

THE SOUTH-CENTRAL CHINESE-SPEAKING FALL CONFERENCE

September 11-13, 2020

**We need to participate in Christ's interceding life,
praying that an army will be formed of mature believers
so that God can move on earth.**

**We need to persevere in prayer,
pray at every time in spirit,
and be on the alert for the maintaining of a prayer life.**

**We need to cooperate with the Lord and be one with Him
in praying
for the move of the great wheel of the divine economy.**

**We need to be prayerful
and stand against the sin of prayerlessness
in order to be a praying church
in the unique stream of the work of God.**

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GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message One

The Significance of Prayer, the Principle of Prayer, and the Prayer Ministry of the Church

Scripture Reading: Matt. 6:9-10; 18:18-20; John 15:7; Eph. 6:18; 1 John 5:14; Jude 20

- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.
Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

I. The real significance of prayer is to contact God in our spirit and to absorb God Himself—Jude 20; John 14:13; 15:7:

- Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- A. Prayer is the contact of the human spirit with the divine Spirit, during which we inhale God—Jude 20; John 4:24.
Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- B. Genuine prayers are prayers in which we are mingled with God the Spirit in our spirit—Jude 20; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17:
Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
1. Prayer must be a joint prayer in which God is mingled with our spirit.
 2. True prayers—prayers that involve God and man—are the issue of the Spirit of God being mingled with man's spirit and of man's spirit being mingled with the Spirit of God—Jude 20; Rom. 8:4, 26.
Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

3. In this prayer God and man are mingled together, and God is the Initiator and the Motivator; God prays in man, and man prays in God—James 5:17.
James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
- C. If we would have genuine prayers, prayers that are initiated by God and that touch God, we must pray in the Holy Spirit; praying in the Holy Spirit means that we and the Holy Spirit pray together in the fellowship of the two spirits—Jude 20; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1.
- Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Phil 2:1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,
- D. Prayers in which we contact God, inhale God, absorb God, and are filled with God are genuine prayers; only prayers of this kind should be offered up to God—Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.

II. We need to pray according to the principle of prayer; only those prayers that are according to the principle of prayer are worthwhile—Matt. 6:9-10; John 15:7; 1 John 5:14:

- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- 1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- A. The principle of prayer is that God's people must pray before God will rise up to work—Matt. 18:18-20; John 15:16:
- Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
- Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
- John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
1. God will not act independently, and He will not accomplish His will alone; rather, He will only accomplish His will when His people agree with Him and are one with Him in prayer—Col. 1:9; 4:12.
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,
Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
 2. God's intention is to accomplish His will through our prayer; God's will is accomplished by our prayer in union with Him—John 15:7; 1 John 5:14.
John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

B. Prayer is the believers' act of working together with God to accomplish His will—Col. 4:2, 12; Matt. 6:9-10:

Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

1. The purpose of prayer is that we be one with God's will so that *God* can work—Rev. 4:11; 5:8; 8:3-4.

Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.

Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.

2. Prayer is the union of the believers' will with God's will and the believers' utterance of God's will; prayer is the believers' request before God that He accomplish His will—John 15:7; Matt. 6:9-10.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

3. The true meaning of prayer is for the praying one to seek for the accomplishment of the will of the One to whom he prays—26:39:

Matt 26:39 And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.

a. We need to echo back to God His heart's desire before Him and empty our hearts to seek after God and to ask Him to accomplish His will.

b. There is only one legitimate prayer in the whole universe—only one prayer that pleases God—the prayer that asks for the accomplishment of His will—6:9-10; 7:21; 12:50; John 6:38.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

C. If we do not work together with God in prayer or prepare the way for His will through prayer or by means of all prayer allow Him the possibility to move in many directions, He will not work and cannot work—Matt. 6:9-10; 18:18-20:

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

1. Our most important work is to open the way for God; praying in sympathy with God is more important than doing anything else—Acts 6:4; 10:9.

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

Acts 10:9 And on the next day as they were journeying and drawing near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour.

2. God can work only on matters in which His children sympathize with Him; He is not willing to work where there has been no prayer, where He does not have His people's will in union with Him—1:14; 4:24-31; 12:5.

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,

Acts 4:25 Who, through the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, has said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise vain things?"

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ."

Acts 4:27 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

Acts 4:28 To do what Your hand and Your counsel predestined to take place.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings and grant Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness,

Acts 4:30 While stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.

Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 12:5 So then Peter was kept in the prison; but prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him.

D. We have to see God's principle of work and the key to His move—John 15:7:

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

1. God cannot do what He wants to do unless man wants it—4:34; 5:30.

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

2. This is a clear principle: Even though God decides on a matter, He will not do it immediately—15:7.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

3. All God's works on earth can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that agrees with and decides to do the works—1 John 5:14.

1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

4. Everything related to God can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that cooperates with Him; God must have man's will in harmony with His will—Matt. 6:9-10; 26:39.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt 26:39 And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.

E. The highest point of our working together with God is to ask in one accord for God to accomplish what He intends to accomplish—1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 1:14; 6:4.

1 Tim 2:8 I desire therefore that men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and reasoning;

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

III. The prayer meetings are for the carrying out of the prayer ministry of the church—1:14; 4:23-31; 13:1-4; 16:25:

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 4:23 And when they had been released, they went to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,

Acts 4:25 Who, through the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, has said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise vain things?"

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ."

Acts 4:27 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

Acts 4:28 To do what Your hand and Your counsel predestined to take place.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings and grant Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness,

Acts 4:30 While stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.

Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.

Acts 16:25 And about midnight Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them.

A. The prayer ministry of the church is God telling the church what He wants to do and the church praying on earth what God wants to do; this prayer is asking God to accomplish what He wants to do—Matt. 18:18-20.

Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

B. God cannot do what He wants to do by Himself; He has to do it with the cooperation of the church—Acts 12:5.

Acts 12:5 So then Peter was kept in the prison; but prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him.

C. The ministry of the church is to bring the will in heaven to earth—Matt. 6:9-10:

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

1. A prayer that is in the nature of work or ministry is one in which we stand on God's side, wanting what God wants—Col. 1:9; 4:12.
 - 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,
 - Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
 2. The highest and greatest work of the church is to be the outlet of God's will; the church is the outlet of God's will through prayer—Matt. 6:9-10.
 - Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
 - Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- D. The prayer of the church means that when God wants to do something, the church prays about that matter first so that it can be fulfilled and God's goal can be accomplished—18:18-20:
- Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
 - Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.
 - Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
1. In heaven, God's power is unlimited, but on earth, God's power is manifested to the degree that the church prays—6:9-10.
 - Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
 - Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
 2. The ministry of the church is prayer; the church must have big prayers, serious prayers, and strong prayers, prayers that manifest our God and open the way for Him to move—John 14:23; 15:16; 16:23-24; Acts 4:24-31.
 - John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
 - John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
 - John 16:23 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give to you.
 - John 16:24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full.
 - Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
 - Acts 4:25 Who, through the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, has said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise vain things?"
 - Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ."
 - Acts 4:27 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
 - Acts 4:28 To do what Your hand and Your counsel predestined to take place.
 - Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings and grant Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness,
 - Acts 4:30 While stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.
 - Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

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GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message Two

Praying at the Incense Altar for the Formation of an Army to Fight for God's Move on Earth

Scripture Reading: Exo. 30:1-16; 2 Chron. 16:9; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 8:3-5; Eph. 4:13; 6:10-12

- Exo 30:1 And you shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.
Exo 30:2 Its length shall be a cubit, and its width, a cubit; it shall be square, and two cubits its height; its horns shall be of one piece with it.
Exo 30:3 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides around it and its horns; and you shall make a rim of gold around it.
Exo 30:4 And you shall make for it two rings of gold under its rim; on its two sides, on its opposite sides, you shall make them; and they shall be as holders for poles with which to carry it.
Exo 30:5 And you shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
Exo 30:6 And you shall put it before the veil that is over the Ark of the Testimony, before the expiation cover that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.
Exo 30:7 And Aaron shall burn on it fragrant incense; every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it.
Exo 30:8 And when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a perpetual incense before Jehovah throughout your generations.
Exo 30:9 You shall not offer any strange incense on it, or a burnt offering or a meal offering; and you shall not pour a drink offering on it.
Exo 30:10 And Aaron shall make expiation on its horns once a year; with the blood of the sin offering of expiation once a year he shall make expiation for it throughout your generations. It is most holy to Jehovah.
Exo 30:11 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
Exo 30:12 When you take the sum of the children of Israel, according to their numbering, every man shall give a ransom for himself to Jehovah when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.
Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
Exo 30:15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than the half shekel, when you give the heave offering of Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
Exo 30:16 And you shall take the expiation silver from the children of Israel and shall give it for the service of the Tent of Meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
2 Chron 16:9 For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout all the earth to strengthen those whose heart is perfect toward Him. You have acted foolishly in this matter; hence from this time on you will have wars.
Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.
Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.
Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

I. God is omnipotent, but His omnipotence is subject to limitations because He must have conditions suitable for His working—2 Chron. 16:9:

2 Chron 16:9 For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout all the earth to strengthen those whose heart is perfect toward Him. You have acted foolishly in this matter; hence from this time on you will have wars.

A. We need the Lord to give us light to see what He can do and to see what we can hinder Him from doing—Isa. 50:2; Jer. 32:17, 27; Matt. 19:26; Luke 1:37:

Isa 50:2 Why when I came was there no man? / And when I called why was there no one to answer? / Is My hand so short that it cannot redeem? / Or do I have no power to deliver? / Indeed, at My rebuke I dry up the sea; / I make the rivers a wilderness; / Their fish stink because there is no water, / And die of thirst.

Jer 32:17 Ah, Lord Jehovah! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm. Nothing is too wonderful for You,

Jer 32:27 Indeed, I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh. Is anything too wonderful for Me?

Matt 19:26 And looking upon them, Jesus said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Luke 1:37 Because no word will be impossible with God.

1. We can put God into a position where He cannot do what He wants to do—Isa. 50:2; Matt. 13:22-23; 23:37-38; Mark 6:5; Heb. 3:11-12; 4:2.

Isa 50:2 Why when I came was there no man? / And when I called why was there no one to answer? / Is My hand so short that it cannot redeem? / Or do I have no power to deliver? / Indeed, at My rebuke I dry up the sea; / I make the rivers a wilderness; / Their fish stink because there is no water, / And die of thirst.

Matt 13:22 And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Matt 13:23 But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

Matt 23:37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I desired to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

Matt 23:38 Behold, your house is left to you desolate.

Mark 6:5 And He could not do any work of power there, except to lay His hands upon a few of the sick and heal them.

Heb 3:11 As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!"

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

2. Today the power of God is limited to our capacity, and it is subject to our will, submission, obedience, and faith—Matt. 17:19-20; Mark 11:23-24.

Matt 17:19 Then the disciples, coming to Jesus privately, said, Why were we not able to cast it out?

Matt 17:20 And He said to them, Because of your little faith; for truly I say to you, If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.

Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.

3. The Lord must bring us to a place of utter responsiveness to Himself so that He can have a free and unhindered way to do whatever He wants to do—Col. 3:1-3; 1 John 5:14-15.

- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
- Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- 1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
- B. The kingdom means that God can do what He wants, that He has His way, that He is unhindered, and that He has authority, power, and glory; what will be true in the kingdom age should be true in the church today—Matt. 6:9-10.
- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- C. The Body of Christ can either be for His expression or His limitation—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19:
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
1. We are either being used to express Him, or we are limiting Him; we are in the position to give Christ a full expression or to limit His expression.
 2. The Lord is looking for members of His Body who will be fully responsive to Him and in whom the limitations to His will are removed—Matt. 6:9-10.
- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- D. We need to realize how great our responsibility is, and our eyes need to be opened to see God's limitations and to see how we should cooperate with Him.

II. The incense altar signifies Christ as the Intercessor—Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34:

- Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- A. We need to participate in Christ's interceding life—vv. 26-27; 1 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:18-19; Col. 4:3; 1 Thes. 5:25; 2 Thes. 3:1; Heb. 13:18.
- Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.
- 1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- Col 4:3 Praying at the same time for us also, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ (because of which also I am bound),
- 1 Thes 5:25 Brothers, pray also for us.
- 2 Thes 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray concerning us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified, even as it is also with you;
- Heb 13:18 Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring in all things to conduct ourselves honorably.
- B. Christ's interceding life, His prayer life, is the center of the divine administration—7:25; Rom. 8:34; Rev. 8:3:

- Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
1. The incense altar is the center of God's operation in the universe:
 - a. The prayer life of Christ is the center of God's execution of His government on earth—Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
 - b. The executing of God's administration is motivated by the prayers offered to Him from the incense altar—Rev. 8:3-5.

Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.

Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.
 - c. The prayer offered at the incense altar governs the universe.
 2. Revelation 8 is a picture of the incense altar being the administrating throne of God for Him to execute His judgments in His administration.
- C. After His resurrection and ascension, the individual Christ has become the corporate Christ; thus, before God today not only is the individual Christ interceding but the corporate Christ, the Head with the Body, is interceding as well—1 Cor. 12:12; Acts 12:5, 12:
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Acts 12:5 So then Peter was kept in the prison; but prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him.
- Acts 12:12 And when he became aware of this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, who was surnamed Mark, where there was a considerable number assembled together and praying.
1. As the members of Christ and as parts of the Body-Christ, we cooperate with Christ in His ministry of intercession, carrying out His intercession in our prayers of intercession—Rom. 8:34, 26-27.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.
 2. When we arrive at the incense altar as the center of the divine administration, we will become intercessors, interceding for others and for the Lord's interests.
 3. If we have a clear view of the incense altar, we will pray for God's move, for the executing of God's purpose, for the Lord's recovery, for the carrying out of the divine administration, and for the divine dispensing; this kind of prayer fulfills God's purpose and delights His heart—1 Tim. 2:1; Rom. 8:26-27.

- 1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;
- Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.

III. The spiritual significance of the relationship between the incense altar and the expiation silver in Exodus 30:1-16 is that at the incense altar we pray for the formation of an army to fight for God's move on earth:

- Exo 30:1 And you shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.
- Exo 30:2 Its length shall be a cubit, and its width, a cubit; it shall be square, and two cubits its height; its horns shall be of one piece with it.
- Exo 30:3 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides around it and its horns; and you shall make a rim of gold around it.
- Exo 30:4 And you shall make for it two rings of gold under its rim; on its two sides, on its opposite sides, you shall make them; and they shall be as holders for poles with which to carry it.
- Exo 30:5 And you shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
- Exo 30:6 And you shall put it before the veil that is over the Ark of the Testimony, before the expiation cover that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.
- Exo 30:7 And Aaron shall burn on it fragrant incense; every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it.
- Exo 30:8 And when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a perpetual incense before Jehovah throughout your generations.
- Exo 30:9 You shall not offer any strange incense on it, or a burnt offering or a meal offering; and you shall not pour a drink offering on it.
- Exo 30:10 And Aaron shall make expiation on its horns once a year; with the blood of the sin offering of expiation once a year he shall make expiation for it throughout your generations. It is most holy to Jehovah.
- Exo 30:11 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 30:12 When you take the sum of the children of Israel, according to their numbering, every man shall give a ransom for himself to Jehovah when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.
- Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Exo 30:15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than the half shekel, when you give the heave offering of Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
- Exo 30:16 And you shall take the expiation silver from the children of Israel and shall give it for the service of the Tent of Meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.

A. The tabernacle signifies God embodied in His chosen people for His move on earth; the tabernacle and everything related to it is for God's move—25:8-9:

- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
1. The prayer at the incense altar is for God's move; because of all the enemies that oppose God's move, God moves by fighting—Num. 10:35.
Num 10:35 And when the Ark set out, Moses said, Rise up, O Jehovah, and let Your enemies be scattered; / And let those who hate You flee before You.
 2. In particular, God's people need to pray for the formation of an army to fight for God's move on earth to accomplish His purpose—Eph. 6:10-12.
Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
3. This intercessory prayer issues in the numbering of God's people to form an army to fight against God's enemies, who oppose His move, that is, against the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies, typified by the inhabitants of the good land—Exo. 30:11-16; 23:23; Eph. 6:12.
- Exo 30:11 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 30:12 When you take the sum of the children of Israel, according to their numbering, every man shall give a ransom for himself to Jehovah when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.
- Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Exo 30:15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than the half shekel, when you give the heave offering of Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
- Exo 30:16 And you shall take the expiation silver from the children of Israel and shall give it for the service of the Tent of Meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
- Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
4. When God has such an army, He is able to move on earth for His interests.
- B. The spiritual significance of the age of the males qualified to be in the army is that if we would be in the army to fight for God's move, we need maturity—Exo. 30:14; Heb. 5:14—6:1; Phil. 3:15; 1 Cor. 2:6:
- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,
- Phil 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.
- 1 Cor 2:6 But we do speak wisdom among those who are full-grown, yet a wisdom not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are being brought to nought;
1. The intercession offered at the incense altar is for the growth and maturity of the believers so that an army can be formed—Eph. 4:13; 6:10-12.
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
2. The more we pray at the incense altar, the more we will realize that the need for maturity is desperate, and the greater will be the urgency to pray for the growth in life unto maturity—1 Cor. 2:6; 3:1-2; 14:20; 16:13; Heb. 5:14—6:1; Eph. 3:16.

- 1 Cor 2:6 But we do speak wisdom among those who are full-grown, yet a wisdom not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are being brought to nought;
- 1 Cor 3:1 And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshy, as to infants in Christ.
- 1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,
- 1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your understanding, but in malice be babes and in your understanding be full-grown.
- 1 Cor 16:13 Watch, stand firm in the faith, be full-grown men, be strong.
- Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
3. Only when such an army is formed will God be able to move on earth for His purpose; apart from an army formed of mature ones, there is no way for God to move—4:13; 6:10-12.
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- C. According to the type of the expiation silver, the Christ by whom we fight is the ascended Christ, the Christ in the heavens—1:20-23; Exo. 30:12-13:
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Exo 30:12 When you take the sum of the children of Israel, according to their numbering, every man shall give a ransom for himself to Jehovah when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.
- Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
1. The half shekel as a heave offering typifies the ascended Christ experienced by God's people and given by them as the expiation silver—v. 13; Eph. 1:21; 4:10; Heb. 4:14; 7:26; 8:1.
- Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 4:10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)
- Heb 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.
- Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,

- Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
2. In order to fight the spiritual warfare, our experience of Christ must reach the highest point, the point where we are sitting with Him in the heavenlies and are fighting not in ourselves but in the ascended Christ—Eph. 1:20-21; 2:6; 6:10-12; S. S. 4:8.
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- S.S. 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.

THE SOUTH-CENTRAL CHINESE-SPEAKING FALL CONFERENCE

September 11-13, 2020

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message Three Persevering in Prayer

Scripture Reading: Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18; Matt. 26:41

Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

I. "Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving"—Col. 4:2:

- A. To persevere is to continue persistently, steadfastly, and earnestly.
- B. We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight; two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other; the third party consists of God's chosen and redeemed people:

- 1. The meaning of the name Satan is "adversary"; Satan is both the enemy without, trying to defeat God, and the adversary within God's realm, seeking to cause damage—cf. Rev. 12:10; Job 1:6-12.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Job 1:6 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.

Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Does Job fear God without cause?

Job 1:10 Have You not set a hedge around him and his household and all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his possessions are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 But stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.

Job 1:12 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here is all that he has, in your hand; only do not stretch forth your hand against him. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence.

- 2. God's chosen and redeemed people will actually decide the outcome of the battle between God and Satan—cf. *Hymns*, #880.

Hymns, #880

1 To the foe my word is always, "No,"
That His plan and all His counsel
When Thine orders I'm obeying,
To fulfill Thy plan eternal

2 To the foe my word is always, "No,"
'Tis my attitude eternal;
Lest while walking in obedience
When I'm list'ning to Thine orders,

3 To the foe my word is always, "No,"
I completely would obey Him,
If the Lord will save and keep me,

To the Father it is "Yes,"
Be accomplished with success;
Grant me, Lord, authority
Thru the Spirit's power in me.

To the Father it is, "Yes";
May the Lord protect and bless,
Satan undermine the way;
Grant me mercy, Lord, I pray.

To the Father it is, "Yes";
Though deep suffering may oppress.
As I forward press with Him,

Then no trials shall prevent me, Nor will opposition grim.

- C. In order to fight on God's side against Satan, we need to persevere in prayer; this perseverance is needed because the course of the whole world is away from God:
1. To pray is to go against the current, the trend, in the fallen universe.
 2. Persevering in prayer is like rowing a boat upstream; if you do not persevere, you will be carried downstream by the current.
 3. The entire universe is under Satan's influence and is contrary to God's will; hence, there is a strong current in the world in opposition to the will of God—cf. 1 John 5:19. 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.
 4. As those who take sides with God, we find that the whole universe is against us and, in particular, against our prayer.
 5. Many of the experiences we have with respect to prayer day by day prove that Satan opposes our prayer in every way possible; resistance to prayer lies not only outside of us but even within us.
- D. Before we try to persevere in prayer, we should first make a vow to the Lord concerning our prayer life:
1. Pray to Him in a definite way and say, "Lord, I mean business with You about this matter of prayer. I call heaven and earth to witness that from this time forth I will have a life of prayer. I will not be a prayerless person. Rather, I will be a praying person."
 2. If you do not have such a prayer to the Lord, you will not be able to persevere in prayer; we need to say to Him, "Lord, I am desperate about this. I offer myself to You so that I may have a prayer life. Lord, keep me in the spirit of prayer. If I forget this or neglect this, I know that You will not forget it. Remind me again and again about prayer."
 3. This kind of prayer may be regarded as a vow made to the Lord; we all need to make a vow to Him concerning our prayer life; we should tell the Lord, "Lord, I know that if I forget this vow, You will not forget it. From the very beginning, Lord, I want to clearly hand the responsibility over to You. Lord, don't let me go. Remind me to pray."
- E. After we make such a deal with the Lord concerning our prayer, we should set aside definite times for prayer; during these times, prayer must be the top priority; our attitude should be that prayer is our most important business and that nothing should be allowed to interfere with it—Dan. 6:10.
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- F. In order to have more time for prayer, we should try to save time during the day; unnecessary talk weakens our praying spirit, damages the praying atmosphere, and occupies time that could be used for prayer—Eph. 5:16.
- Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
- G. Persevering in prayer has many benefits:
1. Prayer is the only way that we can set our mind on the things above—Col. 3:2:
Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
 - a. When we set our mind on the things above by praying, we shall not pray for trivial matters; instead, our prayer will be occupied with Christ's heavenly intercession, ministry, and administration—Heb. 7:25; 8:2; cf. Acts 6:4.
Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

- b. When we set our mind on the things above during our times of prayer, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens; through our prayer, Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body.
 - c. Because Christ is interceding for the churches around the world, we also pray for the churches.
 - d. When we pray, we are heavenly ambassadors on earth with the extension of God's kingdom; only when we pray do we become an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom on earth in a practical way—2 Cor. 5:20.
2 Cor 5:20 On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors, as God entreats you through us; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God.
2. Prayer is the way to enter into the Holy of Holies and come forward to the throne of grace so that we can receive mercy and find grace to meet our timely need—Heb. 4:16:
Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- a. When we pray, approaching the throne of grace, grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us.
 - b. Whether or not our prayer is answered is secondary; the primary thing is that grace flows like a river from the throne and into our being—*Hymns, #770*.
Hymns, #770
 - 1 In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace, Grace as a river shall flow;
In the holiest place, touch the throne of grace, Grace as a river shall flow.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Grace as a river shall flow;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Grace as a river shall flow.
 - 2 In the holiest place, live before His face, Light of glory thru me will shine;
In the holiest place, live before His face, Light of glory thru me will shine.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Light of glory thru me will shine.
 - 3 To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life;
To the spirit turn, and the incense burn, Touch the living fountain of life.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Touch the living fountain of life.
 - c. To receive this river of grace is to have our spiritual battery charged with the heavenly current; this heavenly current, the divine electricity, is the Triune God as grace flowing out of the throne and into us; the supply and enjoyment this brings is unspeakable—cf. Rev. 22:1; John 7:37-39.
Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
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.
 - d. Christians today are weak because their spiritual batteries are not charged; because they are short of prayer, they are short of the heavenly transmission; again and again during the day, we need to be charged with the divine electrical current—cf. Eph. 3:16-17a.
Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
3. Another benefit of praying is related to fellowship with the Lord:

- a, When we pray, we enter into fellowship with the Lord and become conscious of the fact that we are truly one spirit with Him and that He is actually one spirit with us—1 Cor. 6:17.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - b. The more we pray, the more we experience being one with the Lord and the more we enjoy His presence and have fellowship with Him; what a marvelous reward!
- H. For a normal Christian walk we need to set our mind on the things above, have the renewing of the new man, have the peace of Christ arbitrating in us, and allow the word of Christ to inhabit us; prayer ushers us into the reality of these four things and keeps us in this reality—Col. 3:2, 10, 15-16; 4:2.
- Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.
- Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
- I. In prayer, we need to be watchful and alert, not negligent; such watchfulness should be accompanied by thanksgiving:
- 1. A lack of thanksgiving is an indication of prayerlessness; the prayer life is kept by watching with thanksgiving—1 Pet. 4:7; Phil. 4:6.
1 Pet 4:7 But the end of all things has drawn near. Therefore be sober-minded and be sober unto prayers.
Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - 2. If we continually offer thanks to the Lord, the adversary will not be able to carry us away from our prayer life—1 Thes. 5:17-18.
1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- J. To have a prayer partner (or partners) not only can help us to pray better but also can help to sustain our prayer life—Matt. 18:19-20; Dan. 2:17-23.
- Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
- Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
- Dan 2:18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.
- Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Let the name of God / Be blessed from eternity to eternity, / For wisdom and might are His.
- Dan 2:21 And it is He who changes the times and seasons; / He deposes kings and causes kings to ascend. / He gives wisdom to the wise / And knowledge to those who have understanding.
- Dan 2:22 He reveals the deep things and the hidden things; / He knows what is obscured in the darkness, / And the light dwells with Him.
- Dan 2:23 To You, O God of my fathers, I render thanks and praise, / For You have given me wisdom and might; / And You have now made known to me what we requested of You, / For You have made known the king's matter to us.

- K. “Concerning persevering in prayer, I wish to say once again that we need to be willing to make a deal with the Lord, even to make a vow to Him, that we shall be a praying people. If all the saints in all the churches make such a deal with the Lord, the recovery will be greatly enriched and uplifted. Furthermore, the saints will enjoy the Lord, His presence, and His instant and constant anointing. All day long, they will enjoy the smile of the Lord’s face. As we persevere in prayer, the living Person of Christ becomes our experience and enjoyment” (*Life-study of Colossians*, p. 584).

II. Colossians, a book on Christ as the Head, and Ephesians, a book on the Body of Christ, both end with the same charge to pray; Ephesians 6:18 says, “By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints”:

- A. According to the revelation of Ephesians, we have to pray at every time in order to have the Body life in reality; to have the church life depends on our continual prayer.
- B. *All prayer* means all kinds of prayers—short prayers, long prayers, loud prayers, silent prayers, public prayers by a number of saints, private prayers by ourselves, etc.
- C. *Watching unto this* means that we need to be on the alert for the maintaining of a prayer life.
- D. *All perseverance* means that we have to persist and insist to the uttermost; this indicates that there may be something holding us down, holding us back, suppressing, oppressing, depressing, and hindering us from prayer, so we have to persevere and not give up.

III. “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”—Matt. 26:41:

- A. When the Lord Jesus went to pray, Peter and the others went to sleep; when the Lord Jesus told them to watch, He meant, “Don’t sleep! Wake up!”
- B. According to the Lord’s word in Matthew 26:41, we are all sleepy persons; if we do not sleep physically, we sleep either psychologically or spiritually.
Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- C. To sleep psychologically means that our mind, attention, hearing, and realization are absent; to sleep spiritually means that our perception is dormant.
- D. To be a person who prays unceasingly, we must be watchful persons, persons fully awakened, fighting against our sleeping nature and our sleeping being.
- E. Paul’s speaking in Colossians 4:2 and Ephesians 6:18 corresponds with the Lord’s word in Matthew 26:41; in addition to telling us to watch, the Lord said, “The spirit is willing,” and Paul says, “Praying at every time in spirit.”
Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- F. We have to let our spirit rise up over our body and our psychology; then we can pray, and we can watch unto prayer in the way of all petition.
- G. The more we pray, the more we will have to pray, the more we will like to pray, and the more we will be able to pray; to be watchful helps us to build up a habit of prayer.
- H. We have to fight against the threefold sleep: physical, psychological, and spiritual.
- I. To live Christ, to practice being one spirit with the Lord, is by our continual and unceasing prayer (1 Thes. 5:17); to have such a prayer life, we all must learn to watch, to be on the alert, to be awake; the habit of living Christ must be the habit of prayer.
1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,

- J. All day long we should call on the Lord and talk to Him; this is to pray unceasingly, which is to breathe and live spiritually, and to live spiritually is just to live Christ—*Hymns*, #255.
Hymns, #255

1	O Lord, breathe Thy Spirit on me, Help me pour into Thy bosom CHORUS	Teach me how to breathe Thee in; All my life of self and sin.
	I am breathing out my sorrow, I am breathing, breathing, breathing,	Breathing out my sin; All thy fulness in.
2	I am breathing out my own life, Letting go my strength and weakness,	That I may be filled with Thine; Breathing in Thy life divine.
3	Breathing out my sinful nature, Breathing in Thy cleansing fulness,	Thou hast borne it all for me; Finding all my life in Thee.
4	I am breathing out my sorrow, Breathing in Thy joy and comfort,	On Thy kind and gentle breast; Breathing in Thy peace and rest.
5	I am breathing out my sickness, I am breathing in Thy healing,	Thou hast borne its burden too; Ever promised, ever new.
6	I am breathing out my longings I am breathing in Thy answers,	In Thy listening, loving ear; Stilling every doubt and fear.
7	I am breathing every moment, Breath by breath I live upon Thee,	Drawing all my life from Thee; Lord, Thy Spirit breathe in me.

THE SOUTH-CENTRAL CHINESE-SPEAKING FALL CONFERENCE

September 11-13, 2020

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message Four

Being One with the Triune God in the Move of the Great Wheel of His Economy

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:15-21; James 5:17; John 14:12-13; 15:7; Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 11:15

- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- Ezek 1:17 Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went.
- Ezek 1:18 As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.
- Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went-wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- Ezek 1:21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still; and whenever those were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up alongside them; for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
- John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes into Me, the works which I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do because I am going to the Father.
- John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

I. In order for God to regain the earth from the usurping hand of the enemy, we need to be in full cooperation and coordination with Him in the principle of incarnation—Gen. 1:26, 28; Matt. 6:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

A. The Lord wants to recover the earth and establish His kingdom on earth, but in order to do this, He needs us to be one with Him according to the principle of incarnation—Rev. 11:15; 12:10; 1 Cor. 6:17; 7:10, 25, 40b:

- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

- Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- 1 Cor 7:10 But to the married I charge, not I but the Lord, A wife must not be separated from her husband
- 1 Cor 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.
- 1 Cor 7:40b ... but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.
1. We need to be one with the Lord in the desire of His heart and in the carrying out of His purpose on earth—Eph. 1:11; 3:9-11; Phil. 2:13.
 - Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 - Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
 - Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
 - Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
 2. We need to be one with God in His move—one with Him in life, in living, and in our entire doing today on earth—1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:1, 4-5, 7, 16.
 - 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
 - John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
 - John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
 - John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
- B. We need to be one with the Triune God in the move of the great wheel of His economy for His will to be done on earth—Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 4:11; Col. 4:12.
- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
 - Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
 - Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
 - Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

II. In Ezekiel 1:15-21 God's economy is likened to a great wheel:

- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- Ezek 1:17 Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went.
- Ezek 1:18 As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.
- Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went-wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

- Ezek 1:21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still; and whenever those were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up alongside them; for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- A. The great wheel is the move of God in the universe; this wheel as the means by which God acts and moves is Christ with the church—Eph. 5:32.
 Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
- B. The hub of this great wheel signifies Christ as the center of God’s economy, and the rim signifies Christ’s counterpart, the church, consummating in the New Jerusalem—Col. 1:17-18; Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 21:2, 10-11.
 Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
 Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- C. The many believers as the members of Christ are the spokes of the hub spreading to the rim, to the Body of Christ—Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 20, 27.
 Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.
 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- D. This great wheel is not just the economy of God but also the moving of the economy of God—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; Acts 13:1-4:
 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
 Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
 Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
 Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
 Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
 Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.
1. From Genesis 1 until the present, this wheel has been continually moving—Acts 17:1-6; Rom. 15:18-19.
 Acts 17:1 And they traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.
 Acts 17:2 And according to his custom Paul went in to them, and on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
 Acts 17:3 Opening and setting before them that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, This is the Christ, the Jesus whom I announce to you.
 Acts 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and were joined to Paul and Silas, as well as a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and of the chief women not a few.

- Acts 17:5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some evil men from among the loafers in the marketplace, gathered a crowd and set the city in an uproar; and coming upon the house of Jason, they sought to bring them to the populace.
- Acts 17:6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers before the city officials, shouting, These men who have upset the world have come here also,
- Rom 15:18 For I will not dare to speak anything of the things which Christ has not accomplished through me for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and by work,
- Rom 15:19 In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ,
2. The move of God's economy has never stopped, and today this great wheel has reached us—Acts 28:31.
Acts 28:31 Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.
 3. In every age and in every generation, the wheel of God's economy has been moving on earth, and now we all are a part of the move of this great wheel.

III. We need to be one with the Lord to pray for the move of the great wheel of the divine economy—Matt. 6:9-10; John 14:12-13; James 5:17:

- Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes into Me, the works which I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do because I am going to the Father.
- John 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
- A. In genuine prayer the praying one cooperates with God, works together with God, and allows God to express Himself and His desire from within him and through him, ultimately accomplishing God's purpose—John 15:7; James 5:17.
John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
 - B. "Pray to labor with the Lord / Till the wheel begins to move"—*Hymns*, #786, stanza 5:
 1. "Pray to pave the way for Him; / Pray to move Him and be moved / From the center to the rim"—stanza 1.
 2. "Let the Lord initiate / All the plan and all the work; / Then thru us He'll operate"—stanza 4.
 3. "Be identified with Him / In His purpose and His aim / Till His blessing floodeth in"—stanza 2.

IV. The move of God to carry out His economy is by the move of the high and awesome wheels portrayed in Ezekiel 1:15-21:

- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- Ezek 1:17 Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went.
- Ezek 1:18 As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.

- Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went—wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- Ezek 1:21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still; and whenever those were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up alongside them; for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- A. The move of the wheels is the special, extraordinary move of the Lord for His eternal purpose by Him as our strength, power, and supply—cf. vv. 5-8, 19-20:
- Ezek 1:5 And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.
- Ezek 1:6 And every one had four faces, and every one of them had four wings.
- Ezek 1:7 And their feet were straight feet, and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like the sight of burnished bronze.
- Ezek 1:8 And the hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides. And the four of them had their faces and their wings thus:
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.
- Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went—wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
1. Our God is living (1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:12), our Lord is moving (Matt. 16:18), and the Spirit is working (Rev. 5:6b) to carry out God's eternal economy.

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.

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Rev 5:6b ... which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 2. Every local church and every individual believer should have a high and awesome wheel with them—cf. Acts 13:1-4.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.
- B. The high and awesome wheels being upon the earth shows that God needs a move on the earth—Ezek. 1:15; Matt. 6:10:
- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
1. The wheels having the appearance of beryl indicates that wherever the wheel goes, it brings the appearance of the Lord—Ezek. 1:16a; Dan. 10:6.

Ezek 1:16a The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. ...

Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
 2. The wheels having the same appearance indicates that the move of the Lord has the same likeness and appearance in every church—Ezek. 1:16b; cf. Rev. 1:12; 1 Thes. 2:14.

Ezek 1:16b ... And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.

- Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,
- 1 Thes 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they also from the Jews,
3. The wheels going in four directions and not turning as they went indicates a move in coordination—Ezek. 1:17.
- Ezek 1:17 Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went.
4. The high and awesome rims of the wheels being full of eyes indicates that if we are one with the Lord in His move, we will have His insight and revelation; the more we participate in the Lord's move, the more we will be enlightened and the more we will be able to see—v. 18; Eph. 1:17.
- Ezek 1:18 As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.
- 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,
5. The greatest revelation in Ezekiel 1 is the wheel within the wheel; the wheel within the wheel shows the Lord's move in our move—vv. 15-16:
- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- a. For Elijah to pray in a prayer means that the Lord's prayer was within his prayer; this is the wheel within a wheel—James 5:17:
- James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
- (1) Elijah did not pray in his feeling, thought, intention, or mood, or in any kind of motivation, arising from circumstances or situations, to fulfill his own purpose.
- (2) Elijah had a burden to pray in a particular way, and that burden was the prayer given to him by the Lord for the accomplishing of His will; therefore, Elijah prayed in a prayer—v. 17; Rom. 8:26-27.
- James 5:17 Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.
- Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.
- b. The inner wheel is the motor, the dynamo, the generator, which causes the wheel to move; if our move is genuine, it must be that within our move is the move of the Lord—cf. 1:9; 8:16.
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
6. The wheels following the living creatures indicates that the move of God's work depends upon our moving—Ezek. 1:19; cf. Eccl. 11:4.
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.

Ecc 11:4 He who watches the wind will not sow, and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.

7. The wheels follow the living creatures, the creatures follow the Spirit, but the Spirit is in the wheels, indicating that the move of the Lord in our move is in the principle of incarnation—Ezek. 1:20; 1 Cor. 6:17; 7:10, 25.

Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went—wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 Cor 7:10 But to the married I charge, not I but the Lord, A wife must not be separated from her husband

1 Cor 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.

- C. With the wheel of God's move, God's activity, there is the need of the church as the rim to match Christ as the hub; when we have Christ as the center and the church as the rim, we will have the wheel of God's economy moving all the time—Eph. 5:32; Col. 1:17-18.

Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

THE SOUTH-CENTRAL CHINESE-SPEAKING FALL CONFERENCE

September 11-13, 2020

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message Five

A Praying Church in the Unique Stream of the Work of God

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:13-14; 4:24-31; 6:4; 10:9-16; 12:4-14; 13:1-4; 16:23-26; 22:17-21

- Acts 1:13 And when they entered, they went up to the upper room where they were residing, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the brother of James.
- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
- Acts 4:25 Who, through the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, has said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise vain things?"
- Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ."
- Acts 4:27 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
- Acts 4:28 To do what Your hand and Your counsel predestined to take place.
- Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings and grant Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness,
- Acts 4:30 While stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.
- Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
- Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.
- Acts 10:9 And on the next day as they were journeying and drawing near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour.
- Acts 10:10 And he became very hungry and wanted to eat. And while they were preparing, a trance came upon him;
- Acts 10:11 And he beheld heaven opened, and a certain vessel like a great sheet descending, being let down by four corners onto the earth,
- Acts 10:12 In which were all the four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and birds of heaven.
- Acts 10:13 And a voice came to him: Rise up, Peter; slay and eat!
- Acts 10:14 But Peter said, By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything common and unclean.
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- Acts 10:16 And this occurred three times; and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven.
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- Acts 12:5 So then Peter was kept in the prison; but prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him.
- Acts 12:6 And when Herod was about to bring him forward, that night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and guards before the door were keeping the prison.
- Acts 12:7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shined in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and roused him, saying, Rise up quickly. And his chains fell off his hands.
- Acts 12:8 And the angel said to him, Gird yourself and tie on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Throw your cloak around you and follow me.
- Acts 12:9 And he went out and followed him; yet he did not know that what was taking place through the angel was real, but thought that he was seeing a vision.
- Acts 12:10 And passing the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened of itself to them. And going out, they went forward one lane; and immediately the angel departed from him.
- Acts 12:11 And Peter came to himself and said, Now I know truly that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me out of Herod's hand and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.

Acts 12:12 And when he became aware of this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, who was surnamed Mark, where there was a considerable number assembled together and praying.

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Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

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Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.

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Acts 16:25 And about midnight Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken. And instantly all the doors were opened and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

Acts 22:17 And when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance;

Acts 22:18 And I saw Him saying to me, Hurry, and go quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony concerning Me.

Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I was imprisoning and beating from synagogue to synagogue those who believe on You;

Acts 22:20 And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing by and approving and keeping the garments of those who did away with him.

Acts 22:21 And He said to me, Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles.

I. “I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men; on behalf of kings and all who are in high position, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and gravity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of our Savior God”—1 Tim. 2:1-3:

- A. After speaking of God’s economy and after charging Timothy to war the good warfare for God’s economy (1:3-4, 18), Paul indicates that a prayer ministry is the prerequisite for the administration and shepherding of a local church.
- 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- 1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare,
- B. A prerequisite for having a proper church life in the Lord’s recovery today is to have a prayer life; a proper church is a praying church.
- C. All in the Lord’s recovery must be prayerful and stand against the sin of prayerlessness—1 Sam. 12:23.
- 1 Sam 12:23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against Jehovah by ceasing to pray for you, but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
- D. The elders in the church must take up Paul’s charge to “first of all” pray; those who take the lead in the churches must have a prayer life.
- E. If we exercise ourselves to have a prayer life, the church will be living and uplifted.
- F. Instead of talking so much and even instead of working so much, we should pray more.
- G. Only after we have prayed for a matter thoroughly should we make a decision concerning it, not by ourselves independently, but in oneness with the Lord and according to His leading.

- H. The Greek word for *intercessions* denotes an approaching of God in a personal and confiding manner, that is, an intervening, an interfering, before God in others' affairs for their benefit.
- I. "Recently, my activity was limited for a time so that I could rest and care for my health. When I heard about certain needs, I prayed for them. Perhaps the Lord limited me that He might impress me with the fact that prayer is more important than work. May we all learn the lesson that the way to have a good church life is to pray. This is crucial. If our talking is turned into praying, the church in our locality will be transformed"—*Life-study of 1 Timothy*, p. 28.
- J. We should pray on behalf of all men because our Savior God desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth; our prayer is required for the carrying out of God's desire—1 Tim. 2:4.
1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- K. "I desire therefore that men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and reasoning"—v. 8:
 - 1. Hands symbolize our doings:
 - a. Hence, holy hands signify a holy living, a living that is pious and that belongs to God; such a holy life strengthens our prayer life.
 - b. If our hands are not holy, our living is not holy and is not for God; we then have no supporting strength to pray, no holy hands to lift up in prayer.
 - 2. Wrath and reasoning kill our prayer:
 - a. Wrath is of our emotion, and reasoning is of our mind.
 - b. To have a prayer life and pray unceasingly, our emotion and mind must be regulated to be in a normal condition, under the control of the Spirit in our spirit.

II. The book of Acts shows that the apostles never initiated any work without prayer; whenever they wanted to do something, they stopped themselves by their prayer, giving God a way to come into them, to fill them up, and to saturate their entire being—1:13-14; 2:1-4, 16-17a; 4:24-31; 6:4; 10:9-16; 12:4-14; 13:1-4; 16:23-26; 22:17-21:

- Acts 1:13 And when they entered, they went up to the upper room where they were residing, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the brother of James.
- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 2:1 And as the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled, they were all together in the same place.
- Acts 2:2 And suddenly there was a sound out of heaven, as of a rushing violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- Acts 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which were distributed; and it sat on each one of them;
- Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, even as the Spirit gave to them to speak forth.
- Acts 2:16 But this is what is spoken through the prophet Joel:
- Acts 2:17a "And it shall be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, ...
- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
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- Acts 22:21 And He said to me, Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles.
- A. Our God in heaven needs men on earth to cooperate with Him for the carrying out of His plan; after the Lord's resurrection and ascension, the one hundred twenty disciples had an "upper-room consecration" to meet God's need by continuing steadfastly with one accord in prayer—1:13-14; cf. Rev. 3:18.
- Acts 1:13 And when they entered, they went up to the upper room where they were residing, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the brother of James.
- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.
- B. The book of Acts shows that our working together with God to build up the church is a spiritual warfare and that prayer is the secret to accomplish God's work—4:24-31; Psa. 2:1-2; Eph. 6:10-20.
- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
- Acts 4:25 Who, through the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, has said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise vain things?
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- Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
- Psa 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar, / And why do the peoples contemplate a vain thing?
- Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand, / And the rulers sit in counsel together, / Against Jehovah and against His Anointed:
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
- Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- C. The prayers we utter before the Lord must stand against and resist “counter-prayers” that are directed particularly against the church and the work we are carrying out to build up the church—John 17:15; Matt. 6:13; cf. Psa. 31:20.
- John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.
- Matt 6:13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
- Psa 31:20 You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence / Apart from the conspiracies of men; / You lay them away secretly in a shelter / Apart from the contention of tongues.

III. The book of Acts does not have an ending because it is a record of the unique stream of the work of God, the stream of life, which is still flowing and never stops flowing—Rev. 22:1, 3; John 5:17; Matt. 25:21:

- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
- John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I also am working.
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- A. The Bible reveals the flowing Triune God—the Father as the fountain of life, the Son as the spring of life, and the Spirit as the river of life—Jer. 2:13; Psa. 36:9a; John 4:14; 7:37-39.
- Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.
- Psa 36:9a For with You is the fountain of life; ...
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- 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.
- B. The source of the flow is the throne of God and of the Lamb—Rev. 22:1.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- C. In the Scriptures there is only one flow, only one divine stream, the unique stream of the Lord’s work—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; 3:12; cf. Gen. 2:10-14.
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Cor 16:10 Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without fear; for he is working the work of the Lord, even as I am.
- 1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,
- Gen 2:10 And a river went forth from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divided and became four branches.
- Gen 2:11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that goes around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
- Gen 2:12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

- Gen 2:13 And the name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that goes around the whole land of Cush.
- Gen 2:14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one that goes east of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- D. The book of Acts reveals that in the move of the Lord there is only one stream and that we need to keep ourselves in this one stream—cf. 15:35-41:
- Acts 15:35 And Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and announcing the word of the Lord as the gospel with many others also.
- Acts 15:36 Now after some days Paul said to Barnabas, Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city in which we announced the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.
- Acts 15:37 And Barnabas intended to take John, who is called Mark, along with them also;
- Acts 15:38 But Paul did not consider it suitable to take with them this one who withdrew from them in Pamphylia and did not go with them to the work.
- Acts 15:39 And there was a sharp contention, so that they separated from each other; and Barnabas, taking Mark along, sailed away to Cyprus.
- Acts 15:40 But Paul chose Silas and went out, having been commended to the grace of the Lord by the brothers.
- Acts 15:41 And he passed through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.
1. The flowing of the divine life, which started on the day of Pentecost and has been flowing throughout all generations to this day, is just one stream.
 2. The history of the church shows that throughout the generations there has been one stream of the Spirit flowing all the time; many have been working for the Lord, but not all have been in the flowing of that one stream.
 3. The work in the flowing of the Holy Spirit is not a burden but a rest; the work is easy to do and the burden is easy to bear when it is the processed and consummated God as the Spirit living in us who does the work and bears the burden—Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 3:3; Rom. 1:9; 1 Cor. 15:10.

Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matt 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
 4. We must maintain the flowing of the stream within us by giving the Lord within us, the inner flow, the preeminence—Ezek. 47:1; Col. 1:18b.

Ezek 47:1 Then He brought me back to the entrance of the house, and there was water flowing out from under the threshold of the house to the east (for the house faced east); and the water flowed down below the south side of the house, on the south of the altar.

Col 1:18b ... that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 5. What we must do today is to go along with the flowing, the current, of the work of the Holy Spirit; whatever we do must not be according to our natural thought but according to His flowing—*Hymns*, #907:
 - a. “Not where we elect to go, / But where Jesus leads the way, / There the living waters flow, / There our darkness turns to day”—stanza 1.
 - b. “Not our self-appointed task / Will the Lord’s approval win, / But the work we did not ask, / Finished humbly, just for Him”—stanza 2.
 - c. “Thus we die, and dying live / In the heavenlies with the Lord; / Thus we serve, and pray, and give, / Christ Himself our great Reward”—stanza 5.