

Young Working Saints Outing

Oklahoma City, February 21-22, 2020

Knowing Life and the Church

Friday Evening

- 6:00 Dinner in the Meeting Hall (simultaneous meal for children in the Fellowship Hall)
- 6:45 Singing
- 7:00 **Message One:** "The Spiritual Requirements of a Christian and the Standard for Testing These Requirements"
- 7:45 One-time prayer and one-time share with 3-4 around you (5 minutes)
- 7:50 **Reading in Groups:** "The Reality of the Church and the Experience of the Cross" (begin by praying one by one in a circle, then read the ministry excerpt, followed by fellowship)
- 8:30 Overflow together from message and group reading
- 9:00 Dismiss/pick up children

Saturday Morning

- 9:00 Singing
- 9:15 **Message Two:** "All Service Being Initiated by God" & "Being Joined to the Lord in the Matter of Service"
- 10:00 One-time prayer and one-time share with 3-4 around you (5 minutes)
- 10:05 **Reading in Groups:** "Preparing Ourselves to Meet the Lord's Need" (begin by praying one by one in a circle, then read the ministry excerpt, followed by fellowship)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Message Three:** "The Principle of God's Breaking" & "God's Breaking, Not Man's Magnanimity Being the Way of Life"
- 11:45 Overflow
- 12:15 Lunch

Message 1 — The Spiritual Requirements of a Christian

I. The Requirement of the Word of the Bible

2 Kings 22:8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of Jehovah. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. **11** And when the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.

Colossians 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.

John 6:63 ...the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Jeremiah 5:22 Do you not fear Me, declares Jehovah; Do you not tremble at My presence; Who have set the sand as a boundary for the sea by an eternal statute, so it cannot pass over it? Although its waves toss, they cannot prevail; Although they roar, they cannot pass over it.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

II. The Requirement of the Sense of Life

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

III. Life Requiring Us to Have Fellowship with All the Saints

Exodus 33:7 Now Moses would take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, some distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought Jehovah went out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.

Acts 20:20b teaching you publicly and from house to house. (Ref. **Exo. 10:7-11**)

IV. Life Requiring Christians to Serve Others

Matthew 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve....

Philippians 2:7a But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave....

John 21:16 ...do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.

Numbers 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters into the service to do the work of the Tent of Meeting. (Ref. **Num. 8:24**, “From twenty-five years old and upward”; **Num. 4:3, 23, 30, 35, 43, 47**)

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. (Ref. **1 Cor. 12:1-31**)

1 Corinthians 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. (Ref. **Rev. 2:2-3; 1 Cor. 3:8; 15:10; Col. 1:29**)

V. Life Requiring Christians to Be Served and Supplied

Philippians 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.

Ephesians 6:18-19 ...Petition concerning all the saints, 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.

VI. Life Requiring Christians to Be Spiritual

Revelations 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Revelations 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Colossians 3:18-21 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord. Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened.

VII. Life Requiring Christians to Exalt Christ

Zephaniah 3:9 For then I will change the language of the peoples into a pure language That they may all call upon the name of Jehovah, To serve Him with one accord.

Isaiah 12:4 And you will say in that day, Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! Make His deeds known among the peoples; Remind them that His name is exalted. **6a** Cry out and give a ringing shout, ...

VIII. Life Requiring Christians to Do God's Will

Romans 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.

Nehemiah 2:4 And the king said to me, What do you request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

IX. Life Requiring the Church to Live Out Christ & to Allow the Holy Spirit to Rule

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

Titus 3:1, 12-14 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready unto every good work, ...diligent...diligently...And let those also who are ours learn to maintain respectable works for their necessary needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Message 2 — All Service Being Initiated by God

I. All Work Being Initiated by God vs. Work Initiated by Man Being Religious Activity

- A. **Job 38:2** Who is this who darkens counsel / By words without knowledge?
- B. **Exodus 21:6** Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

II. The Scriptural Basis for Service Initiated by God

- A. Abel offered sacrifices by faith according to God's revelation whereas Cain served God from himself according to his own will.
 - 1. **Genesis 4:3-5a** And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground. And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering. But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard....
 - 2. **Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.
 - 3. **Romans 10:17a** So faith comes out of hearing....
- B. Noah served God according to God's command
 - 1. **Genesis 6:22** And Noah did this; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.
 - 2. **Genesis 7:5** And Noah did according to all that Jehovah commanded him.
- C. Abraham served God according to God's appearing
 - 1. **Genesis 12:1** Now Jehovah said to Abram, Go from your land / And from your relatives / And from your father's house / To the land that I will show you.
- D. Moses served God according to God's instruction for the deliverance of the children of Israel
 - 1. **Genesis 2:11b-12** ...and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. And he looked this way and that, and when he saw that there was no one there, he struck the Egyptian down and hid him in the sand.
 - 2. **Genesis 3:10-11** So come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- E. David feared God, cooperated with God, and let God work
 - 1. **2 Samuel 7:5** Go and say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah, Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?
- F. Peter learned to simply listen to the Lord's command
 - 1. **Matthew 17:5b** This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. **Hear Him!**
- G. Paul served God according to the vision that he saw
 - 1. **Acts 22:10** And I said, What shall I do, Lord?
 - 2. **Acts 26:19** Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

III. Stopping Everything of Ourselves in Order to Know God's Will

- A. M.E. Barber – “Whoever cannot stop working for the sake of God cannot work for the sake of God.”

Being Joined to the Lord in the Matter of Service

I. When the Lord's calling comes, we must rise up immediately to answer His call and meet His present need.

- A. The Lord's salvation is His calling.
 - 1. God saves everyone and calls everyone.
 - 2. The problem is not that He does not save or call but that we are unwilling to receive His salvation and to answer His call.
 - 3. In the New Testament there is not one person whose calling is separate from his salvation. —Matt. 4:21-22; John 1:47-49; Acts 9:3-6
- B. Rising up to answer the Lord's calling.
 - 1. All the work in His redemption is carried out through man, by means of man, and in mingling with man.
 - 2. We have so much to take care of that we cannot rise up. —Luke 14:17-20, 26
 - 3. A person who rises up for God needs to have the boldness to take risks and have a strong and indomitable will.
- C. Living in the Lord and relying on Him.
 - 1. When we rise up to meet God's need, we must be careful not work independently by ourselves and apart from the Lord.
 - 2. No matter how strong we are and how much we can rise up for the Lord, we should all be weak in every step of our work.
- D. A person who works and serves the Lord should never be political.
 - 1. Playing politics is using tricks.
 - 2. Using tricks is a proof that we are apart from the Lord and that we have not relied on Him.
 - 3. Moses and Aaron were ones who did nothing for themselves, never using tricks to lead the children of Israel. They would simply withdraw and prostrate themselves before God.—Exo. 15:24-25; Num. 11:11-14, 14:1-5

II. Three crucial points for our service to the Lord.

- A. The Lord's work is carried out by His mingling with man.
- B. We need to rise up strongly to cooperate with Him to meet His need.
- C. Once we rise up, we must immediately prostrate ourselves before the Lord.

Message 3 — The Principle of God’s Breaking

I. God’s work of breaking and the discipline of the Holy Spirit has a goal — man being useful in the Lord’s hand according to His heart.

A. A person’s usefulness in the service is based upon his cooperation with God. The extent to which God’s servants are broken is the degree to which they can cooperate with God.

1. Everything that comes our way is meaningful and is under God’s sovereign arrangement. May the Lord open our eyes to see that God is arranging everything around us; He has a purpose in us.

Matthew 10:29-30 — Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And not one of them will fall to the earth apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

2. When God grants us the grace one day, we will gladly accept all the arrangements He places in our environment. We must see that the enjoyment of God’s presence is based on the breaking of the outer man.
3. The more completely and thoroughly we learn the lessons before the Lord, the more useful we will be to God’s work.

B. All spiritual matters must pass through death and resurrection. Breaking is the process of the death of the cross. What is broken and torn down can pass through death and enter into resurrection.

Romans 4:17 — (As it is written, “I have appointed you a father of many nations”) in the sight of God whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls the things not being as being.

- C. A natural person who has not been broken, who deceives not only others but also ourselves, cannot be trusted.
- D. A person who truly does God’s will is the one who has been broken by God.

II. “The book of generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” Christ was brought in by faith and breaking. — Matt. 1:1

A. The life of Abraham signifies a life of faith.

1. The life of faith can bring Christ to the earth and enables man to touch God and to deal with God.

B. David’s life signifies a life of brokenness.

Acts 13:22 — And when He had deposed him, He raised up David for them as king, to whom also He testified and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will do all My will.

1 Samuel 16:11 — Then Samuel said to Jesse, Are these all the young men you have? And he said, There is still the youngest, but he is now tending the sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, Send for him, and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.

25:26 — And now, my lord, as Jehovah lives and as your soul lives, since Jehovah has withheld you from entering into bloodshed and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now therefore let your enemies and those who seek harm against my lord be like Nabal.

2 Samuel 16:10 — But the king said, What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if Jehovah has told him to curse David, who then can say, Why have you done so?

Genesis 48:15 — And he blessed Joseph and said, The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has shepherded me all my life to this day.

**God's Breaking, Not Man's Magnanimity
Being the Way of Life**

- I. We need to see that God's breaking is not because of man's transgressions.**
- II. God broke Job's natural wholeness in his godliness through suffering.**
 - A. These sufferings came to Job in order to tear down a person who was godly and blameless and who gave no ground for Satan's accusations.
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.
 - B. The calamities that came upon Job were not for dealing with his errors or sins but for dealing with Job himself.
 - C. When he finally met God, he did not abhor his acts but himself, that is, his self that he justified and could boast of, that even God could not find fault with, and that Satan could not accuse.
Job 42:6 I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
- III. God proved that Paul was a servant of God by causing him to be in lack – 2 Cor 6:3-10, 12:16.**
 - A. **1 Corinthians 4:11** Until the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked and buffeted and wander without a home.
- IV. Jacob signifies a man's receiving God's breaking for transformation – Gen. 47:9**
 - A. He was a person full of schemes and plots, but he was broken, torn down, and dealt with by God again and again to the point that God changed his name and called him Israel (32:28), meaning "prince of God." - Gen 25:26, 32:28.
- V. We need to be broken for Christ's life to have a channel and for His building – 1 Cor. 3:12.**
 - A. God's work throughout the generations is to eliminate all the refuse, clay, wood, grass, and stubble in order to bring in the pure gold, pearl, and precious stones needed for His building.
- VI. God's genuine work in man is breaking.**
 - A. Everyone who is led by God must experience the Lord's breaking work in him continuously. Problems will occur in our homes, in our careers, in our service in the church life, or even in our work for the Lord so that God can build more of Himself into us.
- VII. The deeper our magnanimity, the stronger our self is.**
 - A. When we encounter God's breaking, we should not respond magnanimously. When we encounter God's breaking and it is difficult to accept, we should accept it rather than bear it.
 - B. To be magnanimous means that we have the ability to swallow difficulties. However, the more we swallow difficulties, the more we are full of the self without any of God's element. This is not the teaching in the Bible. The teaching in the Bible requires that we be broken and torn down so that God may enter into us.
- VIII. We need to receive God's breaking in the light.**
 - A. We should prostrate ourselves before God and receive God's dealings. We should learn to be in the light to receive God's breaking. We should never pursue magnanimity, which is just a tool to cultivate, build up, and enlarge our self.

Young Working Saints Outing, Group Reading #1

THE REALITY OF THE CHURCH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CROSS

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 3:9-11

THE CROSS PRODUCING THE CHURCH

We need to see that once the human element is present, the church is gone. In order to have the genuineness and reality of the church, man must be terminated. There is no way for man to be terminated other than through the cross. The cross is the place to terminate and end man. The cross has two effects: it terminates man, and it releases Christ's life. This is true even today. Whoever has the cross has been terminated, but at the same time, Christ's life can flow out from him. If the cross works in us, our person will be broken and terminated. At the same time, Christ will flow out from us. Because of these two effects, the cross produces the church. When the cross works in us, our person is terminated, and at the same time, Christ has the position in us. In this way the church is produced. With the cross, man is terminated and Christ comes in, and when Christ comes in, the church is produced. We must know this.

When we touched the church, we felt that the church was quite good. We sensed the Lord's presence, touched the Lord in our heart, and enjoyed meeting here. However, after several months something surely happened to expose our unbroken flesh and active self. Even though we feel the Lord's presence and are uplifted inwardly, it becomes hard for us to bear the situation after being offended and hurt by a brother or sister. Such things happen all the time.

Two weeks ago a certain brother said to the responsible brothers, "I truly praise and thank the Lord that He has brought me to this church. I truly feel the Lord's presence and blessings here. I have received much help." A week later he came and told the brothers, "I feel that our meeting hall should make a change here and an alteration there." Because his suggestions were not proper, the brothers could only listen to him but not do as he suggested. When he came to the meeting hall several days later and discovered that his opinions had not been accepted, he stopped coming to the meeting because he felt that he had lost face. When the brothers went to visit him, he said that he was ashamed to come because the brothers did not accept his suggestions. This brother was more open than most. When we visit with some, they will not even speak truthfully about the reason for their absence. They only give strange reasons. This shows that they truly have not been gained by the church.

It is possible that a person may love the church today and hate the church two weeks from now. This is because of man's face and man's self. If the cross has not done a breaking work in a person—breaking his flesh, self, natural being, and person—he will not be able to be touched or endure any setback. Instead, he will withdraw immediately. Sometimes this kind of brother or sister needs to be disciplined by the Holy Spirit for several years and receive some chastisement and suffering in order to learn the lessons. Then they will begin to regret their past Christian life, a life in which they suffered and encountered many difficulties after leaving the church and Christ. Gradually, they will realize that they left the church because they wanted to keep their face, to boast in themselves, and to express their flesh. When they become enlightened, they will come back to the church in shamefulness and humility. At this time, even if we do not speak the word of the cross, they will have some experiences. Thereafter, even if they want to praise the church, they will not be so quick. Many of those who praise us often become the ones who oppose us the most. Therefore, when we go out to work, we should not be moved by man's praises. The people who praise us today may become the ones who oppose us tomorrow. A person who has learned the lesson and has been broken will not praise others easily. Even if we have received the greatest help from a certain brother, we still need to learn not to be so quick to praise.

The brother with the opinions about altering this and that has come back. He has truly received some help and advanced, and he is serving the church humbly. It is safe for us to say something because he is able to receive it. He knows that he needs to be broken. He rarely gives suggestions and opinions because he has been dealt with and does not dare to speak carelessly. He has been dealt with by the Lord to such an extent that he says, "O Lord, I have said these things. May You guide the brothers in their acceptance,

and may You also make me joyful in whatever the outcome may be.” This person has Christ, not himself, and he will be able to remain in the church.

THE CHURCH LIFE REQUIRING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CROSS

Anyone who does not receive the cross will eventually have problems in the church. Anyone who has not been broken by the cross will eventually be stumbled by the brothers and sisters. The church is produced through the cross, maintained through the cross, and, even more, expressed through the cross. When the cross is present, man goes out, and Christ comes in, and when Christ is present, there is the reality of the church. Please remember that the church is the one new man produced by the cross of Christ. In the new man there is no man; there cannot be this kind of person or that kind of person. There cannot be you, I, he, or anyone else. In the new man there is only Christ. Only Christ is all and in all. This word may sound simple and easy to understand, but in order to practice it in our real living, we must go through the cross. The experience of life will not be manifested in reality in anyone who is short of the cross.

Only those who are under the cross can know the church, only those who have been broken by the cross can be in the church, and only those who allow the cross to break them and cross them out are qualified to examine the church. When a person has been terminated by the cross, that is, his flesh has been nullified by the cross, his emotion broken by the cross, his opinion and ideas rejected by the cross, his ability torn down by the cross, and his tactics eliminated by the cross, he will be in the reality of the church. He will be able to understand the church, touch the nature of the church, know the essence of the church, and discern the church. He will be able to judge the church accurately, and his view of the church will be according to the Bible and life. These three—the cross, Christ, and the church—cannot be separated. When the cross is present, there will be only Christ; when there is Christ, there will be only the church. All three are closely related.

(Knowing Life and the Church, Chapter 14, “The Reality of the Church and the Experience of the Cross, pp. 175-178”

Young Working Saints Outing, Group Reading #2

PREPARING OURSELVES TO MEET THE LORD'S NEED

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 2:21; Eph. 3:7, 20

SERVING THE LORD REQUIRING THE SERVING ONE TO STOP HIMSELF

One who serves the Lord must first ask himself whether his service is of himself or of the Lord. Once this question is settled, he must ask himself whether he can meet the Lord's need. If Brother So-and-so is working for the Lord in Pingtong, he must ask himself whether his work is of the Lord or of himself. Once he is clear that his work is of the Lord, the first question is settled. At this point he must ask a second question: Can he meet the Lord's need and fulfill His demand in the work? This is a big question.

These two questions require us to put ourselves aside and also require our full cooperation. The first requirement of the work is that we stop; we must stop all our activities and restrain our opinions, thoughts, and ideas. Everything of ours must be stopped. We must stop because the Lord's work does not originate from us but from Him. Once we stop, we will know whether our work is of the Lord. Then we need to be able to meet His need.

In Matthew 17 Peter spoke of several matters. Although these matters are quite meaningful, we may have never considered how they are related to the things revealed in chapter 16. In chapter 16 the Lord said, "Upon this rock I will build My church" (v. 18), but in chapter 17 Peter told the Lord that he would make a tent for Him (v. 4). The Lord said that He would build His church, but Peter said that he would make a tent for the Son of God. At Pentecost God began to build the church. The church is not merely a tent but a house. Peter's suggestion to the Lord was according to his own concept, not according to God's purpose for His Son, Christ. Peter ultimately did not make a tent, but he did gain much material for the building of the church. Peter's word shows that man's opinion sometimes can be quite similar to God's concept. Regrettably, however, God's will is often interrupted because of this similarity.

God desires to build the Body of Christ so that His Son may obtain a dwelling place. The body of a person is his dwelling place; likewise, the Body of Christ, which is the church, is Christ's dwelling place. As far as God was concerned, Peter needed to gather the building materials, and Paul needed to build these materials into a house so that Christ would have a dwelling place.

Peter's proposal of making a tent for the Son of God was of himself. Apparently, it was the same as God's purpose, but actually, it was against God's determination. God often decides to do certain things in us, the called ones. However, we can contradict, replace, and even damage His determination because our proposals, thoughts, ideas, and opinions are quite similar to His will. This is the reason there was a voice from heaven, saying, "Hear Him!" (v. 5). This indicates that it is not appropriate for us to utter something, to speak a word, to make proposals, and to give our opinions. Instead, only He should speak, and we must hear Him.

The first point we must pay attention to in our service is to put ourselves on hold; that is, we must stop our entire being. We must see that before we were touched by God, we had no interest in the things of God, but that once we were touched by God, we were full of opinions. As soon as God leads us to the Mount of Transfiguration and we see His glory, we have many proposals and opinions. This experience is not related only to a great revival or even to a small revival. Even when we are praying at home, many ideas come as soon as we touch the Lord. Consequently, we want to do many things for the Lord. None of these ideas were present before we went to the Mount of Transfiguration; we did not care about such things. However, once we have been touched by the Lord and truly receive a spiritual burden, we immediately want to use our ideas to do something for the Lord. This is the first problem we have in the matter of serving the Lord.

The Lord's intention is to build His church, that is, to build His church as His dwelling place, but Peter suggested making a tent. Such a tent is symbolic of many denominations. God desires to build a dwelling place for His Son, which is the church. Yet many "Peters" have gone to the Mount of Transfiguration, seen the Lord's glory, and given their opinions one after another, instead of stopping themselves.

As a result, many tents, many denominations, have been produced. A tent signifies a denomination, which apparently is similar to the church. A house is according to the Master's determination, whereas a tent is according to a servant's proposal. Matthew 16 shows the Lord's determined counsel, whereas chapter 17 shows Peter's instantaneous proposal. The moment Peter presented his proposal, he was interrupted. Today because many people have not allowed the Lord to interrupt their proposals, there are many "tents." Hence, being unable to stop ourselves is the first problem in serving the Lord.

SERVING THE LORD REQUIRING THE SERVING ONE TO RISE UP

We need to restrain our opinions and stop our proposals, but we need to rise up to meet the Lord's need and fulfill the demand in His work. The work of redemption was not accomplished merely by God Himself. God needed man in the person of Jesus Christ to work with Him to accomplish His redemptive work. In redemption, fifty percent is carried out by God, and fifty percent is by man. Without God, there could not be a redemptive work, but also without man, there could not be a redemptive work. The work of redemption was accomplished by the joining of God and man. God desperately needs the cooperation of man. Hence, no part of the work of redemption can be accomplished apart from man. Whenever God wants to do a work, He reveals what He wants to do to man and requires man to stop his opinions and all that he is; then God requires man to cooperate with Him. This cooperation requires man to rise up.

Before his conversion Saul served God, yet he was full of opinions. On his way to Damascus, however, God met him, and he fell on the ground (Acts 9:4). He had been very active, but now he was unable to move. His entire being was stopped so that he could receive God's revelation and see that his service should come only from God, not from man. God wanted him to see that all his efforts as Saul of Tarsus were according to man's imagination. Hence, God met Saul on his way to Damascus to stop his entire being. However, this was not the end of God's work. From that time forward, God enabled Paul to rise up so that he could meet His need and be of use to Him. This second requirement is often more difficult to deal with than the first. While it is not easy for us to stop, it is even more difficult to rise up. Even though it is not easy for us to stop, nevertheless, we still must rise up to meet God's need and fulfill His demand once we stop. This is more difficult.

(Knowing Life and the Church, Chapter 14, "Preparing ourselves to meet the Lord's Need, pp. 209-213"

Songs

Song 1

- 1 Once by nature we were dead in sin,
In a world of utter discord;
But together God has quickened us,
Raised us up to sit together with the Lord.

 Jesus is getting us together,
 Come and see the saints in one accord.
 His love is knitting us together,
 To the stature of the fullness of the Lord.
- 2 Thus with all saints we can apprehend
All the vast dimensions of God.
Knowing Christ's love passes all we know,
We're together filled to fullness with our God.
- 3 Now we know the purpose of our God,
Visible the mystery became:
Christ, the church, together now we see,
And together put the enemy to shame.
- 4 For this cause we pray the Father God
Strengthen Thou with might our inner man;
Make Yourself at home in all our hearts,
Root us, ground us in Your love and for
Your plan.
- 5 In the Body we'll be fitly framed
As the many members Christ supply;
Working in the measure of each part,
All by growth in love the Body edify.
- 6 Now we're one His purpose to fulfill,
As the one new man of His plan.
Unto Him be glory in the church,
And in Jesus Christ forevermore—Amen!

Song 2

- 1 We have an inner life;
That's for our daily life;
That's for the meeting life—just Christ!
We'll live the inner life;
We'll have the daily life;
We'll see the meeting life—
That's just the church.

 Christ is our inner life;
 He's in our spirit now;
 Not far away from us—He's right inside!
 And as we turn to Him
 And take Him as our all
 He will become in us our inner life.
- 2 Out from our inner life
Will come our daily life,
And all our living be filled up with Christ.
Then as we live by Him,
He lives His life in us,
And He becomes to us our daily life.
- 3 The real experience of Christ in daily life,
Will fill the meeting life with Christ Himself.
Not empty forms and such,
But Christ will be so much;
And we will see Him here as
The meeting life.
- 4 Without the inner life there is no daily life,
There is no meeting life, there is no church!
Christ as our inner life,
Christ in our daily life
Will make the meeting life new and glorious!

Song 3

- 1 God eternal has a purpose,
Formed in His eternal past,
Spreading to eternal future;
'Twi't these ends all time is cast.
For with time there is the process,
Time for His accomplishment;
And in time we're merely travellers—
For eternity we're meant.
- 2 God would have a group of people
Built together in His plan,
Blended, knit, coordinated
As His vessel—one new man.
God would come into this vessel
With His nature, life and ways,
Mingling Spirit with our spirits
For His joy and to His praise.
- 3 God has worked in three directions
For His plan so marvelous:
As the Father, Son, and Spirit
To dispense Himself to us!
All creation gives the setting—
Heav'n and earth are for this plan;
'Tis for this God made a body,
Soul and spirit—three-part man.
- 4 As the center, as the kernel,
Of God's plan our spirit is;
Calling on the name of Jesus
Makes our spirit one with His.
From the center to circumference
God would saturate each part;
Feeling, mind, and will renewing,
Making home in all our heart.
- 5 Thus in life we're built together,
Then in love we're knit as one;
God is now His plan fulfilling,
Finishing what He's begun.
Lord, increase Thyself within us
That we might be built by Thee
Into that great corporate vessel
Filled with God exclusively.
- 6 As the product, the fulfilment,
Will the church in glory stand,
Consummation of the purpose
In eternal ages planned.
God will have His corporate vessel,
All His glory to contain;
Lord, we're wholly for Thy purpose
All Thy goal in us attain.

Song 4

- 1 Pursue Him and know Him;
Be found in Him.
Count all things loss for Him.
Just gain Him, obtain Him; lay hold of Him.
It's Christ the central vision.

Forgetting the things which are behind,
Press on, pursue with this mind.
By any means each hour now redeem;
Stretch forth, lay hold of Him!
- 2 Pursue Him and seize Him,
Christ the supreme.
Just love this precious Person.
Forgetting and leaving all other things,
Love Him with your whole being.
- 3 Christ now is my center,
And reality,
My life for eternity.
All things are just dung compared to Him,
So love and just gain Him!