

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – June 4, 2017

Announcements

- This week we are reading *The Knowledge of Life*, chapters 3-5.
- Registration for Bible camp is due today. Please see Izumi Miyake or Rose Wu for registration information.
- Remember to register with the bookroom for the summer video training, the deadline is June 18th, after which there is a late fee.
- We will overflow from The Glorious Church next Lord's Day, June 11.

Burdens for Prayer

- Present situation in Germany and Middle East
- The shepherding of all the saints

This Week: June 5 – June 11

Morning Revival: *Cooperating with the Heavenly Ministry of the Ascended Christ*, Week 2

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean Saints
Upstairs – Kirkland

Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
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Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
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Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast
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Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table
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July

Jul. 12 – Aug. 4	Immigration Training, Anaheim
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Jul. 24 -Aug. 2	Bible Camp
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August

Aug. 7-12	Summer School of Truth
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Aug. 10 -13	Camp Canby
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Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON TWENTY

REJECTING THE NATURAL STRENGTH AND ABILITY

V. THE NATURAL STRENGTH AND ABILITY BECOMING USEFUL IN RESURRECTION FOR OUR SERVICE TO THE LORD

The natural strength and ability are useful if they are dealt with by the cross. After being dealt with by the cross, they are in resurrection. Some brothers speak in their natural eloquence, but other brothers speak with an eloquence dealt with by the cross. This is the eloquence in resurrection. Some who are short of experience may ask what the difference is between the natural eloquence and the eloquence in resurrection. It is hard to explain, but if you have the experience, it is easy to discern. Only those with the experience can discern the difference between the undealt with, natural strength and ability and the strength and ability in resurrection through the dealing of the cross.

In resurrection something divine has been wrought into our strength and ability. Even some divine element has been wrought into our eloquence. When we speak, we need to have our eloquence dealt with by the cross. The cross always works the divine element into the person it deals with, bringing God into him. If you have never been dealt with by the cross in your eloquence, that is the natural eloquence with nothing divine. But if your eloquence has been dealt with, that kind of eloquence is in resurrection and is full of the divine element. In the natural eloquence, there is no God. But the "dealt with" eloquence in resurrection is full of God. After being dealt with, our strength and ability become useful in resurrection for our service to the Lord.

VI. THE CASE OF MOSES

We surely need to gain ability, but once we have the ability, we need to be dealt with. This was exactly what happened to Moses. The case of Moses is the best one to illustrate the matter of rejecting the natural strength and ability. No other person in the Bible is as good as Moses in this aspect.

A. Educated in All the Wisdom of the Egyptians and Being Powerful in Words and in Works

Acts 7:22 tells us that Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in words and in works. He came out to work for God, to rescue God's people from the tyranny of Pharaoh.

B. Doing Something for God's People according to His Own Will

Moses did something for God's people according to his own will (Acts 7:23-26). He was full of assurance that he could accomplish something, but he was carrying out his will, not God's will.

C. Being Put Aside by God for Forty Years

God purposely and sovereignly put Moses aside for forty years (Exo. 2:14-15; Acts 7:27-30).

D. Learning to Serve God according to His Leading and to Trust in Him

In those forty years Moses learned to serve God according to His leading and to trust in Him (Acts 7:34-36; Heb. 11:28). Moses eventually became a person who did nothing according to his will. He always acted according to the Lord's leading. The Lord led him, and he followed. He had no faith in his ability. Although he was very capable, he did not use his natural ability. His natural ability was dealt with, so it became an ability in resurrection. The ability in resurrection corresponds with God's move. If our ability is not dealt with, it is separate from God's move. But after being dealt with by the cross, our ability becomes one with God's move. Actually, God was wrought into Moses' ability. His ability eventually was full of God.

Exodus 2 shows us a natural Moses, a Moses with his natural strength and ability. That was purely, solely, wholly, and absolutely Moses without God. Then after chapter three we can see another kind of Moses, a Moses that was fully dealt with by God. After chapter three, God was in Moses and whatever Moses did in his acts and move was full of God, having the divine element.

VII. THE CASE OF PETER

A. Being Self-confident in His Natural Strength and Ability

Peter was self-confident in his natural strength and ability even to the point of thinking that he would follow the Lord both to prison and to death (Luke 22:33).

B. Being Put into a Test

Peter was tested and he denied the Lord three times, even before a little maid (John 18:15-18, 25-27).

C. Becoming a Complete Failure

Peter was absolutely defeated and became a complete failure (Matt. 26:69-75). He did have a heart to love the Lord, but he was too

confident in his own strength, his natural strength. His love for the Lord was precious, but his natural strength had to be denied and dealt with. The Lord allowed Peter to fail utterly in denying the Lord to His face three times, so that his natural strength and self-confidence could be dealt with.

D. Learning to Serve the Brothers by Faith in the Lord and with Humility

Through his failure, Peter learned to serve the brothers by faith in the Lord and with humility (Luke 22:32; 1 Pet. 5:5-6). Peter was really broken and was turned from the natural ability to something in resurrection.

We surely have to impress the brothers and sisters with this message. They all must learn this one lesson: to reject the natural strength and ability. Our natural strength and ability must be dealt with and put on the cross. Then they will be in resurrection and full of the divine element. Then whatever we do in the church service will be a ministry of the divine element to others. If our natural strength and ability are not dealt with, we will minister something natural to people by our church service.

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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, June 4 th	Isa. 17:1-18:7
Monday, June 5 th	Isa. 19:1-25
Tuesday, June 6 th	Isa. 20:1 -21:17
Wednesday, June 7 th	Isa. 22:1-25
Thursday, June 8 th	Isa. 23:1-18
Friday, June 9 th	Isa. 24:1-23
Saturday, May 10 th	Isa. 25:1-12