

Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. (Week 3)

Job’s Experience of God’s Consuming and Stripping in the Old Testament Being Far Behind That of Paul in the New Testament

Job was disturbed, perplexed, and entangled to the uttermost by his suffering of the disasters that befell his possessions and his children and the plague on his body, in spite of his perfection, uprightness, and integrity. When Job cursed the day of his birth, he surely was not perfect and upright, nor did he hold his integrity; rather, he became bankrupt in integrity. God’s intention was to tear down the natural Job in his perfection and uprightness that He might build up a renewed Job in God’s nature and attributes in order to make Job a man of God, constituted with God according to His economy; such a man, like Paul, would never be entangled by any troubles and problems so that he would curse his birth and prefer to die rather than to live. Job was dwelling on his excellent past and sighing over his miserable present ; he held fast insistently to, and even boasted of, his uprightness, righteousness, integrity, and perfection ..

Through his eight times of speaking to his three friends, Job exposed himself as a person with self-righteous: acknowledging God in name but not in reality. Neither Job nor his friends knew the purpose of God’s dealing with him, as the apostle Paul did in declaring to the New Testament believers that the affliction the believers are suffering works out for them an eternal weight of glory, which is the God of glory to be their glorious portion for them to gain and enjoy unto eternity.

If Job and his friends had taken the time to seek God in a spirit of humility and by exercising their spirit in prayer, God could have shown them that a regenerated, transformed, and glorified saint in Christ has nothing to do with the natural man and does not need to build up himself with the natural virtues. This heavenly vision would have saved them from the time-wasting, pain-increasing, and vain debates in thirty-five chapters as a record of a group of blind persons groping in darkness; they talked about God and also referred to their spirit (Job 32:8), but they exercised their mind in three rounds of long debates instead of exercising their life, light, and spiritual supply.

Job’s experience of God’s consuming and stripping in the Old Testament was far behind that of Paul in the New Testament. Day by day and hour by hour, Job was unhappily being consumed, but in the New Testament, God’s consuming and stripping become pleasant things; since the day he was converted, Paul was a person under God’s consuming and stripping as a prisoner in the Lord, but he was filled with joy and rejoicing. Paul was crucified with Christ; to be reborn through termination and germination is to be regenerated crucified; we, like Paul, were reborn crucified for the purpose that from that time it would be no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us. Now in our Christian life we are dying to live; dying to live is the proper meaning of bearing the cross.

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Paul wanted to know Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings in order to be conformed to Christ’s death; he took Christ’s death as a mold for his life, and it was his great pleasure to be molded in the death of Christ. Paul magnified Christ by living Him, whether through life or through death, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ; when God created man, this was the kind of life He wanted man to live. Paul said that he was always bearing about in the body the putting to death, the killing, of Jesus and being delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake that the life of Jesus might be manifested in his mortal flesh; when we are under the killing of the Lord’s death, His resurrection life is imparted through us into others. In his experience of God’s consuming and stripping, Paul considered his affliction to be momentary and light; instead of caring about our affliction, we need to care for the increase of God as the weight of glory within us by our being transformed from one degree of glory to another; as long as we have more of God in us, this is what really matters.

(Source <https://www.churchintaipei.org/bibletruth/conferencetraining.html>)

Dates	Daily Verses for Pray-reading	Bible Reading Schedule
07/3 (Lord’s Day)	There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death. (Prov. 16:25)	Deu 4:44 – Deu 7:8 Luke.1:1-25
08/3 (Monday)	And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen. 2:9)	Deu 7:9 – Deu 10:11 Luke.1:26 - 56
09/3 (Tuesday)	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. And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month... (Rev. 22:1-2)	Deu 10:12 – Deu 11 Luke.1:57 - 80
10/3 (Wednesday)	For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. (Rom. 8:5-6)	Deu 12 – Deu 13 Luke.2:1 - 20
11/3 (Thursday)	Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city. (Rev. 22:14)	Deu 14– Deu 16 Luke.2:21 - 52
12/3 (Friday)	And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)	Deu 17 – Deu 20 Luke.3: 1 - 22
13/3 (Saturday)	For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. (2 Cor. 4:11-12)	Deu 21 – Deu 22:12 Luke.3: 23 - 38

Attending the Meetings of the Church, Especially the Prayer Meeting

The members of all the vital groups also have to attend the regular church meetings. In particular, all of us have to endeavor to come to the prayer meeting. We have to do something to rescue the prayer meeting. We have been practicing the church life in the United States for about thirty years. Over this period of time a negative habit has been built up. This negative habit is that most of the church members despise the prayer meeting.

All of us need to do our best to come to the prayer meeting. Because of this training with the vital groups, the church prayer meeting here has been greatly helped and rescued. I have been praying nearly every week that the Lord would increase the attendance in the prayer meeting.

Also, when we come to the prayer meeting, we are obliged to pray and to pray not just once. Do not pray long prayers. You do not need to compose anything. Simply tell the Lord what you want. Some saints' prayers have too much composition. Their prayers are not spontaneous. Never forget that it is easier to get an answer to a short prayer. The best prayer is one with short sentences. Some saints have long sentences in their prayer. But we do not need to give the Lord reasons and explanations in our prayer. He already knows these things, so we should simply tell Him what we want.

Exercising Our Spirit in the Meetings

We have to realize that the meetings are the coming together of God's children to worship Him. John 4:24 says that God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit. Every church meeting is a time for us to do things in the spirit, because that is the time to worship God. The only principle, the basic, strict principle, in worshipping God is that we must exercise our spirit.

We need to exercise our spirit all the time in the meeting. Whether we speak or not, we must exercise our spirit. If we do not speak, this should be because the Spirit leads us not to speak. When we speak, we speak also because of the leading of the Spirit. Thus, all that we do in the meeting should be the issue of the exercise of the spirit. But we are so neglectful about this matter. We may exercise our spirit only when we feel that we have to pray or speak something, but we must exercise our spirit at all times. I am nourished in every meeting because regardless of whether or not I function, I am in the meeting in the Spirit with the exercise of my spirit. Because I exercise my spirit, I enjoy others' spirits. When you are in the spirit, I sense it. When you are not in the spirit, I also sense it. We all need to learn and build up the habit of exercising our spirit at all times.

(Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Needs of the Vital Groups, chap. 14.)

HWMR Weekly Pursuit: 2020 December Semiannual Training,

「Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes」 — Week 4

Truth Lesson: Level 1/Vol. 4/Lesson 43 —Made A New Creation (3) Being Renewed

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

The gospel of God is the subject of the book of Romans. Christians are accustomed to saying that there are four gospels, the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. However, Paul also refers to his epistle to the Romans as a gospel. The gospel in the first four books of the New Testament concerns Christ in the flesh as He lived among His disciples before His death and resurrection. After His incarnation and before His death and resurrection, He was among His disciples, but not yet in them. The gospel in Romans concerns Christ as the Spirit, not Christ in the flesh. In Romans 8 we see that the Spirit of life who indwells us is simply Christ Himself. Christ is in us. The Christ in the four gospels was among the disciples; the Christ in Romans is within us. The Christ in the four gospels is the Christ after incarnation and before death and resurrection. As such, He is a Christ outside of us. The Christ in Romans is the Christ after His resurrection. As such, He is the Christ within us. This is something deeper and more subjective than the Christ in the gospels. Keep this one point in mind: that the gospel in Romans concerns Christ as the Spirit in us after His resurrection. If we only have the gospel concerning Christ as in the first four books of the New Testament, our gospel is too objective. We need the fifth gospel, the book of Romans, to reveal the subjective gospel of Christ. Our Christ is not merely the Christ in the flesh after incarnation and before resurrection, the Christ who was among His disciples. Our Christ is higher and more subjective. He is the Spirit of life within us. He is such a subjective One. Though John chapters 14 and 15 revealed that Christ will be in His believers, yet that was not fulfilled before His resurrection. The book of Romans is the gospel of Christ after His resurrection, showing also that He is now the subjective Savior in His believers. So, this gospel is deeper and more subjective.

IN SPIRIT

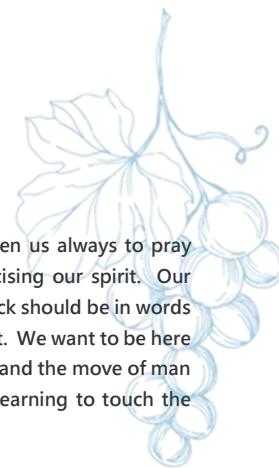
Rom.1:9 ..." God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son."

This gospel is preached in spirit. Note that the word spirit here begins with a small letter, thereby indicating that it does not refer to the Holy Spirit. All Christians believe that we must be in the Holy Spirit in order to preach the gospel. However, I never heard anyone tell us that we must be in our spirit. But Paul says that we need to be in our spirit. Preaching the gospel depends on our spirit. Paul said that he served God in the spirit in the gospel of His Son. When we preach the gospel, we should not employ any gimmicks; we should exercise our spirit.

Why is it only in the book of Romans that Paul says he serves God in his spirit? Because in this book he argues with the religious people who invariably are in something other than the spirit—in letters, in forms, or in doctrines. In the book of Romans Paul argues that whatever we do toward God must be done in our spirit, that whatever we are must be in spirit, and that whatever we have must be in spirit. In chapter 2, verse 29, he says that the genuine people of God must be in spirit, that true circumcision is not outward in the flesh but in the spirit. In chapter 7, verse 6, he says that we must serve God in newness of spirit. Paul refers to our human spirit eleven times in the book of Romans. The last instance is found in chapter 12, verse 11 where he says that we must be burning in spirit. Preaching the gospel of God is absolutely a matter of our spirit.

(Life-study of Romans, Message 2)

Prayer Burdens



◆Pray for the needs of the church in Singapore:

1. Prayer for the gospel : “Lord Jesus, may all the saints fan into flame the gift of God, and speak the gospel of God to our friends.”
2. Young People Gospel: Pray that the spirit of the gospel will be prevailing among our young people and that they would be the gospel seeds in their schools.
3. Pre-University: Pray for the raising up of parents and serving ones who are burdened to serve pre-university saints in all zones in Singapore.

4. “Lord Jesus, remind us and strengthen us always to pray and fellowship in our spirit by exercising our spirit. Our speaking concerning a saint who is sick should be in words from the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit. We want to be here on earth for the move of God in man and the move of man in God to fulfill God’s economy by learning to touch the divine Spirit in our spirit.”
5. “Oh Lord, make us willing to cooperate with the operating Spirit and accept the environment in our spirit, soul, and body. In every part of our being, we must be willing to cooperate with the indwelling Spirit and to accept the outward environment.”

◆Pray for the Lord’ s Move on the earth:

1. India - Pray for the campus work, that through the functioning of the college students in contacting their gospel friends in various states, the burden of the gospel and shepherding may continue according to the present situation. (For more details <http://lmasia.org>)
2. Spring university conference online (26-28 March): The spring conference for European university students will take place online on 26-28 March. Please pray that the Lord will impart a heavenly vision that will capture and preserve the university students in Europe and direct them to live in God’s economy.

◆Pray for the newly baptized saints:

1. Sis. Ho Ying Shan (Kallang)
2. Bro.Ryan Stoppel (AMK)
3. Bro. Qin Yue (AMK)
4. Sis. Wong Poh Chuen (AMK)
5. Sis. Chua Shuzhen (Queenstown (C))

Church Meetings

Dates	Venues	Items
11 th March (Thursday)	Online	Young Working Saints Meeting
13 th March (Saturday)	Online	Young People Gospel
21 st March (Lord’s Day)	Online	Brothers Meeting
28 th March (Lord’s Day)	Online	Church Combined Lord’s Table
10 th – 11 th April (Saturday to Lord’s Day)	Online	God-man Family Training
18 th April (Lord’s Day), 13 th Jun (Lord’s Day) 2021	Online	Training Lessons for Sisters

Overseas Blending Conferences and Trainings

Dates	Venues	Items	Notes
16 th April - 18 th April 2021	Online	International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones	Registration Deadline 24 th March 2021
23 th April - 25 th April 2021	Online	Training for Elders and Responsible Ones in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei	Registration Deadline 4 th April 2021

Announcement Items On Material Offering



To fear the Lord means that we also honor Him

Proverbs 3:9-10 says that we must honor the Lord with our substance and with the firstfruits of all our produce; then our barns will be filled with plenty, and our vats will burst open with new wine.

May we continue to honor Him by our material offering to the church in accordance with the guidelines:

Bank Name: DBS current account
Account Number: 002-906383-7
Account Name: Church of God (Singapore)

Offering for Keningau Training Facilities, Sabah

The facilities are for training and perfecting the saints in Keningau, Sabah. We encourage all the saints to contribute to the Lord's move in Sabah by our material offering.

The church hopes to contribute S\$50,000/- for the Keningau Training Facilities by the end of March 2021. May we all pray for the Lord's leading in our giving.

Bank Name: DBS current account
Account Number: 002-906383-7
Account Name: Church of God (Singapore)

For comment or reference while transfer, please state and use the following codes for transfer.

<District code> <KENINGAU>

Announcements

1. Please be informed that for the coming week we will pursue week 4 of HWMR with the general subject "Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes"
2. Young Working Saints' Online Gathering, 11th March (Thursday), 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM. We encourage all Young Working Saints to join the gathering through the links indicated below: (no registration required).
For Zoom Link: <http://tiny.cc/sgyws2021> (Please sign in 15 minutes before the online gathering starts)
3. Young People Gospel, 13th March (Saturday). We encourage saints to invite gospel friends to our home to join this online meeting. The link online Zoom will be sent out soon.
4. Brothers meeting, 21st March (Lord's Day). 4:00PM - 6:00PM. We encourage all brothers to join the gathering through the links indicated below: (no registration required).
For Zoom Link: <http://tiny.cc/sgbrothers> (Please sign in 15 minutes before the online gathering starts)
Meeting ID:814 1288 5471
Passcode:111333
5. The Training Lessons for Sisters – 18th April (Lord's Day), 13th Jun (Lord's Day) 2021. We encourage sisters who have not yet signed up to participate in the next two lessons. Those who have already signed up do not need to sign up again.
Time : 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Fee : \$10
Registration Deadline: 31st March 2021
Please sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxwyc7a6>.
6. The due date for International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones on 24th March; the due date for Training for Elders and Responsible Ones in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei on 4th April. Please contact church office before the registration due date.

Attendance

SAINTS' ATTENDANCE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS 22nd-28th February 2021

ITEM	DISTRICTS	MORNING REVIVAL	CHURCH PRAYER	SMALL GROUP MEETING	BAPTISM		LORD'S TABLE					
					Present	Goal	Adult	Youth	Total	Average (4 weeks)	Average Goal	Child
ZONE 1	Ang Mo Kio (C)	15	10	10	4	12	30	3	199	30	40	7
	Serangoon (E)	25	9	14	0	12	24	8		32	48	4
	Punggol (C)	10	8	8	0	5	15	0		14	20	6
	Toa Payoh (C)	14	11	0	0	6	22	1		22	24	1
	Bishan (E/C)	9	8	8	0	10	14	0		14	30	1
	Sengkang (E/C)	10	8	0	1	5	13	0		13	20	0
	Caldecott (C)	6	7	7	0	6	14	1		18	25	3
	Rumbia (E)	11	15	15	0	2	25	0		23	25	5
Lorong Chuan (E)	14	5	18	0	3	18	11	29	35	9		
ZONE 2	Bukit Gombak (E)	15	13	28	0	4	28	1	84	29	34	0
	Bukit Gombak (C)	10	4	19	0	4	21	0		23	36	4
	Bukit Panjang (E/C)	19	11	10	0	3	20	1		22	25	9
	Choa Chu Kang (E)	8	7	11	0	5	11	2		13	23	3
ZONE 3	Buona Vista (C)	14	10	10	2	6	16	0	115	18	30	8
	Pasir Panjang (E/C)	23	18	13	1	10	39	0		40	38	1
	Queenstown (E)	14	7	7	1	6	20	2		22	24	8
	Commonwealth (E/C)	13	10	20	0	10	19	0		19	30	2
	Sixth Avenue (E)	8	6	0	0	4	19	0		20	17	9
ZONE 4	Paya Lebar (C)	14	12	19	0	20	32	0	166	28	30	6
	Tampines (E/C)	29	11	13	0	11	43	2		45	24	11
	Bedok (C)	10	6	9	0	10	24	2		26	35	5
	Kallang (C)	18	8	0	1	18	33	5		32	30	0
	Pasir Ris (C)	18	8	12	0	11	24	1		23	20	4
ZONE 5	Admiralty (E)	22	17	25	2	3	33	8	116	44	42	9
	Woodlands (E)	19	8	19	0	2	25	0		25	29	0
	Admiralty (C)	6	9	5	0	3	18	0		17	25	0
	Sembawang (C)	13	8	0	0	3	32	0		31	22	0
ZONE 6	Jurong East (E/C)	18	9	23	0	8	24	8	102	32	30	10
	Jurong West (C)	9	8	8	1	33	22	2		22	32	0
	Nanyang (E)	16	9	11	0	9	31	0		33	30	3
	Boon Lay (E/C)	10	7	13	0	3	13	2		16	27	7
ZONE 7	Redhill (E)	12	17	36	2	38	41	0	119	38	80	0
	Redhill (C)	35	9	24	2	50	78	0		78	80	0
TOTAL		487	313	415	17	335	841	60	901	891	1060	135

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