

**Week 1**  
**The Mingled Spirit and Calling on the Name of the Lord**

**Weekly Reading Materials**

**(All reading materials are available at: <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>)**

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## Week 1 Day 1

**John 4:24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**Zech. 12:1** The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

**Rom 8: 16** The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

### 1. The Origin of Our Spirit Being God

Reading: *Spiritual Reality*, ch. 1, sec. 2, par. 1; ch. 7, sec. 1, par. 1-2; ch. 1, sec. 5, par. 6-7

#### THE ORIGIN OF THE SPIRIT BEING GOD

Every matter or thing has its origin, nature, and expression. The spirit also has its origin, nature, and expression. First, the origin of the spirit is God. We know that gold often comes from the refined ore of a gold mine. Some of the ore contains the nature of gold, and through the refining process, gold is produced. Thus, the origin of gold is the gold mine. In the same way, because God is Spirit, the origin of the spirit is God Himself.

#### GOD CREATING A SPIRIT IN MAN FOR MAN TO CONTAIN HIM

The Bible also reveals to us that it pleases God to mingle Himself with man. This is God's purpose in creating man. Genesis tells us that God created man in His image and according to His likeness (1:26) because the purpose of God's creation of man is that man would be a vessel to contain Him. For example, a Coca-Cola bottle is made to contain Coca-Cola. The appearance of a bottle indicates its purpose. The reason God created man exactly the same as He is is so that He may put Himself into man. However, the process through which God puts Himself into man is not that simple, because God is too mysterious. God as Spirit cannot put Himself into man, unless man has a spirit. Thus, the Bible tells us that

when God created man, He not only created man in His image, but He also created a spirit in man (2:7; Zech. 12:1). How wonderful this is! God Himself is the uncreated, eternal Spirit, and in order for this uncreated, eternal Spirit to come into man, God created a spirit for man.

### THE CHRISTIAN LIVING BEING A LIFE OF MAN BEING MINGLED WITH GOD

A Christian is one who has God mingled with him. Hence, the normal Christian living is not a living that is independent or outside of God. It is a living that submits to the ruling of God, is under the direction of God, and is mingled with God.

How can man live a life that is mingled with God? God is Spirit, and when we are saved, God as the Spirit enters into our spirit, interacts with our spirit, and is joined to our spirit as one spirit. Hence, whenever we turn to our spirit and are in our spirit, we meet Him because He has been mingled with our spirit to become one spirit. When we turn to our spirit, we actually turn to Him as the Spirit. Our entire Christian living should be one that is lived out from the spirit. In our Christian living, the question is not whether we should or should not do certain things. Rather, the question is whether we do them from our soul or from our spirit.

### SPIRITUAL REALITY

No one can experience this for us. One day in the deepest part of our being—deeper than our mind, emotion, and will—something happened that made us feel unpeaceful and caused us to desire to kneel down to pray and confess, “O Lord, I am a sinner. I have offended my parents because I said something that I should not have said, and I have offended my colleague because I took something that I should not have taken. O Lord, I have sinned.” At that time our tears came down, and we felt that our conscience within us was accusing us and forcing us to confess our sins and ask for the Lord’s forgiveness. This is the experience of the pneumatic Christ entering into us, touching our spirit, and having such an effect on

us. This effect was not something of our mind, emotion, or will but of the faith in our spirit. From that time on, this faith has become a genuine and living faith.

Therefore, we can see that spiritual reality is the God who is Spirit contacting our created spirit. The uncreated Spirit contacts the created spirit, and the two spirits fellowship with one another. This is spiritual reality.

## **2. The Spirit of Man Being Created by God in a Particular Sense, to Complete God's Purpose in the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth**

Reading: *The Spirit with Our Spirit*, ch. 1, sec. 5, par. 3

*2. The Spirit of Man Was Created by God,  
in a Particular Sense, to Complete God's Purpose in the Creation of the  
Heavens and the Earth*

The spirit of man was created by God, in a particular sense, to complete God's purpose in the creation of the heavens and the earth (Zech. 12:1; Isa. 42:5; Job 32:8). Zechariah 12:1 says that God stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him. Zechariah put these three things together: the heavens, the earth, and the spirit of man. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man has a spirit for God. Thus, man is the center of God's creation, and the center of man is his spirit.

## **3. The Spirit of Man Being Ranked with the Heavens and the Earth**

Reading: *The Lord's Recovery of Eating*, ch. 2, sec. 1, par. 1

### **THREE GREAT THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE**

Zechariah 12:1 shows us that in the eyes of God there are three great things in this universe: the heavens, the earth, and man. In the universe God pays attention to the heavens, the earth, and the spirit of man. Therefore, do not despise yourself. You have a spirit within you, and your spirit is ranked with the heavens and the earth. God needs the heavens and

the earth, and even more He needs your spirit. If we see how important our human spirit is, we will be very excited.

#### **4. Knowing the Spirit by Experience**

Ibid., par. 5, 8

##### **WHAT THE SPIRIT IS**

What really is the spirit? It is hard for the mind to understand; we can know the spirit only by experience. For instance, many times our mind reasons out a certain matter, and our will is also in agreement, but deep within us there is something troubling us. That something is a mysterious thing, which is unexplainable, and that is the story of the spirit. Take another case: When a man is poor, all he needs is clothing, food, and shelter, and all he thinks about is how to make money. After he becomes rich and all these material necessities are fully supplied, then he feels the need for recreation and amusement, such as music and sports. Yet after all these needs have been met, he still feels an emptiness deep within him. Then one day he calls, "O Lord Jesus!" It is then that he is satisfied within. This deepest need is neither physical nor psychological but spiritual. Only God can satisfy this need. This need is evidence that we have a spirit within us.

##### **TWO KINDS OF PRAYER**

The Lord said that He is the bread of life and that we have to eat Him. How do we eat Him? It is not by considering Him with our mind but by calling "O Lord!" with our spirit. Suppose your husband or your wife or a brother or a sister insults you, provoking you to anger. This will stir up your mind to think, "How unreasonable this is! How can he do this to me?" Then your whole being will be usurped by the mind, and even though you pray, you will not be able to touch the Lord. Therefore, we must learn how to contact the Lord with our spirit. The Lord is Spirit. To contact Him, who is Spirit, we must use our spirit. He as the Spirit is in our spirit. In our spirit there is a mutual fellowship and a mingling of the two spirits.



## Week 1 Day 2

- Gen 2:7**      **Jehovah God formed man with the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.**
- Prov. 20:27**      **The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.**
- 2 Tim 4:22**      **The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.**

### **1. Our Spirit Being a Vessel to Contact and Contain God as the Spirit**

Reading: *Spiritual Reality*, ch. 1, sec. 2, par. 5

#### **GOD CREATING A SPIRIT IN MAN FOR MAN TO CONTAIN HIM**

The Bible also reveals to us that it pleases God to mingle Himself with man. This is God's purpose in creating man. Genesis tells us that God created man in His image and according to His likeness (1:26) because the purpose of God's creation of man is that man would be a vessel to contain Him. For example, a Coca-Cola bottle is made to contain Coca-Cola. The appearance of a bottle indicates its purpose. The reason God created man exactly the same as He is is so that He may put Himself into man. However, the process through which God puts Himself into man is not that simple, because God is too mysterious. God as Spirit cannot put Himself into man, unless man has a spirit. Thus, the Bible tells us that when God created man, He not only created man in His image, but He also created a spirit in man (2:7; Zech. 12:1). How wonderful this is! God Himself is the uncreated, eternal Spirit, and in order for this uncreated, eternal Spirit to come into man, God created a spirit for man.

### **2. God Being Spirit, and Those Who Worship Him Must Worship in Spirit**

Ibid., ch. 5, sec. 1, par. 3;

#### **GOD WORKING THROUGH HIS SPIRIT**

God is Spirit. Thus, in order for Him to enter into man, He had to create a spirit in man (Zech. 12:1). Man's spirit is a vessel to contain God and an organ to contact Him (2 Tim. 4:22; John 4:24). The human spirit receives the Spirit of God and interacts with His Spirit, and the two become one (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17). Man's contact and relationship with God are altogether not in the mind, emotion, or will but in the spirit. The Lord Jesus told us that God is Spirit and that those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness (John 4:24). Our worship of God does not depend on any outward place; it is the same here or there, inside or outside. What is crucial is our spirit. Because God is Spirit, we must contact Him in spirit.

*Basic Lessons on Life*, ch. 2, sec. 1, par. 3;

### I. WITH A SPIRIT AS THE RECEPTACLE TO RECEIVE GOD

In Romans 9:21 and 23 Paul told us that God's creation of man was just to produce, to create, man as a vessel to fulfill God's purpose. God created man as a vessel to contain Him just as a potter makes a vessel of clay to contain something. Second Corinthians 4:7 also conveys this thought. The apostle Paul considered himself as an earthen vessel to contain a treasure, and the treasure is just Christ, the very God. Thus, in Romans 9 and 2 Corinthians 4 we can see a clear revelation that man was created by God to be His vessel to contain Him.

As a container to contain God, man needs a receptacle to receive God, and this is the unique difference between God's creation of man and His creation of other things. God did not give any other created thing a spirit except man. According to Genesis 2:7, God created man with the dust to form a body. Then He breathed the breath of life into man's nostrils, and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7 shows us a picture of man as a vessel made by God.

There is the need of a receptacle within man to receive and contain God. Today's radio has an outward box and an inward receiver to receive the invisible radio waves. Genesis 2:7 shows us that man has an outward body

made with dust, and an inward receptacle, an inward receiver, produced by God's breath of life. This inward receiver is the spirit of man.

*The Subjective Experience of the Indwelling Christ*, ch. 4, sec. 1, par. 5-6

#### MAN AS A CREATED VESSEL TO CONTAIN CHRIST

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created man in His own image. There is no other book in the universe that tells us in such a definite way that man was not only created by God but that he was also created in God's own image. Only the Bible tells us explicitly that man was created by God in His own image.

Man definitely did not evolve from something else. Rather, man was created by God in His own image. Who is God's image? The Bible tells us that Christ is the image of God. Second Corinthians 4:4b says, "Christ, who is the image of God." Colossians 1:15 says that Christ as the Son of God's love "is the image of the invisible God." Therefore, when God created us in the beginning, He created us according to Christ. Romans 9:21 tells us that God created us and chose us that we might be vessels to contain Him. Hence, we were not only created according to the image of Christ, but we were also created as vessels instead of instruments. Vessels are different from instruments. Knives, axes, and saws are instruments for working, whereas glasses and tea cups are vessels for containing something. God did not create us as instruments to work for Him; instead, He created us as vessels to contain Him.

Based upon Genesis 1:27, Paul wrote Romans 9:21. He realized that in the beginning God created man with clay and that this man of clay is a vessel. However, this vessel is not for containing milk or water but the God of glory. Hence, in Romans 9:23 Paul said, "In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory." This glory denotes God Himself, because in Psalms and Jeremiah we are told that the children of Israel forsook their glory (Psa. 106:20; Jer. 2:11) instead of being told that they forsook their God. To forsake the glory is to forsake God, because God is glory.

Without God, the universe and all that is in it has no glory. God is the source of all glory and splendor.

We are earthen vessels to contain God. When God comes into us, we become vessels of glory. Man was created by God to contain God. This concept cannot be found in any other book. Besides the Bible, there is no other book in the world that has such a record. Second Corinthians 4:6 says, “The God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts.” This light is the expression of glory. Without glory, there is no brightness shining out, because light is the manifestation of glory. This glory is God, and the shining forth of light is the expression of God. God shines in our hearts by Himself as the light of glory. This is just like a camera. When the shutter is open, the image of the beautiful scene with beautiful flowers is exposed on the film through the entrance of light. We are a living camera created by God, and within us we have the film, which is our spirit. When you hear the gospel of the Lord, and if you believe Him in your heart and call upon His name with your mouth, you are a camera with an open shutter, and the film within you is readily exposed to the light. This exposure is everlasting and continuous. I was exposed to this light on an afternoon fifty-eight years ago. This exposure has been going on in me for all these years without ceasing, and it cannot be erased. Every Christian has this kind of experience.

Our spirit is the film concealed in our heart. When the glory of the Lord shines into our heart, our spirit is exposed to the light. At this time Christ as the treasure comes into us. Following verse 6, therefore, 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels.” This treasure is the indwelling Christ who enters into us through the light. Our spirit is exposed to the light when we are touched as we hear the gospel of the Lord, testify for the Lord, read the Word, or study spiritual books. Although we may not be aware of it, this exposure is still working within us. Sometimes we are busy with outward affairs, and we think that the light is fading. Actually, the light to which we have been exposed still remains in us.

### **3. Stopping the Activities of Our Soul and Calling on the Lord from Our Deepest Part**

Ibid., ch. 9, sec. 2, par. 3

#### **GOD CREATING MAN WITH A SPIRIT THAT MAN MAY CONTACT AND RECEIVE HIM**

In order to contact God in spirit, sometimes we have to stop the activities of our body and our soul, and then we have to cry out to God and call on the Lord Jesus from our deepest part. If we do this, immediately there will be light within us. Whenever we stop the activities of our body and our soul, allow the Spirit to work in us, and call from our spirit, “O God! O Lord Jesus,” then, instead of being in our outward activities, we remain in our spirit, the innermost part of our being. At that moment, we know for sure that the existence of God is a reality. This may be compared to breathing. You may not feel that air exists, but it is very convenient for us to enjoy air today. We neither sense that air is here nor feel that we need it. However, when we are deprived of air, we begin to realize that air is real. Just as our body needs air, so our spirit needs God. Therefore, the Bible says that our life and breath depend on Him (Job 12:10). Our physical body needs air; without air, there is no life. Likewise, God is man’s true breath. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus came to His disciples after His resurrection, He did not charge them to be zealous, instruct Peter to change his quick disposition, or ask John to listen to Peter. The Lord came to the disciples to breathe into them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, the holy breath (John 20:22). The Holy Spirit is the life-giving Spirit, and the holy breath is the breath of life. Consequently, the disciples received the life of God.

### **4. To Contact God, We Must Use Our Spirit**

Ibid., ch. 2, sec. 3, par. 3

#### **GOD BEING THE UNIQUE SATISFACTION TO MAN**

We cannot contact God with our body or by our mental consideration because God is Spirit. If we want to contact God, we must use our spirit (John 4:24) because the human spirit is the organ for man to contact God. This may be compared to the receiver in a radio, which is the part that receives the radio waves in the air. Our God is the Lord who created all things in the universe. One day He became flesh to be a man, whose name was Jesus, and lived on the earth for thirty-three and a half years. Then He was crucified on the cross, and by the shedding of His precious blood He accomplished redemption for our sins and became our Redeemer. Moreover, He resurrected from the dead and became a life-giving Spirit. This life-giving Spirit is omnipresent. Although He is invisible and intangible, we can touch Him by calling on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:8-9). When we call on the name of the Lord Jesus, we receive the Lord Jesus because the Lord's name is just the Lord Himself. Furthermore, after the Lord Jesus resurrected from the dead, He became the life-giving Spirit, so when we call on the Lord's name, this Spirit enters into our spirit to regenerate and save us. Then the Lord Jesus becomes our life and everything to us in our spirit and thus becomes the real satisfaction within us.

## Week 1 Day 3

- 1 Cor. 15:45**     **So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.**
- 1 Cor. 6:17**     **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.**
- 2 Tim 1:6**       **For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**
- 7**                **God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.**

### **1. Christ Having Become the Life-giving Spirit to Be Our Life and Life Supply in Our Spirit**

Reading: *The Subjective Experience of the Indwelling Christ*, ch. 1, sec. 2, par. 5; sec 3, par. 4

#### **CHRIST'S BECOMING THE SPIRIT TO BE OUR LIFE**

In order to be our life Christ had to become the Spirit, and indeed He has become the Spirit. "The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit" (1 Cor. 15:45b). Jesus became flesh, lived on the earth for thirty-three and a half years, died on the cross, and resurrected; in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. Many Christians get lost here because they do not have the light.

#### **THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST'S SALVATION IN OUR HUMAN SPIRIT**

Christ has become the life-giving Spirit as the life and life supply in our spirit. Therefore, we must live in our spirit to experience the salvation and the bountiful supply of the Spirit. Man has a three-layer constitution: the outermost layer is the body; within the body is the second layer, which is the soul; and within the soul is the third layer, which is the spirit. Today Christ is the Spirit, and within us we also have a spirit; therefore, we can experience Him. The two spirits—the Lord's Spirit and our spirit—are mingled and have fellowship with one another. This may be compared to

metal conducting electricity. If we sin, an insulation comes between us and the Lord and then the “electricity” cannot pass through. At such a time we need to open up to Him in our spirit to repent and confess our sins. In this way the barrier of sin is removed; immediately we can have fellowship with the Lord Spirit and once again experience His salvation within us. Then the Lord Jesus is no longer a doctrine to us but a reality. As the Spirit, He now indwells our spirit so that we can daily experience Him as our salvation.

## **2. First Thing in the Morning—Calling on the Lord**

Reading: *Words of Training for the New Way*, vol. 1, ch. 9, sec. 3, par. 10

### **PRACTICING TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT BY CALLING ON THE LORD AND SPEAKING THE LORD ALL THE DAY LONG**

Therefore, when we get up in the morning, the best thing for us to do is not to think about other things, but only to think about the Lord Jesus. It is easy to talk about this, but it is not simple to practice. This is because we all have many things filling our hearts. In spite of this, we still need to practice. There is a difference between calling on the Lord the first thing before getting out of bed, and getting out of bed without calling. You need to call on the Lord in this way in the morning. Then during the whole day, you need to practice speaking the Lord. When there is no one with you, you should call on the Lord Jesus; when there are others with you, you should speak the Lord Jesus to them. Eventually, what you breathe is the Lord Jesus, and what you speak is also the Lord Jesus. Then you will definitely be filled with the Triune God who is the Spirit.

## **3. Open Our Mouth, Open Our Heart, and Open Our Spirit**

Reading: *The Spirit with Our Spirit*, ch. 8, sec. 3, par. 1, 6

### **I. TO FAN OUR SPIRIT**

Second Timothy 1:6-7 indicates that we need to fan our spirit into flame. In these verses Paul said, "For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For

God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness." Some might think that these verses do not say that we should fan our spirit but that we should fan our gift. But if you get into these verses, you will see that the fanning of our gift into flame is the fanning of our spirit into flame. Paul tells us in verse 6 to "fan into flame the gift of God." Then in verse 7 he says, "For God has not given us a spirit..." Our God-given spirit is what we must fan into flame. We have to fan our spirit.

If you want to fan your spirit into flame, you need to open up your mouth, open up your heart, and open up your spirit. You need to open these three layers of your being. You have to use your mouth to say, "O Lord Jesus." But then you have to go deeper by using your mouth with your heart to say, "O Lord Jesus." Then you need to go even deeper by using your mouth with your heart and with your spirit to say, "O Lord Jesus." This is to open up your spirit from deep within. Then the fire burns. If you are down, you should call, "O Lord Jesus" again and again from deep within with the exercise of your spirit. Then you will be up.

#### **4. Building Up the Habit of Exercising the Spirit**

Ibid., sec. 2, par. 6, 7

As Christians, our spirit has been regenerated. To be regenerated is to be reinforced. Something stronger and richer has been added into our being. This is God's life, which has been added into our spirit. This addition is a real gift. Hebrews 6:4 says that we believers have tasted of the heavenly gift. When we believe in the Lord Jesus, God firstly gives us the divine life. Secondly, God gives us the Holy Spirit. Also, He gives us many heavenly things, such as His forgiveness, righteousness, peace, and joy. God has given us justification, reconciliation, and His full salvation. All these were given in addition to God's life and God's Spirit. Actually, all these heavenly things are included in God's life and God's Spirit, which have been added into our spirit. We have a regenerated and reinforced spirit, a very strong spirit, with a companion. This companion is the

Triune God. The Triune God becomes our companion in our spirit. What an enriched spirit we have!

Now that we have seen the importance of our spirit, we want to see the exercise of our spirit. We must build up a habit of exercising our spirit. When I rise up in the morning, the first thing I spontaneously say is "O Lord." To call on the Lord by saying, "O Lord" is a habit of exercising our spirit. To say "O Lord" as soon as you rise up in the morning makes a big difference. If you rise up in the morning without saying anything, you may pray in a routine way without really touching the Lord. This is because there is no exercise of your spirit. We have to build up a habit of saying, "O Lord." When we say, "O Lord," we touch the Lord. This is the habit of exercising our spirit.

## Week 1 Day 4

**1 Cor. 1:2** To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

**Rom 10:12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

### **1. The Lord's Name, Equaling His Person, Being the All-inclusive Compound Spirit**

Reading: *Life Lessons*, vol. 1, ch. 8, sec. 1, par. 2-4

#### **I. THE SACRED TITLES OF CHRIST**

##### **A. Jesus**

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

When Christ was incarnated to be a man, He was given the name Jesus by an angel. Jesus is equivalent to Joshua in Hebrew (Num. 13:16), which means the salvation of Jehovah, or Jehovah the Savior. Thus, He is the Savior, who will save His people from their sins.

##### **B. Christ**

“Mary, of whom was born Jesus, Who is called Christ” (Matt. 1:16).

The second name of Christ is Christ, the equivalent of Messiah in Hebrew (John 1:41), which means the anointed One. This name reveals that He is God's anointed One, being anointed by God with His Spirit to create and to redeem in order to fulfill God's eternal purpose.

##### **C. Emmanuel**

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matt. 1:23).

Jesus and Christ were names given by God. When men discovered that He was God, they called Him Emmanuel, which means God with us. This name reveals that Jesus, who is our Savior, and Christ, who is God’s Anointed, are actually God Himself coming to be with us.

## **2. Calling on the Lord Being the Way to Enjoy the Lord**

Reading: *Life-study of Acts*, msg. 14, sec. 1, par. 14;

The Greek word for “call” in 2:21 is *epikaleo*, composed of *epi*, upon and *kaleo*, call by name, that is, to call out audibly, even loudly, as Stephen did (7:59-60). From this we see that to call on the name of the Lord is to call on Him audibly. This is not a teaching or practice invented by us; it is a scriptural fact. If you study the lengthy note on calling in the Recovery Version, you will see how scriptural this practice is. Calling on the Lord is fully grounded on the revelation in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Furthermore, from experience we know that when we call on the name of the Lord Jesus, we enjoy a season of refreshing. Whenever we call on Him, we are in a season of refreshing. This is a fact in the Word and in our experience, and I encourage you to try it.

*The Lord’s Recovery of Eating*, ch. 3, sec. 1, par. 1-2; sec. 2, par. 1-2;

### **CALLING UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO ENJOY CHRIST**

First Corinthians 1:2 tells us that the called saints are those who call upon the name of the Lord, and those who call upon the name of the Lord are the saints. The totality of these saints is the church. Therefore, our status and our position are that we are saints, those who call upon the name of the Lord. Paul says that Christ is “theirs and ours.” This means that Christ is the portion of all those who call upon His name. Then in verse 9 he says that God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, that is, into the enjoyment of Christ. God has called us so that we may participate

in the enjoyment of Christ, and the way to enjoy Christ is by calling upon His name.

Again I say that in reading the Bible our problem is that we often read our own concepts into the Bible. Therefore, it is very difficult for us to receive any revelations from the Bible. For example, normally we have some understanding of love. Therefore, when we read 1 Corinthians 13, it is easy for us to grasp what it says about love. Love is this or love is that. But when we read 1 Corinthians 1, it is difficult for us to see that we are the called saints and that we are those who should call upon the name of the Lord. We are called to call upon the name of the Lord. It is also difficult for us to see that Christ is theirs and ours. Furthermore, it is difficult for us to see that God has called us not that we may go to heaven but that we may enter into the fellowship of His Son.

### THE NAME OF THE LORD AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

There is one matter that is very important, yet it is not clear to many Christians. It concerns two things: the name of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord. The name of the Lord is Jesus, and the Spirit of the Lord is the Lord Himself, the person of the Lord. Everyone has a name, and every name denotes a person, who is the person himself. If there were no such person but only a name, then that name would equal nothing. Jesus is the name of the Lord, and the Spirit is the person of the Lord. When I call the Lord's name, the Spirit comes. Brothers and sisters, do you think that the Lord Jesus is merely an empty name? The Lord Jesus is real; therefore, when you call, He comes, and the One who comes is the Spirit. Do not think that calling upon the name of the Lord is a small matter; you cannot call upon the name of the Lord Jesus without any result. When you call, "O Lord Jesus!" He comes.

The Bible tells us to pray, but in addition to praying, it also tells us to call upon the name of the Lord. When you say, "Lord Jesus," the Spirit is here. The Spirit is the living Jesus; the Spirit is the realized Jesus; the Spirit is the Jesus who comes to you. When you call on the name of an idol, nothing happens because it has an empty name. No matter how much you call on Buddha, Buddha will not come. However, our Lord Jesus is the true and living God; He is the true and living Spirit. Christ as such a Spirit is the all-inclusive Spirit. Do you need redemption? Redemption is in Him. Do you need power? Power is in Him. Do you need life? Life is in Him. Do you need holiness and patience? Holiness and patience are in Him. He can supply whatever you need.

*Calling on the Name of the Lord, sec. 2, par. 7*

Romans 10:12 says that the Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him. The way to enjoy the riches of the Lord is to call upon Him. The Lord is not only rich, but also near and available, because He is the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). As the Spirit, He is omnipresent. We may call on His name at any time and in any place. When we call on Him, He comes to us as the Spirit, and we enjoy His riches.

First Corinthians is a book on the enjoyment of Christ. In chapter twelve, Paul tells us how to enjoy Him. The way to enjoy the Lord is to call on His name (12:3; 1:2). Whenever we call "Lord Jesus," He comes as the Spirit, and we drink of Him (12:13), the life-giving Spirit. If I call a person's name, and if he is real, living, and present, that person will come to me. The Lord Jesus is real, living, and present! He is always available. Whenever we call on Him, He comes. Do you want to enjoy the Lord's presence with all His riches? The best way to experience His presence with all His riches is to call on His name. Call on Him while you are driving on the freeway or while you are at work. Anywhere and anytime you may call. The Lord is near and rich to you.

Also, by calling on the name of the Lord, we can stir ourselves up. Isaiah 64:7 says, "And there is no one who calls upon Your name, who stirs

himself up to lay hold of You." When we feel that we are down or low, we can lift and stir ourselves up by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus.

## Week 1 Day 5

**1 Thes. 5: 16** Always rejoice,  
**17** Unceasingly pray,  
**18** In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you.  
**19** Do not quench the Spirit;  
**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.

### **1. Calling on the Lord Being to Use Our Spirit to Pray as Our Spiritual Breathing**

Reading: *Life-study of Philippians*, msg. 34, sec. 2, par. 3

#### **PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING**

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul charges us to pray without ceasing. What does it mean to pray unceasingly? Although we may eat several meals a day and although we may drink many times during the day, no one can eat and drink without ceasing. But we certainly breathe unceasingly. Paul's command to pray without ceasing implies that unceasing prayer is like breathing. But how can our prayer become our spiritual breathing? How can we turn prayer into breathing? The way to do this is to call on the name of the Lord. We need to call on the Lord Jesus continually. This is the way to breathe, to pray without ceasing. Because we are not accustomed to this, we need to practice calling on the Lord's name all the time. To live is to breathe. Spiritually speaking, to breathe is to call on the Lord's name and to pray. By calling on the name of the Lord Jesus, we breathe the Spirit.

After Paul charges us to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in everything, he tells us not to quench the Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19). This indicates that if we do not pray and give thanks, we quench the Spirit. To stop praying is to stop breathing. Thus, to quench the Spirit is to cease from breathing.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Paul speaks of the Spirit, not of the Spirit of God nor of the Holy Spirit. We have seen that, according to the New Testament, the Spirit is the Triune God processed to become the life-giving Spirit. If we do not call on the Lord's name, we shall quench the Spirit.

## **2. Building Up the Habit of Calling on the Lord**

Ibid., par. 8

### **BREATHING TO LIVE CHRIST**

Just as we must breathe in order to live physically, we must breathe spiritually in order to live Christ. The way to breathe spiritually is to call on the name of the Lord. From my experience I have learned that the way to live Christ is to call on Him continually. It is not sufficient simply to pray several times during the day, in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night. If we pray at these times but do not call on the Lord continually, we shall quench the Spirit. All day long, no matter where we are or what we are doing, we need to call on the Lord. Whatever we are doing, we should call on the Lord Jesus. I can testify that even when I speak for the Lord I call on Him and breathe of Him deep within.

Call on the Lord's name in every situation, even when you are about to lose your temper. By calling on the Lord, you will live Christ. However, if you make up your mind not to lose your temper, you will be defeated. Your temper will be worse. Instead of trying to control your temper, turn to the Lord and call on Him. Say, "Lord Jesus, I love You. Lord, I am going to lose my temper. Be one with me in this." If you do this, you will be saved from your temper, and you will live Christ.

To pray without ceasing by calling on the Lord's name is to live Him. By calling on the Lord, we automatically take Him as our life and spontaneously live Him. If we pray, we shall not do things by ourselves,

apart from Christ. Instead, by praying without ceasing, we shall live Christ.

### **3. Calling On the Lord Being Spiritual Deep Breathing**

Reading: *The Lord's Recovery of Eating*, ch. 3, sec. 2, par. 6; ch. 4, sec. 1, par. 2

#### TO CALL UPON THE LORD'S NAME BEING TO BREATHE THE LORD

Jeremiah's word in Lamentations 3 is very precious. He says, "I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, / From the lowest pit" (v. 55). When he was in a low pit, in an abased condition, in difficulty, under oppression, he called upon the name of the Lord. Then he says, "Do not hide / Your ear at my breathing" (v. 56). Our calling before the Lord is a spiritual breathing, even a deep breathing. A certain medical doctor in the United States Air Force found out through experiments that the most beneficial practice to human health is deep breathing. If we practice deep breathing every day, our body will be healthy. It is the same spiritually. Deep breathing in our spirit makes us strong, burning, and beside ourselves.

**CALLING ON THE LORD  
BEING THE WAY TO ENJOY THE LORD**

We can often use physical things as illustrations of spiritual matters. To enjoy the Lord in our spirit is like breathing the air physically. Just as our body takes in fresh air by breathing, so also our spirit inhales the Lord when we call on His name. I believe that all of us have had this experience. Whenever we truly open to the Lord and call on His name, we have the sense of the Lord's presence within us. The more we call, the more we receive the supply of the Lord; the more we call, the more we are watered by Him; the more we call, the more we are filled with Him. The Lord is the Lord of all! When the Lord comes into us, whatever we need, He is. He is all that we need, and He supplies all our needs.

**4. Enjoying the Lord by Calling on His Name**

Reading: *Life-study of Galatians*, msg. 43, ch. 3, par. 6, 8

**ENJOYING THE LORD  
BY CALLING ON HIS NAME**

We may enjoy the Lord in our spirit simply by calling on His name. Do you know why we enjoy the Lord when we call on Him? We enjoy Him in this way because by calling on the Lord we automatically exercise our spirit. For example, even though I may not have the intention to exercise my legs and feet, I spontaneously exercise them whenever I walk. In like manner, whenever we call on the Lord from deep within, we automatically exercise our spirit. Anywhere and at any time we may enjoy the riches of Christ by calling on the Lord's name. By calling on the Lord in this way we walk by the Spirit. Calling on the Lord also defeats the negative things within us.

Suppose a young married sister has a problem with her temper. She earnestly desires to be a good wife and mother, and she loathes her temper. However, she has no way to overcome it. Years ago, I did not know how to advise someone plagued by the problem of temper. Now I know that the best cure for this plague is to call on the name of the Lord with the

exercise of the spirit. By calling on the Lord in this way we breathe in a spiritual element which subdues our temper. After more than fifty years of experience and after having contacted many different aspects of organized Christianity, I have come to the conclusion that the best way to enjoy the Lord is to call on Him.

As Christians we should be known by the fact that we call on the name of the Lord Jesus. We know that this was a mark of believers in the first century by the fact that Saul of Tarsus was given authority by the chief priests to bind all those who called on the Lord's name. Calling on the name of the Lord Jesus should also be a mark of believers today. The church people especially should be known as those who call on the Lord.

## Week 1 Day 6

- 2 Tim. 2:22** But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- Rom. 10:12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- 13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

### 1. Christ, Believed In and Called Upon

Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msg. 23, sec. 2, par. 2, 9-10

#### D. Christ, Believed In and Called Upon

We need to read verses 9 through 13. "That if you confess with your mouth, Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from among the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth man confesses unto salvation. For the scripture says, All who believe on Him shall not be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him. For, Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Paul says that with the heart "man believes unto righteousness." "Unto" is an equivalent of a Greek preposition which, in many instances, means "resulting in." Therefore the result of believing with the heart is righteousness, while the result of confessing with the mouth is salvation. If we want to be justified, that is, to have the righteousness of God, we must believe in the Lord Jesus. If we want to be saved, we need to confess the Lord Jesus, that is to call upon Him.

In Romans 9:21, 23 we are told that under God's selection we, the called ones, have been made vessels of mercy unto honor and glory. However, we still must realize that such vessels by themselves are empty. Vessels need content. Although Romans 9 tells us that we are vessels, it does not give us the way to be filled. It is wonderful to be a vessel of mercy unto

honor and glory, but it is pitiful to be empty. We need to be filled. The way to be filled is found in Romans 10. Every vessel has a mouth, an opening. If it has no mouth, it is not a vessel. Instruments such as hammers, knives, and axes have no mouths. However, we are vessels, and as vessels we have an opening—our mouth. Do you know why you have a mouth? You were made with a mouth that you might be filled with the riches of Christ. Our mouth was made for calling on the name of the Lord Jesus. The Lord is so rich! He is rich to all who call upon Him. There is a verse in the Psalms which says, “Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it” (81:10). As empty vessels with a mouth we should open our mouth wide that we may be filled with the riches of the Lord.

On the day of Pentecost the New Testament believers also called on the name of the Lord to receive the outpoured Spirit as the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:17-21). God poured out His Spirit, and the believers opened their mouths to receive the Spirit by calling on the name of the Lord. The Spirit has been poured out by God, but we have to receive Him. The way to receive Him is to open our mouths and call on the Lord. Hence, the New Testament believers, like Stephen (Acts 7:59), practiced this. By practicing this they made it known that they were followers of the Lord (Acts 9:14). When Paul was Saul, the persecutor of the church, he intended to arrest the believers, recognizing them by their calling on the name of the Lord. After he was converted, he was advised to wash away his sins (mainly his persecution of those who called on the Lord) by calling on the name of the Lord himself (Acts 22:16). Undoubtedly, this practice was common among the early saints.

In addressing his first epistle to the church at Corinth Paul said, “All that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:2). This indicates that all the early believers practiced this matter of calling. In his second epistle to Timothy Paul charged him to pursue spiritual things “with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2:22). So, we must practice it too. The Old Testament saints called on the Lord daily (Psa. 88:9) and throughout their entire life (Psa. 116:2). How about us? We should practice it more, calling on the Lord “out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22) and with “a pure lip” (Zeph. 3:9, Heb.). If we practice this, we

will certainly partake of the Lord's riches and enjoy them. To call on the Lord is not only for salvation, but also for the enjoyment of the Lord with all His riches.

## **2. Calling on the Lord to Experience His Intimate Presence**

Reading: *Life-study of Acts*, msg. 61, sec. 3, par. 9-10

### **To Experience the Lord's Nearness**

Calling on the Lord is a reality, for when we call on Him we touch Him. In a verse related to this calling Paul says: "The word is near you, in your mouth" (Rom. 10:8). In a very practical sense, the word here is equal to the Lord. Thus, for the word to be near means that the Lord is near. Whenever we call on the name of the Lord, we experience His nearness, His intimate presence.

How do we know that the Lord is near us? We know this by calling on the Lord. You cannot convince someone that the Lord is near him by arguing or debating with him. The more we argue, the farther away the Lord may seem to be. But if instead of arguing we call on His name a few times, we shall sense that He is near. If we continue calling on Him, we shall realize that He is not only near but even within us. The more we call on the Lord, the more He becomes our enjoyment. Through calling on Him He also becomes our peace, rest, comfort, and solution in all kinds of situations. This is not a mere doctrine or superficial teaching; this is a truth for our experience.

## **3. Practicing Calling on the Lord Daily and Hourly**

Reading: *Calling on the Name of the Lord*, sec. 3, par. 2 3

### **THE WAY TO CALL**

How should we call on the Lord? We must call on Him out of a pure heart (2 Tim. 2:22). Our heart, which is the source of our calling, must be pure, seeking nothing except the Lord Himself. Also, we must call with a pure lip (Zeph. 3:9). We need to watch our speech, for nothing contaminates our lips more than loose talk. If our lips are impure due to loose talk, it will be difficult for us to call on the Lord. Along with a pure heart and

pure lips, we need to have an open mouth (Psa. 81:10). We need to open our mouth wide to call on the Lord. Furthermore, we need to call on the Lord corporately. Second Timothy 2:22 says, "But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." We need to come together for the purpose of calling on the name of the Lord. Psalm 88:9 says, "Lord, I have called daily upon thee." Hence, we should call daily upon His name. Furthermore, Psalm 116:2 says, "Therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." As long as we live, we should call on the name of the Lord.

### THE NEED OF PRACTICE

Calling on the name of the Lord is not merely a doctrine. It is very practical. We need to practice it daily and hourly. We should never stop our spiritual breathing. We hope that many more of the Lord's people, especially new believers, will begin the practice of calling on the Lord. Today, many Christians have found that they can know Him, that they can be brought into the power of His resurrection, that they can experience His spontaneous salvation, and that they can walk in oneness with Him by calling on His name. In any situation, at any time, call: "Lord Jesus, O Lord Jesus!" If you practice calling on His name, you will see that it is a wonderful way to enjoy the Lord's riches.