

# BLENDING IN THE VITAL GROUPS—THE REALITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

## Message 4

### Being Supplied Every Morning with the Life of Christ to Be a Blended Member

#### I. The danger of paying more attention to work than to life

##### 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;

##### Revelation 2:2-4

2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false;

3 And you have endurance and have borne all things because of My name and have not grown weary.

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

He carried out the revelation he received from the Lord, not in the way of work, but in the way of life....To him work did not mean that much; life meant everything. In my whole life, he is the only person I have known who paid more attention to life than to work.

*Watchman Nee: A Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age, Ch. 11, pp. 86-87*

##### Daniel 7:25a

And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High;...

What does it mean to wear someone out? It means to exhaust a person minute by minute, some today and some tomorrow. The wearing out goes on invisibly, yet in a debilitating way; it goes on imperceptibly, yet the end is total depletion and waste. Satan works in God's children by the principle of wearing them out. He wears us out a little today and a little tomorrow. He causes us to suffer a little today and a little tomorrow. We may think that this is insignificant, yet the result of this wearing out by Satan is total depletion.

*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Volume 38, Ch. 52, p. 387*

#### II. Being supplied in the morning

##### A. “Whom are you seeking?”

###### John 20:15

Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? She, supposing that He was the gardener, said to Him, Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.

###### Proverbs 8:17

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

##### B. Not being satisfied with knowledge only

###### John 20:8-10

8 At that time therefore the other disciple also, who came first to the tomb, entered, and he saw and believed;

9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He had to rise from among the dead.

10 The disciples therefore went away to their own home.

##### C. “Knocking on every little twig”

###### Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.”

So one may remain at every little verse in the Bible and as Luther says, “Knock on every little twig, whether there would be some berries that would fall off.” Should at the beginning one think it somewhat difficult and should the prayer not flow at once, one may go on, to try the same on another twig. If the soul is only hungry the Spirit of God will not leave it undernourished. Yea, it will finally be found, that the man will see so many living fruit in one small verse, that he will remain there and settle, as under a tree richly laden. However, whosoever in the beginning is frightened by it, and considers it to be too difficult for him and he could not read the Scripture in this manner, it is his own fault, that during his entire lifetime he never gains true joy and pleasure in the Scripture.

*Lord Thou Saidst, p. 50*

It is a great thing to pray one's self into the spirit and marrow of a text; working into it by sacred feeding thereon, even as the worm bores its way into the kernel of the nut.... Use prayer as a boring rod, and wells of living water will leap up from the bowels of the Word. Who will be content to thirst when living waters are so readily obtained!

*Lord Thou Saidst, p. 78*

### III. Being enlightened

#### **John 1:4**

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

#### **Malachi 4:2**

But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.

#### **Psalm 36:9**

For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

#### **A. The Lord coming in the morning as the High Priest to trim the wicks and add the oil**

##### **Exodus 25:31**

And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand with its base and its shaft shall be made of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds shall be of one piece with it.

Morning watch is an excellent time to experience the Lord's trimming, His snuffing. I can testify that this trimming takes place as I make confession to the Lord and ask Him to forgive me of all my defects, failures, weaknesses, and wrongdoings. If we consider our situation each day, we shall see that there is always some charred wick that needs to be snuffed. Our humanity is very low compared to Christ's humanity. His humanity never produces any snuff, but ours produces snuff every day and requires a daily trimming. ...Perhaps you are wondering who performs this work of trimming, or snuffing. Often Christ Himself will snuff us during times of fellowship with Him in the morning.

*Life-Study of Exodus, Message 93, p. 1086*

#### **B. Confessing the sin of individualism in order to be blended together**

In order to be blended together, we need to confess the sin of individualism and individuality. Our individualism is a kind of principle, a kind of policy, with us. Every one of us has his own policy, his own human logic. Our individualism becomes our logic. The educational system in America educates the young people to be individuals. The logic of being an individual, or the logic of individualism, is a sin in the eyes of God. We need to condemn individualism and individuality. In our church life we may be full of individuality. We may not care for others but may care only for ourselves. Even though we may love others, we may not care for others. In loving others we may still care for ourselves. This is individuality. We need to confess this sin. As long as such germs remain within us, we cannot be one and we cannot be blended.

*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups, Message 10, p. 82*

We also need to be saved from individualism, that is, from being individualistic. Because we all have the tendency to be individualistic, none of us naturally like to be one with others. Our married life exposes how individualistic we are. Because we are individualistic, a wife does not like to be dependent on her husband, and a husband does not like to be dependent on his wife. God's intention is not to have a group of individualistic believers. On the contrary, it is to build up the Body for the fulfillment of His purpose. In order for this purpose to be carried out, we need to be saved from individualism.

*Life-Study of Romans, Message 42, p. 476*

## **IV. Fellowshiping with our vital group about the condition of our personal time with the Lord in the morning**

### **A. Opening our spiritual condition in and with the Lord**

In your initial practice of the fellowship you should get acquainted with one another in every detail of your status, your spiritual condition, and present situation in the Lord. If possible, fellowship concerning everything. When we are fellowshiping in the groups, we need to follow the inner Spirit. Furthermore, our fellowship must be living, organic, and spontaneous. We should know one another very thoroughly, in an up-to-date way.

*Fellowship concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups, Ch. 9, p. 72*

### **B. Asking for help**

#### **Ephesians 6:19, 21**

**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,

**21** But that you also may know the things concerning me, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you.

#### **Needing to Cast Off Individualism**

Brothers, do you see? We need to cast off many things before we go back. Even our individualism has to be left here. We need to learn to be an open person. Toward our brothers, our spirit needs to be open, our thinking needs to be open, and many times even our mouth needs to be open. Many times because our mouth is shut, our spirit is also shut. There are people who have never asked for help in their entire life. While we are here on the mountain, I hope that those among us will ask for help at least once. I hope there will be those among us who can say to the brothers or sisters, "I have had trouble with this one matter for many years. Please help me overcome it." If this is the first time in our life that we ask for help, let it be here.

Oh, we do not know what proud persons we are! Many people simply do not realize how proud they are. Many people also do not realize how tightly they are wrapped in themselves. Many say that they are broken before God; however, if we turn them around and put them before other people, they are not broken in the least. Actually, if a person is broken before God, he is broken wherever he is. If a person has been broken before God, he is really broken. Asking for help is called fellowship, and we need to reach out to seek fellowship.

*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 51, "The Coordination Among the Workers," p. 155*

### **C. Identifying what keeps us from having a consistent time with the Lord**

### **D. Praying specifically for one another to overcome all these obstacles**

#### **Colossians 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.

### **E. Fellowshiping in love and covering one another's weaknesses**

#### **1 Peter 4:8**

Above all, have fervent love among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins

## **V. Our spiritual condition for the day depending on our being fed by the Lord in the morning**

George Müller confessed that the degree to which he was fed by the Lord in the morning determined his spiritual condition throughout the whole day. His spiritual condition for the day depended on his feeding before the Lord in the morning. Many Christians find themselves weak during the day because their mornings are ill spent.

*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Volume 48, Ch. 11, p. 172.*

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