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# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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## **The Crystallization Study of Isaiah (Message 23)**

The crystallization of this message is speaking of God's dwelling place, a house of prayer and the house of His beauty. It consists of five main points. First, the central thought of the Scripture is that God is seeking a building as His dwelling place. Second, God desires to have a group of people as His dwelling place, which he can enter into. Third, God's dwelling place is the church as a house of prayers. Fourth, His dwelling place is also the house of His beauty. Fifth, the glory of God will be seen in the house of His beauty.

There is a central thought in the Bible. It is that God is seeking a building, which is a living composition of persons redeemed by and mingled with Himself. God's intention is to have a group of people built up as a spiritual building to express Him and represent Him by dealing with His enemy and recovering the lost earth. Therefore, this building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of His salvation. The principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into us and builds us into Himself, that is, God mingles Himself with us as one building, which becomes the corporate expression of the Triune God.

God desires to have a group of people as His dwelling place, which He can enter deeply into. This dwelling place, the house, is the church, which is God's habitation in the believers' spirit. For the building of God's dwelling place, the Lord is one with our spirit, and our spirit is one with the Lord; our spirit is where the building of the church, the dwelling place of God, takes place. The ultimate consummation of this universal building is the New Jerusalem. In this city, God is in man, taking man as His dwelling place, and man is in God, taking God as his habitation.

God's dwelling place is the church as a house of prayer. In this house, God wants us to pray concerning His sons, concerning the work of His hands work, and concerning Jerusalem. In this house of prayer, we pray for the fulfillment of God's desire, the carrying out of God's will, and the accomplishment of God's economy. Our prayer according to God's desire and thought is precious and weighty, and it will shake the gates of Hades and affect Satan. The prayer that is pleasing God is the prayer that asks for the accomplishment of God's will and for the completion of God's work. Our prayer should be for the fulfillment of

God's economy; the Holy Land, the holy city and the holy temple are three crucial things regarding God's economy. Our prayers must be also in the position of ascension; with such a position of prayer, there is the authority of prayer. When we have the heavenly position and authority, our prayers become God's administration, the executing of God's will. We pray in an executing way, binding on the earth what has been bound in heaven and loosing on the earth what has been loosed in heaven; this is the prayer of the Body; we can have this kind of prayer only when we ask "in harmony". The central subject and goal of our prayers is to prepare a glorious church for Christ, a church that will match Him and fulfill the desire of His heart.

Isaiah 60:7 said "... I will beautify the house of My beauty". Our God is beautiful, His building is a house of beauty, His bride will be beautiful. All the beauty, the excellency, and the attributes found in the Godhead depend upon the Godhead being three yet one; three yet one – here is the beauty. In the corporation constitution of the Body of Christ, there is much beauty, excellency, and virtue. We are part of this beautified church. The New Jerusalem will be the ultimate corporation expression of the Triune God, full of beauty. The virtues manifested by us Christians should be the manifestation of the glory and beauty in the divine attributes; a Christian is one who has divinity as his element and reality, from which the divine glory and beauty are expressed through the human virtues. In Song of Songs the lover and the beloved both have the beauty, and they appreciate the beauty in each other. As the bride, the church needs beauty. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us; what Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself.

The last main point is that the glory of God will be seen in the house of His beauty. Glory is the expression of God; the glory of God is God expressed in His divine life and nature there. Eternal glory is ultimate goal of God's salvation. An outstanding feature of the New Jerusalem is that it has the glory of God, His expression; the city will be completely filled with the glory of God, containing God and expression of Him. Today, the glory of God is wrought into the church, and He is expressed in the church; hence, the glory of God is seen in the house of His beauty. (Hong-Jun Chen)

## THE DIVIDING OF THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD

Today Christians ask many questions. They often ask themselves, "Was I in the soul or in the spirit when I did this thing? Was this something out of myself or of the Lord? Was I following the flesh or following the Spirit?" Actually what we do is not that crucial. The outward things are not that crucial. The crucial thing is whether or not our inner being is in darkness. If it is, we are in trouble. Some people like to analyze their situation, but the more they analyze, the more confused they are and the less clear they become. They analyze so much that they can no longer go on, and they fall into a kind of spiritual sickness. Others are engaged in another kind of analysis: they analyze themselves. They often become very confident of themselves. They are very clear about what is spiritual and what is soulish. They seem to be very clear and confident about all spiritual things. However, the more confident a person is, the more he needs mercy from the Lord. Self-analysis is not of God, whether or not one feels that he is doing the right thing, and whether or not he is confident about it. As long as this analysis is not the direct result of God's shining, it is based in darkness. Of course, every Christian has to go through this stage of "inner darkness" in his spiritual journey. It is, in fact, quite beneficial to us to have this inner darkness, because this forces us to go to God and to seek for light. However, it is not God's will for a Christian to continually live in darkness and foolishness, deprived of light. God wants us to know what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17). It is unhealthy for a Christian to remain in darkness for a long period of time, being ignorant of the Lord's will, failing to divide the soul and spirit, and not discerning the difference between the spiritual and the carnal.

How can we divide the soul and spirit and discern the difference between the soulish and the spiritual? The Bible shows us that God's word alone is living and operative and able to divide our soul and spirit. Hebrews 4 speaks of the operation of God's word. His word operates not only in man's bone, but in the marrow as well. God's word is operative. If a man has God's word, this word will bring him light. The light in His word will enlighten everything within us. It will make us inwardly clear and divide our soul and our spirit, the soulish and the spiritual. We do not need Bible doctrines or teachings in the letter. We do not need spiritual methods. What we need is the Lord's enlightening. Once God's word comes, His light shines in the innermost part of our being, and the spirit is spontaneously divided from the soul. When a man is clear within, he no longer needs to ask what is soulish and what is spiritual. The dividing of the soul and spirit does not come by asking or research. When the word of God operates in man, the spirit and the soul are divided.

At the time of regeneration a believer receives God's life into him, and the law of life begins to operate. Yet many believers have not allowed this law of life to manifest itself. The manifestation of the law of life is hindered when a man lives in the soul. Those who live in their soul do not know the things of the spirit, because the Holy Spirit cannot break through from their spirit. First Corinthians 2:14 says, "But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know

them because they are discerned spiritually." Many people are governed by their thoughts, conscience, emotions, sentiments, and ideas in their daily life. No soulish person can know the things of the Spirit. Those who are soulish and those who are spiritual are in two different worlds, two different realms, and two different kingdoms. When a man lives in the soulish realm, he knows nothing of the things of the Spirit, and he considers them to be foolishness.

Some people say that I like to criticize others. Actually, I have no interest in criticizing others. But if someone says this pillar is white when it is black, I can only say that it is black. I know for sure that it is black. I do not care what others say. Some also say that my messages point out what is wrong but do not offer what is right. It seems that I always point out others' mistakes but do not tell others what to do. Actually, when all the wrong things are exposed, the right things will be manifested. The important thing is for a man to know where he has gone wrong. If a man lives in darkness, he will never experience deliverance. Once a man finds his mistakes and steps into the light, it becomes easy for him to experience deliverance.

Darkness is the result of the lack of light. The way to be delivered out of spiritual darkness is through the word of God. Once God's word enters a man, he will immediately and clearly see what is soulish and what is spiritual. As a result many problems will no longer be problems. We need to ask for God's word to come into us and to enlighten us so that our soul can be divided from our spirit.

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### Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for brother Jim Hannah's recovery and the need of medical expense.
- Pray for Russian speaking saints for their needed shepherding from past co-workers.
- Pray for Boston Training Center that all the practical needs will be met.
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.
- Pray for migration to the 30 cities for shepherding and establishing churches. And for GTCA of the local people and gospel preaching in our daily living.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- Pray for Brother Guichang for the recovery of eye and experience of the Lord.

### Announcement

- Morning Revival: Crystallization-Study of Isaiah, Week 23.
- YP Bible Reading this week: Mark chapter 7-8
- Prayer meeting 7:30PM on Tues.(4/26) at meeting hall
- Summer Training 7/4-/7/9, Anaheim, register with Brother Tien
- Summer school of truth will be held on July 24-29, Alliance Redwood
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade conference 5/13~15, register with brother Tai.