

**BEING A PROPER PERSON IN LIFE  
TO CARE FOR THE CHURCH IN GOD'S ADMINISTRATION**

(Saturday—Second Morning Session)

**Message Eight  
Knowing the Lord's Recovery in Truth**

Scripture Reading: John 8:32; 11:25; 14:6; 17:17; 1 John 1:1-2, 5-7

- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.  
John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;  
John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.  
John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.  
1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life  
1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);  
1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.  
1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;  
1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

**I. It is crucial for us to see that the Lord's recovery is altogether a matter of life and truth; life and truth characterize the recovery—John 8:32; 14:6:**

- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.  
John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- A. Life is the Triune God Himself in all His processes to reach man, and truth is God Himself as the reality—1:1, 14, 29; 14:9-10, 16-17; 17:17; 1 John 5:6.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.  
John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!  
John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *is it that* you say, Show us the Father?  
John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.  
John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,  
John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.  
John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.  
1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- B. In order to have an adequate vision of the Lord's recovery, we need to know the recovery in the Triune God and through the Bible, the content of which is the truth—John 17:3, 17; Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9.
- John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.  
John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.  
Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

## II. In New Testament usage, the word *truth* denotes Christ as the reality— John 1:14, 17; 8:32, 36; 14:6:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

A. According to the natural concept, the word *truth* means “doctrines” or “principles,” but verses such as John 1:17; 4:24; and 1 Timothy 3:15 show that truth is not a doctrine or a principle but the reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

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

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

B. Whenever we read the New Testament, we should not understand the word *truth* according to the natural concept but realize that it refers to Christ as the reality—John 8:32, 36; 14:6.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

## III. In order to know what truth is, we need to know the Gospel of John:

A. John is composed with the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—the Word, life, light, grace, and reality, or truth; all these factors are actually God Himself—1:1, 4-5, 14, 16-17; 14:9-10, 16-17, 26.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *is it that* you say, Show us the Father?

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.

B. John 8:32 and 36 use *the truth* and *the Son* interchangeably, revealing that the truth is actually a person, Christ the Son.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

C. On God’s side, truth is God revealed, and on our side, truth is God realized; when God reveals Himself, that is truth, and when we realize and touch God, that is also truth—1:14,

17; 8:32.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

#### IV. Truth is the shining of light, the expression of God as light—vv. 12, 32:

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

A. Light is the source of truth, and truth is the issue of light—1 John 1:5-6.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

B. Truth is the shining of the divine light on the facts of the Bible to “televise” a heavenly vision of those facts into our being—Psa. 119:130.

Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

C. Truth is the Triune God shining into us; thus, knowing the Lord’s recovery in truth requires that we experience God shining as the divine light—John 1:1, 4-5, 9; 8:12, 32.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:9 *This* was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

D. Because of the degraded situation of Christianity today, there is the urgent need of truth as the shining of light to free God’s people from the darkness of degradation—2 Tim. 2:15, 18, 25.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

2 Tim 2:18 Who concerning the truth have misaimed, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and overthrow the faith of some.

2 Tim 2:25 In meekness correcting those who oppose, if perhaps God may give them repentance unto the full knowledge of the truth,

#### V. In order to know the Lord’s recovery in truth, we need to know the Bible in the way of truth—John 17:17:

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

A. When we know the Bible in truth and not only in doctrine, we have the shining of light, which causes us to have life—8:12; 1:4-5.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

B. Truth—the content of the Bible—is between doctrine and light—2 Cor. 3:6; 4:6; John 8:12, 32:

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

1. The truth is the reality conveyed in the doctrines—17:17:

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

- a. When we realize the truth, we have the reality that is conveyed in the doctrines; such reality can be revealed to us and realized by us only through the Spirit—14:17; 15:26; 16:13.

John 14:17 *Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.*

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

- b. Truth is the reality conveyed in the doctrines and realized through the Spirit—17:17; 16:13.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

- c. Through the Spirit's enlightening, the doctrines become truth and the shining of the divine light in us; then we are joined to the light, and the light becomes life to us—1:4-5; 8:12, 32.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

2. As we read the Bible, we first receive doctrines; when the Holy Spirit enlightens the words of the Bible, the doctrines become truth, reality—16:13:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

- a. The truth is conveyed in doctrines, yet the truth in the doctrines can be realized only by the enlightening of the Spirit—2 Cor. 4:4, 6.

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine *on them*.

2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- b. When the Spirit enlightens us, the doctrines we know become truth, which brings light, and light brings life—John 8:12, 32; 1 John 1:5-6.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

- c. For this, we need to pray much in a proper way, opening our entire being to the Lord; the more we pray in this way, the more the Spirit will enlighten us to cause the doctrines to become truth—Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

## VI. Truth is nothing less than God Himself—John 1:1; 14:6:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

A. Truth is God revealed and realized in His many aspects, as unveiled, for example, in the Gospel of John—16:13.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

B. The content of the Bible is the truth because the Bible reveals God to us; thus, our receiving of the truth is our experience of God as truth—Col. 1:6.

Col 1:6 Which has come to you, even as it is also in all the world, bearing fruit and growing, as also in you, since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

C. The Bible is the revelation of God as reality—John 1:1; 17:17:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1. The Bible itself is not the reality; the Bible is God's speaking, His utterance, and God Himself is the content, the reality, of the Bible.

2. When we touch the content of any doctrine, if we do not touch God Himself, we still do not have the truth; only when we touch God do we have the truth—2 Cor. 3:6.

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

3. Whether a teacher ministers truth to us or merely doctrine depends on whether his teaching ministers God to us; if God is ministered in his teaching, what he speaks is not merely doctrine but truth—1 John 5:13, 16.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

D. If we reject a particular teaching from the Bible, we are rejecting God in that aspect and thus cannot experience Him as such—John 8:37-38, 40.

John 8:37 I know that you are Abraham's seed; but you seek to kill Me because My word has no place in you.

John 8:38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; so then, you also do the things which you have heard from your father.

John 8:40 But now you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; Abraham did not do this.

## VII. The goal of knowing the truth is that we would have the riches and the abundance of life—10:10:

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

A. In order to have the riches of life, we must have the truth, the shining of the Triune God; the shining of the divine light in its many aspects is the riches of life—1:4-5; 10:10; 11:25.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

- B. All the riches of life are in the truth; every truth is an aspect of the riches of life.
- C. The rivers of living water are different aspects of life—7:37-39:
- John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- 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.
1. These rivers flow out through the truth; actually, every river is a truth—14:6.
 

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
  2. The way to have the abundance of life and to flow out the riches of life is the way of the truth—8:32:
 

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

    - a. The more truth we have, the more riches of Christ as life we enjoy— Eph. 1:13; 3:8.
 

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
    - b. Eventually, we will have the abundance of life; the abundance of life is altogether in the truth—John 10:10; 8:32; 14:6.
 

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- D. The increase in truth results in the growth in life; as a believer receives more truth, life becomes more abundant in his experience—Eph. 4:15-16.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

### VIII. We are truly in the Lord's recovery if we know the Triune God and the Bible, have life and truth, and are full of light—John 8:32; 11:25; 14:6:

- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- A. The Lord's recovery is not an activity, movement, or ordinary Christian work but a matter of life and truth in light—1 John 1:1-2, 5-7.
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);
- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- B. Those who are truly in the Lord's recovery know the Triune God in a living way and know the Bible in the way of light; we should pray for this to be our experience—Heb. 8:10-11;

John 17:3, 17; Psa. 119:130.

Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.

Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

## **Excerpts from the Ministry:**

### **NEEDING TO KNOW THE LORD'S RECOVERY IN TRUTH**

The truth is the content of the Bible. In between doctrine and light is the truth. According to the human mentality, the Bible appears to be a book of many doctrines concerning matters such as God, man's fall, and salvation. Anyone who is literate can read the Bible and learn such doctrines. The truth is the reality conveyed in the doctrines. It is possible to know the doctrines but not have the truth, the reality.

When we realize the truth, we have the reality. Christ becomes living to us, and His death becomes real to us as an event that took place specifically for the forgiveness of our sins. We receive the reality that is conveyed in the doctrines. Such reality can be revealed to us and realized by us only through the Spirit. For this reason, if two speakers give more or less the same message, one may preach only doctrine, but the other ministers the reality, because the power of the Holy Spirit is in his preaching. The power of the Holy Spirit makes preached doctrines real to the listeners—it gives them the reality, the fact. Truth is the reality conveyed in the doctrines and realized through the Spirit. The Bible has many doctrines, but few readers of the Bible receive the truth. Anyone can read the term *the church* in the Bible, but few have seen or touched the reality of the church. When the Spirit operates, the church becomes no longer only a doctrine but a truth, a reality, to us.

If we have truth, we have light, for truth is the shining of light, just as grace is the expression of love. In the Gospel of John we see grace and reality, which is truth. John 1:17 says, "Grace and reality came through Jesus Christ." Grace and reality in the Gospel of John become love and light in 1 John. First John 4:8 says, "God is love." First John 1:5 says, "God is light." Love is the source of grace, and grace is the expression of love. In the same principle, light is the source of truth, and truth is the shining of light. If we know only doctrine and lack the truth, we do not have light. Once doctrine becomes truth to us, light shines within us, and we have light. To know the Lord's recovery in truth implies both doctrine and light, for the doctrines in the Bible convey truth, and truth is the shining of God as the divine light.

### **DOCTRINE BECOMING TRUTH, TRUTH BECOMING LIGHT, AND LIGHT BECOMING LIFE**

Truth is the shining of light, and the divine light is life (John 1:4). This brings us back to life. We may know that life is the Triune God, but we still need the truth, the shining of the Triune God in many aspects, in order to have the riches of life. The shining of the divine light in its many aspects is the riches of life.

We first must have the doctrines in order to have the truth. Thus, Christian workers and the fundamental denominations that lack life are still helpful if they preach correct doctrines, for eventually those doctrines may become the truth. Without the doctrine, the truth cannot come...Through the doctrines we see the truths. Doctrine becoming truth in us is the shining of light, and the light is life.

Concerning the proper ground of the church, we first must know the doctrine. Then, perhaps through our prayer and hunger for the truth, the Lord will enlighten us, giving us the shining of light. Through the Lord's enlightening, the doctrine of the ground of the church becomes truth, a shining within us. This shining joins us to the light, and the light becomes life. Thus, even the ground of the church is an aspect of the riches of life. To see the light, the truth, of the ground of the church makes us different in life. One who truly sees the ground of the church is different from one who remains in the church yet does not know or see anything concerning the truth of the ground of the church.

We need to know the Lord's recovery both in life and in truth, which means in the Triune God and in the Bible. For this reason, we need to study the Bible daily, because from the Bible we first receive the doctrines. Through God's enlightening, the doctrines become truth and the shining of the divine light in us. Then we are joined to the light, and the light becomes life to us. This is what we need.

All the riches of life are in the truth. Every truth is an aspect of the riches of life. In our experience it is first a doctrine; then it becomes a truth, which joins us to the light, and that particular aspect of the light becomes life to us in one of life's rich aspects. This is difficult to explain and analyze, but our experience confirms it. When we read the Bible, we first get doctrine, then the truth, then light, and finally life. This is the procedure. We cannot have life first. We first learn the doctrine by reading, then we see the truth, then the light shines, then light becomes life, and we receive the riches of life. Often during one time in the Word, we experience all four—doctrine, truth, light, and life. However, it takes a long time to realize some truths. After knowing a doctrine for several years, in one particular time of prayer with the Lord it may become real to us as truth and the shining of light, bringing us the riches of life.

We must know the Lord's recovery in life and truth. Those who are truly in the Lord's recovery know God in a living way and know the Bible in the way of light. We have to pray for this to be our experience. The Lord's recovery is not an activity, movement, or ordinary Christian work but a matter of life and truth in light. We are truly in the Lord's recovery if we know God and the Bible, have life and truth, and are full of light. Christians who are not genuinely seeking the Lord will not understand what we are doing and teaching in the Lord's recovery. They may be offended and criticize us. We cannot avoid this, but there are always a few like Nicodemus, who are sincere, hungry, and seeking after the Lord's heart. The Lord reveals Himself to such ones, and they become part of His recovery. (*Basic Principles concerning the Eldership*, pp. 90-93)

The truth is in between doctrine and light. We have also seen that the truth is the content of the Bible. When people read the Bible, they first receive doctrines. When the Holy Spirit enlightens the words of the Bible, the doctrines become reality, truth. Without the enlightening of the Spirit, we have only empty doctrines. The truth is conveyed in doctrines, yet the truth in the doctrines can be realized only by the enlightening of the Spirit. When the doctrines become the truth, it brings light, for the truth is the shining of the light. When we see the truth, light shines within us. The purpose of our having truth is so that life would be imparted to us. When the Spirit enlightens us, the doctrines we know become truth, which brings light, and light brings life.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD IN THE BIBLE AND PROPER PRAYER**

We need to see why the truth is the necessary step to our receiving God as light. In other words, we need to see why, in addition to God, we need the Bible. Without God, the Bible is not light or life to us. The Bible itself is not the reality. The Bible is God's speaking, His utterance, and God Himself is the content, the reality, of the Bible. However, without the Bible man could not know God. Without God's word recorded in the Bible, we could not know God as light or life.

In order to know the Lord's recovery in truth, we need to know the Bible not only in the way of doctrine but also in the way of truth. When we know the Bible in truth, we have the shining of light, which causes us to have life. Therefore, how much life we have depends on how much truth we know.

An ignorant believer, even if he loves the Lord to the uttermost, cannot have the abundance of life, because he is lacking in truth.

We must spend time in the Word, which will first be doctrine to us. Then the doctrine must become truth to us by the enlightening of the Spirit. There is no need to pray to get doctrine; whoever reads the Bible can get doctrine. However, in order for doctrine to become truth to us, we need to pray much and in the proper way. For this, we need to deal with the Lord and be dealt with by Him, and we need to have a clear conscience and a purified mind, will, and emotion. Then we need to open our entire being from our spirit and pray. The more we pray in this way, the more the Spirit will enlighten us to cause doctrines to become truth. Unbelievers and believers alike can read the Bible and learn doctrines. However, in order for doctrines to become truth to us, we need to pray, be dealt with, open to the Lord, and be willing to give up our desires, choices, and preferences, which can be veils to us. There will be no shadows, veils, or coverings to frustrate the Spirit's enlightening, which causes the doctrines we know to become truth to us. The truth is the shining of light, which brings life to us. This is why we need to know the Lord's recovery in truth. (*Basic Principles concerning the Eldership*, pp. 105-107)