

**Outline of the Messages  
for the Memorial Day Conference  
May 26-29, 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
KNOWING, EXPERIENCING, AND ENJOYING CHRIST  
AS REVEALED IN PHILIPPIANS**

Message One

**Taking Christ as Everything to Gain Him  
by Denying Our Self and Turning to Our Spirit**

*MC Hymns: 499, 539*

Scripture Reading: Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 16:24; Mark 9:7-8;  
2 Cor. 2:10; Gal. 1:15a, 16a; Col. 2:16-17

Matt 3:17	And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.
Matt 12:18	"Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul has found delight. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will announce justice to the Gentiles.
Matt 16:24	Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
Mark 9:7	And a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!
Mark 9:8	And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone, but Jesus only with them.
2 Cor 2:10	But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;
Gal 1:15a	But when it pleased God, ...
Gal 1:16a	To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, ...
Col 2:16	Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
Col 2:17	Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

**I. Christ is the desire of God's heart—Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; Gal. 1:15a, 16a:**

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| Matt 3:17  | And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.  |
| Matt 12:18 | "Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul has found delight. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will announce justice to the Gentiles.                           |
| Matt 17:5  | While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him! |
| Gal 1:15a  | But when it pleased God, ...   |
| Gal 1:16a  | To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, ...  |
- A. God's heart's desire is that every person, every matter, and everything in the universe would express Christ; when everything is headed up in Christ, there will be absolute peace and harmony, and everything in the universe will express Christ—Col. 1:15-19; 3:10-11; Eph. 1:10, 22-23; 4:15-16; Isa. 55:11-13.
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| Col 1:15 | Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,   |
| Col 1:16 | Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him. |
| 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;   |
| Col 1:19 | For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell  |
| 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 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.  
 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;  
 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 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.  
 Isa 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; / It will not return to Me vainly, / But it will accomplish what I delight in, / And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.  
 Isa 55:12 For you will go out with rejoicing, / And you will be led forth in peace; / The mountains and the hills / Will break forth before you with a ringing shout, / And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
 Isa 55:13 In place of the thornbush, the fir tree will come up; / In place of the brier, the myrtle will come up; / And it will be to Jehovah as a name, / As an eternal sign that will not be cut off.

B. We exist for the expression of Christ, we preach the gospel for the expression of Christ, our work is for the expression of Christ, and the church is for the expression of Christ—43:7; 2 Cor. 4:5; 1 Cor. 15:58; John 17:23; Eph. 1:23; 3:19-21.

Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.  
 2 Cor 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.  
 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.  
 John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.  
 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.  
 Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,  
 Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

C. Christ is the reality of every positive thing in the universe—Col. 2:16-17:

Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

1. The entire universe is a great painting drawn by God that speaks of Christ, describes Christ, and is for the expression of Christ—1:15-17; Psa. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 11:3.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,  
 Col 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.  
 Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;  
 Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, / And the expanse proclaims the work of His hands.  
 Psa 19:2 Day to day pours forth speech, / And night to night tells out knowledge.  
 Psa 19:3 There is no speech and there are no words; / Their voice is not heard.  
 Psa 19:4 In all the earth their line has gone forth, / And their words to the end of the world. / In the heavens He has made a tent for the sun,

- Psa 19:5 And he, like a bridegroom, goes forth from his canopy; / He rejoices like a mighty man running the course.
- Psa 19:6 His going forth is from the end of the heavens, / And his circuit is unto their ends; / And there is nothing hidden from his heat.
- Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse;
- Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not come into being out of things which appear.
2. Daily we eat and drink Christ, weekly we have completion and rest in Him, monthly we experience a new beginning in Him, and throughout the year He is our joy and enjoyment—Col. 2:16-18a.
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col 2:18a Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize, in self-chosen lowliness and the worship of the angels, ...
- D. We must see and realize inwardly that God does not want anything other than Christ Himself; God's goal in His recovery is to recover Christ as everything to us—1 Cor. 1:9:
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1. When Christ enters into us, He not only wants to be our life but also our everything; He is our breath of life (John 20:22), water of life (4:14; 7:37-39), bread of life (6:35, 48), light of life (1:4; 8:12), and abode of life (14:23; 15:1, 4-5).
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 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.
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
- John 6:48 I am the bread of life.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 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 15:1 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.
2. We must walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work by living Christ, growing Christ, expressing Christ, and propagating Christ in every respect—Col. 1:9-10.
- 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 1:10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God,
3. We must allow God to work Christ into us to such an extent that He is everything to us—our exceeding joy and our exceedingly great reward—Eph. 3:16-19; Psa. 43:4a; Gen. 15:1; John 15:11; Rom. 14:17; Phil. 3:14.
- 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 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Psa 43:4a And I will go to the altar of God, / To God my exceeding joy; ...
- Gen 15:1 After these things the word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield and your exceedingly great reward.
- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
4. The greatest need for us today is to see that Christ is the Spirit indwelling our spirit; if we do not see this point, everything of Christ will be merely an objective doctrine to us—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17—4:1; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17; John 4:24.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 2 Cor 4:1 Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart;
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
5. Christ is also the Word; when we contact the Lord's Word with our spirit, His words become spirit, and when His words become spirit, the Spirit enters into us so that we can be completely occupied by Him, transformed by Him, and mingled with Him to satisfy the desire of God's heart—Eph. 6:17-18; John 5:39-40; 6:63.
- 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,
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- E. When we have seen the all-inclusive Christ and have learned the secret of enjoying Him, we will be faithful to the Lord's recovery—Mark 9:7-8; Acts 26:19, 22; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9-10; 2:9-10; 2 Cor. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:9-18; Phil. 1:19-21a:
- Mark 9:7 And a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!
- Mark 9:8 And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone, but Jesus only with them.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained the help which is from God, I have stood unto this day, testifying both to small and great, saying nothing apart from the things which both the prophets and Moses have said would take place,

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

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Cor 2:10 But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;

2 Tim 4:9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;

2 Tim 4:10 For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia.

2 Tim 4:11 Luke alone is with me. Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for the ministry.

2 Tim 4:12 But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

2 Tim 4:13 The cloak which I left in Troas with Carpus, bring when you come, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

2 Tim 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did many evil things to me; the Lord will recompense him according to his works.

2 Tim 4:15 You also guard against him, for he greatly opposed our words.

2 Tim 4:16 At my first defense no one was with me to support me, but all abandoned me. May it not be counted against them.

2 Tim 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and empowered me that through me the proclamation of the gospel might be fully accomplished and all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth.

2 Tim 4:18 The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will save me into His heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

1. We should concentrate on Him, not on any persons, things, or matters other than Him; we should focus on Him as our unique center appointed by God so that all the problems among the believers may be solved—1 Cor. 1:9; Rev. 2:4-5; Col. 1:17b, 18b.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

Col 1:17b ... and all things cohere in Him;

Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

2. For a person to leave the Lord's recovery means that he has never seen what the recovery is; whether or not we are secure in the recovery and protected from divisiveness depends on the vision we have seen; it is only by focusing on Christ that we can be saved from division.

3. If we care only for Christ as our unique center, choice, preference, taste, and enjoyment, this will preserve us in the church in the Lord's recovery until He comes back; otherwise, we will be disappointed or distracted and forsake the Lord's recovery.

## II. We must follow the pattern of Paul in Philippians to take Christ as everything:

- A. "For to me, to live is Christ"—Paul took Christ as his living—1:21a.
- B. "As always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death"—Paul took Christ as his expression—v. 20.
- C. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"—Paul took the mind of Christ as his mind—2:5.
- D. "And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith"—Paul took Christ as his lived-out righteousness—3:9.
- E. "On account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ"—Paul considered the knowledge of Christ to be supereminent—v. 8.
- F. "One thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward"—Paul took Christ as his goal—vv. 13-14.
- G. "Brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things"—Paul took Christ as his virtues—4:8.
- H. "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me"—Paul took Christ as his power to live out Christ as his magnificent living—v. 13.
- I. "I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack"—Paul took Christ as his secret—vv. 11-12; cf. vv. 4-7.  
[Phil 4:4](#) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.  
[Phil 4:5](#) Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.  
[Phil 4:6](#) In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;  
[Phil 4:7](#) And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- J. "Our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself"—Paul took Christ as his expectation—3:20-21.

## III. We gain Christ that He might gain us (v. 12; cf. Hab. 1:1) according to the following aspects:

- [Phil 3:12](#) Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- [Hab 1:1](#) The burden which Habakkuk the prophet saw.
- A. Gaining Christ causes us to have a sense of God's presence (the pneumatic Christ)—John 20:22; Exo. 33:11a, 14:  
[John 20:22](#) And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.  
[Exo 33:11a](#) And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. ...  
[Exo 33:14](#) And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.



1. We should be afraid of only one thing—that we would lose the presence of our Lord—2 Cor. 2:10; cf. Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19.
    - 2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;
    - Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
    - 1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
  2. “He will enliven us after two days; / On the third day He will raise us up, / And we will live in His presence” (Hosea 6:2)—the reality of the third day is the person, the presence, of the resurrected Christ with the reality of revival (Hab. 3:2).
    - Hab 3:2 O Jehovah, I have heard the report concerning You and am afraid. / O Jehovah, revive Your work / In the midst of the years; / In the midst of the years make it known; / In wrath remember compassion.
- B. Gaining Christ causes us to feel bright and clear inwardly—Rev. 22:1; John 1:4; 8:12; Ezek. 1:22, 26.**
- 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 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  - John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
  - Ezek 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
  - Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
- C. Gaining Christ causes us to feel inwardly supplied with Christ as our spiritual food and spiritual drink—1 Cor. 10:3-4; John 6:57; 4:10, 14, 24; 1 Cor. 12:3b, 13.**
- 1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,
  - 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
  - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
  - John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
  - 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 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
  - 1 Cor 12:3b ... and no one can say, Jesus is Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.
  - 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.
- D. Gaining Christ causes us to grow in life and be transformed into His image—Col. 2:19; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2.**
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
  - 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
  - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- E. Gaining Christ causes us to have vitality and to take action—Dan. 11:32b; Acts 1:8; 5:20; 13:1-4; 1 Cor. 14:31; cf. Ezek. 3:1-3; Psalms 68:11-13, 19.**
- Dan 11:32b ... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.
  - Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be

	My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
Acts 5:20	Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.
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 Cor 14:31	For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
Ezek 3:1	Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
Ezek 3:2	So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
Ezek 3:3	And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
Psa 68:11	The Lord gives the command; / The women who bear the glad tidings are a great host.
Psa 68:12	The kings of the armies flee. / They flee! / And she who abides at home / Divides the spoil.
Psa 68:13	Though you lie among the sheepfolds, / There are dove wings covered with silver, / And its pinions, with greenish yellow gold.
Psa 68:19	Blessed be the Lord, who day by day loads us with good; / God is our salvation. Selah.

#### **IV. In order to take Christ as everything and gain Him in all things, we must learn to continually deny our self and turn to our spirit:**

- A. We must enter into our spirit completely because the Lord as the Spirit, the reality of the Body, is in our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22; Eph. 1:17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- 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,
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,
- 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 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in 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,
- B. We must learn how to set our mind on the spirit; in other words, we must learn how to trust in God and depend on the Lord; the real secret of living the Christian life for the church life is for us to set our mind on the spirit—Rom. 8:6.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- C. Turning to the spirit is the secret of being a Christian; the way to follow the Lord, enjoy the Lord's riches, live in the reality of the Body of Christ, and function in the New Testament ministry is to continually exercise to reject our self, lose our soul-life, and turn to our spirit—2 Cor. 3:3, 6, 16—4:1; 2 Tim. 4:22; Phil. 1:19; Rom. 8:16.
- 2 Cor 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



- 2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.  
 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.  
 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 2 Cor 4:1 Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart;  
 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.  
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- D. The work of the Lord, which we carry out by the power of the Holy Spirit, is a work that begins with the spirit and ends with the spirit; this work begins from our spirit and ends in others' spirits—1 Cor. 2:4-5, 13, 15; 2 Cor. 3:6; 13:3; cf. Psa. 42:7a.  
 1 Cor 2:4 And my speech and my proclamation were not in persuasive words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,  
 1 Cor 2:5 In order that your faith would not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.  
 1 Cor 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words.  
 1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.  
 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.  
 2 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.  
 Psa 42:7a Deep calls unto deep / At the sound of Your water spouts; ...
- E. We have a spirit to contact and receive God and a soul to live out and express God; taking in God, living out God, and expressing God should be our joy, amusement, and entertainment—John 4:10, 14, 24; 6:57; Luke 1:46-47; 1 Cor. 10:31.  
 John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.  
 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 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.  
 John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.  
 Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord,  
 Luke 1:47 And my spirit has exulted in God my Savior;  
 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- F. The soul was created by God for the purpose of expressing Him, not to have its own enjoyment or preferences; in God's economy there is no selfish enjoyment; Paul's ministry was to dispense the riches of Christ as grace to the believers for their enjoyment—Gen. 1:26; 2:7; Eph. 3:2.  
 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 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.  
 Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- G. To deny our self means to reject the soul's desire, preference, and choice; man's first sin was to do something for himself, to satisfy the self—Gen. 3:1-7.  
 Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?  
 Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

- Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.
- Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!
- Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.
- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.
- Gen 3:7 And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

H. Anything that comes out of our self (the mind, emotion, and will of our fallen soul) is connected to Satan and to demons—Matt. 16:21-27:

- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?
- Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

1. As the unchaste wife of Jehovah, Israel became evil; we need to realize that once we forsake God, we too can do any kind of evil—Hosea 4:1; Eph. 4:17-21.

- Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of Jehovah, / O children of Israel; / For Jehovah has a controversy / With the inhabitants of the land. / For there is no faithfulness or kindness / And no knowledge of God in the land.
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
- Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- Eph 4:19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

2. We must realize that if we do not remain in fellowship with God in our spirit, we lose God's presence and are capable of being in the flesh and of behaving like the worldly people—Phil. 2:1-2; 1 John 1:3; Eph. 4:17-19; Gen. 20; cf. 12:11-13; 13:18.

- 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,
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- 1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
- Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- Eph 4:19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.

Gen 20:1 And Abraham journeyed from there toward the region of the Negev and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.

Gen 20:2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister. And Abimelech the king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Gen 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, You are now about to die because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.

Gen 20:4 But Abimelech had not come near her, so he said, Lord, will You slay even a righteous nation?

Gen 20:5 Did he himself not say to me, She is my sister? And even she herself said, He is my brother. In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.

Gen 20:6 And God said to him in the dream, Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also prevented you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

Gen 20:7 Now therefore return the man's wife, for he is a prophet; and he will pray for you, and you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.

Gen 20:8 And Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and spoke all these things in their hearing. And the men were very afraid.

Gen 20:9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.

Gen 20:10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, What were you thinking, that you have done this thing?

Gen 20:11 And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will slay me because of my wife.

Gen 20:12 But she is also truly my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Gen 20:13 And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, This is your kindness which you must do to me: At every place where we go, say of me, He is my brother.

Gen 20:14 Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he returned Sarah his wife to him.

Gen 20:15 And Abimelech said, My land is now before you; dwell wherever it pleases you.

Gen 20:16 And to Sarah he said, I have now given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is now your vindication in the eyes of all who are with you. And in every respect you have been cleared.

Gen 20:17 And Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his female servants, so that they bore children.

Gen 20:18 For Jehovah had completely shut up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Gen 12:11 And when he was about to enter into Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, I know indeed that you are a beautiful woman to look at;

Gen 12:12 And when the Egyptians see you, they will say, This is his wife, and they will kill me; but they will keep you alive.

Gen 12:13 Now say you are my sister, that it may be well with me on account of you and I may live because of you.

Gen 13:18 And Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

3. We cannot afford to take a vacation from our fellowship with God in our spirit; our protection is not our self; it is God's presence—1 John 1:3; cf. Psa. 31:20.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

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.

I. Prayer is the real denial of the self:

1. Actually, we do not need to pray in a lengthy way; it is sufficient simply to call “O Lord Jesus”; even such a short prayer means “no longer I but Christ” —Rom. 10:12-13; Gal. 2:20.

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

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

2. Our prayer testifies that we do not exercise our self-effort to deal with the situation (to “cast out demons”); instead, we apply Christ—Mark 9:14-29.

Mark 9:14 And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes disputing with them.

Mark 9:15 And immediately, when all the crowd saw Him, they were amazed, and they ran to Him and greeted Him.

Mark 9:16 And He questioned them, What are you disputing with them?

Mark 9:17 And one from the crowd answered Him, Teacher, I brought to You my son, who has a dumb spirit;

Mark 9:18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.

Mark 9:19 And He answered them and said, O unbelieving generation! How long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.

Mark 9:20 And they brought him to Him. And when it saw Him, the spirit immediately convulsed him greatly, and falling on the earth, he rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

Mark 9:21 And He questioned his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, From childhood.

Mark 9:22 And it has often thrown him both into fire and into water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.

Mark 9:23 And Jesus said to him, You say, If You can. All things are possible to him who believes.

Mark 9:24 Immediately, crying out, the father of the child said, I believe; help my unbelief!

Mark 9:25 And Jesus, seeing that a crowd was running together toward them, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, Dumb and deaf spirit, I order you, come out of him and enter into him no more.

Mark 9:26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out. And he became as though he were dead so that many said that he died.

Mark 9:27 But Jesus took hold of his hand and raised him, and he stood up.

Mark 9:28 And when He entered into the house, His disciples questioned Him privately, Why were we not able to cast it out?

Mark 9:29 And He said to them, This kind cannot come out by any means except prayer.

3. To pray is to practice the vision concerning Christ with His death and resurrection being our replacement so that we may be fully “Christified” to satisfy the desire of God’s heart—vv. 2-13.

Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up alone into a high mountain privately. And He was transfigured before them,

Mark 9:3 And His garments became sparkling, exceedingly white, such as no fuller on earth could whiten them.

Mark 9:4 And Elijah with Moses appeared to them, and they were conversing with Jesus.

Mark 9:5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tents, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

Mark 9:6 For he did not know what to answer, for they had become extremely frightened.

Mark 9:7 And a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!

- Mark 9:8      And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone, but Jesus only with them.
- Mark 9:9      And as they were coming down from the mountain, He ordered them not to relate to anyone the things which they had seen, except when the Son of Man has risen from the dead.
- Mark 9:10     And they kept the word, discussing among themselves what rising from the dead was.
- Mark 9:11     And they asked Him, saying, Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?
- Mark 9:12     And He said to them, Elijah does indeed come first and restore all things. And how is it that it is written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be counted as nothing?
- Mark 9:13     But I tell you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him the things that they wished, even as it is written of him.