

Material Offering and the Lord's Move Today
Week 4 – Day 1

Morning Nourishment

[Isa 6:8](#)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.

[Dan 11:32 b](#)

... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

Today's Reading

Right after [the Gulf War], I reconsidered the world situation. We have to consider what the Lord wants to us to do in this present time. There is the need of an appropriate direction for the Lord's move in His recovery today to match the recent changes in the world situation.

The Lord's move and our move are both signified by a wheel. The wheel within a wheel is the Lord's move in our move. When God's people move, God moves. If God's people do not move, God has no way to move.

Recently, a group of brothers traveled to Eastern Europe and Russia, and they have testified of the openness and immense hunger of the people there for the divine truth. Many of the people in Eastern Europe and Russia will only accept the writings of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee.... There is famine of truth in that part of the world. Some of the people there have even begged the brothers to send people to teach them the Bible.

In both the Far East and the United States, the Lord's recovery is growing, but it is still in the stage of initiation in Europe. We should remember that the United States, Europe, and the Far East are the three influential factors of the present situation of the world. The recovery has taken root in the United States and the Far East, but there is a void in Europe. For this reason, the Lord's direction of His present recovery must be toward Europe. The recovery in Europe is still in the stage of initiation.

The Lord's recovery must spread to Europe and be rooted there. The spreading of the truths of the Lord's recovery will be a preparation for the Lord's coming back to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation.

Of the three influential factors in today's world, the Far East and the United States have been occupied and taken by the Lord's recovery. Europe still remains as a region in which the Lord's recovery need to be rooted and grow. I hope that we would bring this fellowship to the Lord and pray. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, these days are the consummation of the age. Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward You."

The disciples sovereignly were scattered to other places without waiting for the completion of the gospel in the Holy Land [[Acts 8:1](#)]. Portions of the Holy Land had not yet heard the gospel, but the Lord was still burdened for the disciples to carry the gospel to other places. [Act 8](#) also speaks of Philip going to Samaria and eventually preaching the gospel to an Ethiopian eunuch for the spread of the divine truths.

The scattering of the believers from Jerusalem to other localities is the first mentioning of migration for the spreading of the gospel; hence it should be considered as the basic principle for the spreading of the gospel, including the divine truths. Regardless of whether or not the divine truths have reached the entire United States, we still need to go to Europe. We also have to believe that our going to Europe will stir up something positive in the United States.

To take action [[Dan 11:32](#)] means to do something noble and worthy which may be considered as an achievement. Especially in these days in the Lord's recovery, we need to be those who show strength and take action. (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, pp. 7, 11, 19, 43-44)

Further Reading: The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move, chs. 1-2

Week 4 - Day 2

Morning Nourishment

[2Cor. 6:10](#)

As made sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

[Phil. 4:12](#)

I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Today's Reading

Some need to go to Europe to meet the real need of the seeking ones with the divine truths from the holy Word. After the four-day, four-hour ward with Iraq, I received a burden to “invade” Europe with the divine truths of the Lord’s recovery.... We should go to Europe by emigration, not by a work or by a movement. We will be warmly welcomed because the people there want to receive new things from the Western world. Some of the young people in eastern Berlin begged the brothers to send people there to teach them the Bible.

Some can emigrate to Europe to live the Lord and serve the Lord full-time.... Some can emigrate there to take a job or do business and serve the Lord.... Some can emigrate there to study in a school and serve the Lord.

The full-timers should live a life by faith, trusting in the Lord for their necessities and receiving the Lord’s supply through the saints and the churches. If we feel led and burdened by the Lord to go full-time, we should not worry about our necessities. We have to believe in the Lord and put our trust in Him. We should not think that we will have a prosperous life in material things. We must get ourselves prepared to suffer. The first suffering is poverty. We need to learn to serve the Lord in poverty. Some think that if they serve the Lord in poverty, that is a sign they have not chosen and called by the Lord. However, the apostle Paul was in poverty ([2 Cor. 6:10; 11:27](#)). Because the churches established by him did not adequately support him, he was forced to make tents ([Acts 18:3](#)). At the same time, he ministered to the needs of his co-workers ([20:34](#)).

When I was called by the Lord to serve Him full-time, I thought that He had just called me to preach the gospel to my countrymen in the villages. I told the Lord that as long as I could have water to drink and food to eat, I would be satisfied. I never thought the Lord would bring me to the big cities of mainland China and eventually to Taiwan and the United States. In 1961 I came to the United States with the intention of staying here for the Lord’s recovery. At that time, I had just a little amount of cash on hand to meet my need. However, the Lord supplied me with enough for my necessities. The Lord is faithful to meet all our needs when we follow Him and His calling.

By the Lord’s mercy, I have learned how to be abased in poverty and how to abound ([Phil. 4:12](#)). If we have the money, we learn to save some for others and for the needs of the churches. To serve the Lord in this way is glorious. If the Lord has called us and sent us, He will surely take care of us. He has a way to supply us through the saints and the churches.

When we serve the Lord, we should not have the thought that we are hired in any sense by anyone or any church. If the church supplies us, that does not mean that the church hires us. That is not a wage but the Lord’s supply through the church. We have to fully realize that the Lord in supporting us needs His Body (the church) and the members of His Body (the believers) to cooperate with Him. He does not supply us directly by Himself but indirectly through his Body and His members. (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord’s Move*, pp. 45-47, 54-56)

Further Reading: The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord’s Move, chs. 3-4

Week 4 - Day 3

Morning Nourishment

[2Cor. 8:14](#)

But *it* is out of equality; at the present time your abundance for their lack that their abundance also may be for your lack, so that there may be equality;

[2Cor. 8:15](#)

As it is written, “He who *gathered* much had no excess, and he who *gathered* little had no lack.”

Today's Reading

In [2 Corinthians 8:12-15](#) Paul says we must give willingly according to what we have. Those who gathered much will have no excess, and those who gathered little have no lack. The result of such giving and receiving is what Paul calls “equality” ([v. 14](#)). Equality equals having everything in common, but there are different means of practicing this.

We must remember that God's principle is to have equality. Even in the Old Testament there is a divine way of balance the social wealth. None of the Jews could sell their property forever.... In the year of Jubilee everything was returned to the original owner ([Lev. 25:8-17](#)). God's way is to keep equality.

The Bible encourages us to support the full-time workers. [Third John 5-8](#) tells us we need to take care, of, support, and send the travelling full-time workers forward on their way in a way that matches God, who is generous. If we support the full-timers, we are participating, sharing, in their work for the truth, and we become “fellow workers in the truth” ([v. 8](#)). We are not directly sharing the same work, but we are indirectly sharing the same work. The believers ought to support and undertake for the need of the brothers who work for God in His divine truth, and who take nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore, if you do not have the burden to be full-time, you should make more money for the Lord's interest. Do not work merely to support yourself, but also to support the full-time workers. Even the wives whose husbands are full-time workers could work to support their husband and other full-timers if possible. This will be greatly blessed by the Lord. (*The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 71-73)

The full-timers who would still remain in their job, their profession or business, to make money.... Remain there to make gain of the World's gold. When the Israelites left Egypt, they plundered it of its gold ([Exo. 11:2-3](#); [12:35-36](#)). The material gold mine is in Egypt. We need some full-timers to remain there to dig the gold mine to get the gold. The other full-timers will drop their job, profession, or business for the preaching and teaching of the gospel truth, but they will need something to live on. We would not like to see that they would be forced to make tents as Paul was in [Acts 18:1-3](#). That would be a shame to us. If I were there at Paul's time, I would have gone through all the churches to tell them that it was a shame that they would not have fellowship with the apostle Paul unto the gospel (Phil. 1:5) It was shame to force him and his co-workers to go back to “Egypt” to get some gold. We must stress to the saints that we full-timers in different functions. Some have the function to preach the gospel, teach the truth, and minister life to all the seekers. However, these dear ones could not have any time to make a living. They need others to support them. Therefore, a great number of us full-timers should remain in our jobs, professions, or businesses to make money.

It is a great thing to have a fellowship unto the gospel. Unto the gospel means for the furtherance of the gospel. All the full-timers who remain in their jobs and businesses need to have this kind of fellowship, a fellowship for the furtherance of the Lord's move through those who do not remain in businesses and jobs, but who are occupied all day with preaching and teaching for the spreading of the Lord's kingdom. (*Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 129-130)

Further Reading: The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move, ch. 5

Week 4 - Day 4

Morning Nourishment

[Act 2:44](#)

And all those who believed were together and had all things common;

[Act 4:32](#)

And the heart and soul of the multitude of those who had believed was one; and not even one said that any of his possessions was his own, but all things were common to them.

Today's Reading

It is not sufficient to use the Seventh Day Adventists as an example, reminding the saints how they practice ten percent tithing. This is too poor. The tithing of the ten percent to the Lord is altogether an Old Testament thing, belonging to the law. There was no grace, life, or life power in that. We must be different. We are in the age of grace, which provides us with much supply of life. The dynamic salvation was accepted by Zaccheus in [Luke 19:1-10](#). Immediately after being saved, that sinner gave up so much of his worldly possessions. That was not tithing of ten percent; that was the very issue of the dynamic salvation. Likewise, on the Day of Pentecost all those small members had everything in common ([Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-35](#)). This was not one tenth of their possessions but one hundred percent. They put everything at the feet of the apostles, that is, at the Lord's disposal. That was wonderful. We are in the Lord's recovery; even this matter has to be recovered.

Train the saints who love the Lord so much. It is regrettable that in the past they did not receive the adequate education or instruction in this matter. The more they would spend for the Lord, the more they have the blessing spoken of in [Philippians 4:19](#). Give this verse to all the dear ones who love the Lord and are full-time to make money and to give. This verse is a great blessing. Quite often when I receive a gift from a dear saint, I quote this verse as a conclusion of my letter of acknowledgment: "My God will fill your every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus." Because you are taking care of God's need, God would give you a great blessing in filling every need of yours according to His riches. I have seen in the past that those who did care for God's need all received a bountiful blessing. The saints' giving will not be in vain. The more they give, the more they will see the Lord's riches. Due to the good government, the good administration in Taiwan, the people there have become rich. We have to give the credit to our sovereign God. Now all the saints there in Taiwan can share the riches. We have to pray that God would keep blessing the United States for His purpose. The Lord's recovery needs much blessing that comes from God's sovereignty through the government. The recovery needs the United States as its center.

Train the saints in your locality. Do not merely enjoy the physical gains you have received under God's sovereignty. This may offend the Lord. In this case the Lord will take back His blessing. Train the saints to realize that if we are faithful to Him, He will bless us. If we spend every ounce of gold for His purpose, He will return to us not only by ounces, but by pounds. This is to carry out the fellowship unto the gospel, the fellowship for the furtherance of the gospel.

The key point of this way is that every believer is a full-timer. Some drop their jobs to preach and teach, while some remain on their job to make money. We must encourage some to drop their jobs. We must also encourage some to make money and separate five percent monthly, purposely for the account of the fellowship unto the gospel. (*Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 130-132, 137)

Further Reading: Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move, ch 9

Week 4 - Day 5

Morning Nourishment

Phi 4:15 - 16

And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I went out from Macedonia, no church had fellowship with me in the account of giving and receiving except you only; For even in Thessalonica you sent both once and again to my need.

Phi 4:19

And my God will fill your every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus.

Today's Reading

What kind of sweet feeling the apostle expressed [in [Philippians 4:15-16](#)!] He said this was “a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God” ([v. 18](#)). Paul did not seek a gift from them ([v. 17](#)), but what they gave became a sweet savor for Paul to put on the altar for them. It was not merely something to support him, but it became something increasing to their account. There is an account in the heavenly bank, in which we may have credit or debit. It is merely a low practice to give ten percent. God is not a beggar; do not treat Him as one. You should honor Him as the very bountiful Giver who affords you all the riches. All your riches come from Him. It was and still up to Him whether you will be rich or not. It is not according to your plan of what you should do and have. You simply must labor, day and night. He then will follow your labor to bless you, not for your enterprise, but for the spreading of His kingdom.

In any church out of twenty there must be one who drops his business of profession to take the full-time way to preach and to teach. The nineteen others should do their best regularly, even weekly, to put aside a certain amount of their monthly income for the supporting of such a one. For nineteen to support one simply saves five percent of their income. This would be sufficient to support the ones who drops his job. This ninety-five percent is the equivalent of a full-time job for the one who drops his job. This will not burden the church. It will be easy.

Charge the dear saints that beside their regular giving to the Lord through the church, they should give an additional five percent of their income every month. Do not do it once a year. It is better to... put one portion every Lord's Day into the offering box.

Whether or not in your locality there are these job-dropping full-timers, you should still practice this. In your place there may not be such, yet in other places there may be.... They should practice, to save five percent of their income to take care of those in the other halls, in other churches, and even in other countries. If we are in one accord on the whole earth, the church must practice this, encouraging and charging all the saints each month to designate five percent of their income specifically for supporting the job-dropping full-timers throughout the whole earth.

Do not say that you do not have any job-dropping full-timers. All the churches on the earth have to do this. Leave to the Lord how much will be accomplished, but you must practice the five percent giving. Train everyone among us to practice the putting aside of an extra five percent, putting it aside uniquely for the fellowship unto the gospel. I believe that the Lord will bless this. This is for His spreading. How much He desires to spread through us! But for this spreading today, there is the need of financial support. We do not need to have a fund raising, movement. We do not need to send someone to convince all the churches to contribute money. We simply need a regular, weekly practice of giving in this way, designated for the fellowship unto the gospel.... Every church should have such a separate “Fellowship unto the Gospel” account. (*Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 134, 136-137)

Further Reading: Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move, ch. 9

Week 4 - Day 6

Morning Nourishment

1Cor. 16:2

On the first day of the week each one of you should lay aside in store to himself whatever he may have been prospered, that no collections be made when I come.

Today's Reading

If we mean business with the Lord for the spreading of all the truths, He has shown us, we all to bear the burden to give **five percent** of our income purely, solely, and definitely separate for the full-time workers' support. Every time you give the Lord through the church, five percent of your income should be given to the Lord to support full-time workers for His propagation. Every church that has at least twenty members should practice this. A church smaller than twenty may still have one or two among them who are burdened to be full-time. Suppose a church can only support one full-timer, but two among them are burdened and qualified to be full-time. One of these two should not be told to go back and get a job. Some churches may have twenty members with no full-time workers. Then their five percent can be given to a church that has an extra number of full-time workers. This is done not by organization but by fellowship.

I hope all the churches will begin to practice this regardless of whether or not they have full-time workers and regardless of how many workers they have. The leading ones should fellowship with saints concerning giving five percent of their income for the full-time workers. Then the church should **set up a separate account** for the support of full-timers whether it has a full-timer or not. The funds in this account will eventually be useful. The Lord desires many full-time workers for His present move. Within 1986 I expect that all the churches in the United States would have between four and five hundred full-time workers.

If a church of one hundred saints only has three full-timers, they should have an extra supply for two other full-time workers. Through fellowship with the other churches, they will be able to realize where there are places with full-time workers who need support. We all need to pray and seek the Lord's leading regarding this matter. **There should only be a principle set up with no regulation.** The church needs to take care of the principle of setting aside five percent of the offerings for the full-time workers. But this does not exclude the saints from giving to the full-timers directly. (*The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 75-76)

According to the Bible, the **offerings** made by the believers in the meetings **should be used for**: (1) the local expenses, for example, rent, etc., (2) the relief of the brothers and sisters who are in poverty and want, and (3) the assistance of the workers and the expenses for the work, as commanded by the Bible. Actually, the workers of a locality should be supported by the believers of that locality. The funds of the meetings should be used in such a manner. The individual believer still has a responsibility towards relieving the poor and assisting the workers and the work.

Now we have two offering boxes, and each box has two partitions. There are two openings on top of each box. The **funds for the church meeting** should be put into one opening, and the **funds for the work** should be put into the other opening. This is necessary because, in the past, some have put funds meant for the work into the box for the meeting. In this way the meetings have taken advantage of the work.... If there is money **designated for an individual worker**, it should be wrapped up in paper with name of the worker written on it. Although the boxes are there, the surplus or deficit of the funds for the work is the responsibility of the workers; they are not the responsibility of the brothers and sisters in the meetings. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 17, pp. 214-215)

Further Reading: The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move, ch. 5