** us (John 17:17).
 - 4. By allowing the word of Christ to inhabit us, we can become a God-man filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God—Col. 3:16-21; Phil. 4:5-8.

The Word Let Being Important; the Word of Christ Being Already Present, but Our Needing to Allow It to Operate within Us

We need to let the word of Christ **dwell in us richly** and have the first place in our being. The word **let** is important; the word of Christ is already present, **but we need to allow it to operate within us**. Dear saints, we have the word of Christ around us all the time. Especially in these days in His recovery, His word is not rare. But how much has this word been able to indwell us, to make His home in our hearts? We need to let the word dwell in us. This word let involves our will. **We should decide to let the word of Christ have a thoroughfare in our being.**

The **word let** also implies that **we can reject the Lord**, that we can turn Him away. With the church in Laodicea, Christ was standing outside the church, knocking at her door (Rev. 3:20). He was asking the church to let Him in so that He could come in and dine.

In these days we not only need to hear the word of Christ and, by eating the word of Christ through pray-reading, to receive something into us. We also need to **allow this word to indwell us**, to have the first place in our being, so that it is free to operate.

(Excerpt from The Ministry of the Word, Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations Vol. 24, No.6, page 92)