

## LIVING IN AND WITH THE DIVINE TRINITY , Week 5

## Living with the Divine Trinity (2) God Operating in Us

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:13; 1:19-21a; Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:9

Philippians 2:13	For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
Philippians 1:19	For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
Philippians 1:20	According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
Philippians 1:21	For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
Acts 16:7	And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
Romans 8:9	But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

### Day 1

**Philippians 2:12-13** So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

#### I. “It is God who operates in you”—Phil. 2:13a:

- A. God has a move on earth, and He moves by His operating—1 Cor. 12:6, 11; 2 Cor. 1:6; 4:12; Eph. 1:19; 3:7, 20; 4:16; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12; 1 Thes. 2:13.
- B. Philippians 2:12-13 reveals that the overall, all-embracing, inclusive thought of the book of Philippians is that **God is operating in us**:
  1. Whatever Christ is to us is for the operating of God—vv. 5-11; 3:8-10.
  2. Our God is living, moving, and operating in us continuously, and we should care for God’s operating in us—2:13.
  3. If we have the spiritual discernment, the spiritual realizing power, we can see that all the things in the book of Philippians are related to God’s operating in us—1:19; 2:5-11; 3:10, 12, 21; 4:5-7, 19, 23.

### Day 2

**Philippians 1:20-21** According to my earnest expectation and hope that...even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Philippians 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.

- C. Everything that is covered in the book of Philippians is **under God’s operating move**:
  1. Chapter 1 shows us that we need to live and magnify Christ for Him to be our living and expression—vv. 20-21.
  2. Chapter 2 shows that we need to take Christ as our pattern and hold Him forth—vv. 5-11, 16.
  3. Chapter 3 shows that we need to pursue and gain Christ as our goal—v. 14.
  4. Chapter 4 shows that Christ is our secret—vv. 12-13.
- D. God is operating in us “both the willing and the working for His good pleasure”—2:13b:
  1. The God who operates in us is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.

2. The **willing is within**; the **working is without**—Phil. 2:13:
    - a. The willing takes place in our will, indicating that God's operation **begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, and will**—Rom. 8:4, 6.
    - b. The Greek word for **working**, or **acting**, in Philippians 2:13 is the same word for **operates** in this verse.
  3. In verse 13 "His good pleasure"—the good pleasure of His will—is that we may **reach the climax of His supreme salvation**—Eph. 1:5; Phil. 1:19; 2:12.
- E. We need to see that God's operating in us is a **miraculous normality**; it is altogether normal yet altogether miraculous—v. 13; 4:6-7:
1. God is operating within us **miraculously yet normally and quietly**—v. 7.
  2. God's operating in us is not outwardly spectacular, **but in a spiritual sense it is a great matter**—Eph. 1:19; 3:17.

**God's operating in us is with the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.** In Philippians 1:19 Paul says, "*I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.*" In Philippians 2:12 Paul charges us to work out our own salvation. On the one hand, the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ will **turn out to be our salvation**, and on the other hand, we have to **work out our salvation**. Philippians 1 and 2 refer to the same salvation. This salvation is the working out, the issue, of the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and this salvation is something that we work out in our living.

If we look at salvation from this angle, we realize that we need to be **saved continuously**. Many years ago when people asked me if I had been saved, I would boldly tell them that I was saved. But today if you ask me the same question, I will ask you what you mean by my being saved. Have I been saved from the lake of fire? Surely, I have been saved from that, but there are still a number of things from which I need to be saved. In order to **magnify Christ and live Christ**, we need to be saved from **murmurings and reasonings**. To be saved from our murmurings and reasonings, we need the **operating God**. It is God who operates in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

We need God's operating and the **bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**. The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ is "the bountiful groceries," and God's operating is "God's cooking." We need the groceries and the cooking of the groceries. Today God is operating within us miraculously yet normally. **We should learn to cooperate with Him**. Our cooperation is our obedience. This is why Paul says in Philippians 2:12, "*Even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*" **We should obey by cooperating with God's operating**. As God operates, we need to obey. (*Living In and With the Divine Trinity*, chapter 12)

### Day 3

<b>Philippians 1:19</b>	For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
<b>Acts 16:6-7</b>	And they passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

## II. God's operating in us is with "the **bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**"—Phil. 1:19:

- A. The **Spirit of Jesus** is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross—Acts 16:7; Luke 1:31, 35; Matt. 1:21:
  1. In the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the **divine element of God** but also the **human element of Jesus** and the **elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well**—Phil. 2:5-8.
  2. The Spirit of Jesus is not only the Spirit of God with divinity so that we may **live the divine life** but also the Spirit of the man Jesus with humanity in Him so that we may **live a proper human life and endure its sufferings**—v. 15.
  3. In his suffering Paul needed the Spirit of Jesus because in the Spirit of Jesus is the **suffering element and the suffering strength to withstand persecution**—Col. 1:24; Acts 9:15-16; 16:7.

## Day 4

**Romans 8:9-10** But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

- B. The Spirit of Christ refers to the **Spirit of Christ in resurrection**—Rom. 8:9:
1. Through the process of **incarnation**, **crucifixion**, and **resurrection**, the Spirit of God has become the **Spirit of Christ**—v. 9.
  2. The Spirit of Christ is actually **Christ Himself dwelling in our spirit** to impart Himself, the embodiment of the processed Triune God, into us as resurrection life and power to deal with death in our nature—vv. 2, 9.
  3. By the Spirit of Christ we can **partake of the power of His resurrection life, identified with Him in the transcendence of His ascension and in the authority of His enthronement**—Phil. 3:10; Eph. 1:20-21; 2:6; John 11:25; Acts 2:22-24, 31-36.

## Day 5

**Philippians 1:19** For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

**John 7:39** But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- C. The Spirit of Jesus Christ refers to the **Spirit of the suffering Jesus and the resurrected Christ**—Phil. 1:19:
1. Because the **Spirit of Jesus** has particular reference to the **Lord's suffering**, and the **Spirit of Christ** to His **resurrection**, the Spirit of Jesus Christ is related to both His suffering and His resurrection; the Spirit of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of the Jesus who lived a life of suffering on earth and of the Christ who is now in resurrection—Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:9; Phil. 1:19.
  2. The Spirit of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of God becoming "**the Spirit**" mentioned in John 7:39—the Spirit of Jesus Christ through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, that **Spirit with both the divine element and the human element, with all the essence and reality of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ**.

## Day 6

**Philippians 1:19** For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**Philippians 4:11-13** Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. 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. I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

- D. Bountiful supply is a specific and rich word used by the apostle to indicate the **bountiful, rich supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**—Phil. 1:19:
1. We need to see that the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ includes **divinity**, the divine person with the divine life and nature; an **uplifted humanity**, a humanity with a proper life, living, nature, and person; the **Lord's wonderful, all-inclusive death on the cross**; and **Christ's resurrection and ascension**—John 1:1, 14, 29; Gal. 2:20; Luke 24:5-6, 50-51.
  2. By the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we, like Paul, can **live Christ and magnify Him**—Phil. 1:19-21a:
    - a. This bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus Christ is for us to **magnify Jesus Christ by living Him**; we live Him so that He may be magnified in any circumstances—vv. 20-21; 4:11-13.
    - b. In the Spirit of Jesus Christ there is the all-inclusive bountiful supply that enables us to meet any kind of environment and thus **experience** Christ, **enjoy** Christ, **live** Christ, and **magnify** Christ—1:19-21a; 4:11.

Through the bountiful supply of the Spirit, **Christ is magnified in us**. What Paul speaks of in Philippians 1:20 is the magnification of Christ, but in 2:16 he speaks of holding forth the **word of life**. The word of life is actually the **living expression of Christ**. **Holding forth the word of life is equal to magnifying Christ**. Christ Himself is the word of life. We hold forth the word of life, and this word is Christ.

In order to magnify Christ and to live Christ, we need the **bountiful supply of the Spirit**. This bountiful supply is stored in the **word**. According to the Bible, the Spirit and the word are one. In John 6:63 the Lord Jesus said, "*The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*" This indicates that the **word is the Spirit**. Ephesians 6:17-18 indicates that the Spirit is the word. Second Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is God-breathed. **Every word of the Bible is the breath of God**. This breath is the pneuma, the Spirit. Thus, because both the word and the Spirit are the breath of God, they are truly one. The Spirit is the breath of God, and the word also is God's breath. Furthermore, God's breath is His pneuma, the Spirit. On the one hand, the word of God is the Spirit; on the other hand, the Spirit of God is the word.

**We simply need to come to the Bible, to the embodiment of the riches of Christ and of the bountiful supply of the Spirit**. As we feed on the word in a proper way day by day, we will grow. The flesh, the natural man, the self, and different evil tendencies and intents will be dealt with. Furthermore, Christ's resurrection life will release the divine riches into us, strengthen our spirit, and edify our whole being. Spontaneously, unconsciously, and automatically we will live Christ. Living Christ in this way is equal to holding forth the word of life. As we live Christ, having a daily life full of divinity, humanity, Christ's human living, death, and the fragrance of His resurrection, we will **magnify Christ**. This is what it means to live Christ by the riches of the bountiful supply of the Spirit embodied in the word. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament, chapter 403*)