
Church in Campbell Weekly News

January 15, 2012 Issue 12- 03

The All-inclusive Indwelling Spirit

Chapter 7 GOD CREATING MAN WITH A SPIRIT SO THAT MAN CAN RECEIVE AND EXPRESS GOD

Romans 8 is mysterious and abstract, yet it is a crucial chapter in the Bible, for it reveals the focal point of God's economy. The highlight of God's salvation is that He wants to be one with His redeemed people. God's desire to be one with man is not accidental or temporary but eternal. Ephesians 1:3-5 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." These verses reveal that in eternity past God had a heart's desire and purposed to fulfill this desire. In order to fulfill His desire, God planned to work Himself into a group of human beings. In other words, in eternity past God purposed to enter into His redeemed people so that He could be their life and so that they could be His corporate expression. This is the focus of God's economy.

According to God's purpose, He created the heavens, the earth, and millions of items with human beings as the center. Man is the center of God's creation because God's intention is to be expressed through man. Man can become God's expression only by God entering into man to be man's life and content and to make man one with Him so that man may live by Him

and even live Him out. In this way God is expressed from within man.

Zechariah 12:1 indicates that the heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and God created man with a spirit so that man can receive God. The crucial part in a transistor radio is the receiver, which receives the radio waves from the air. Without a receiver, a radio does not work. Although there are many radio waves in the air, only a radio with a receiver can substantiate the radio waves. God created man with a spirit as such a receiver to substantiate and receive God.

We human beings are different from animals because we have a spirit as a wonderful receiver. No animal ever built a shrine to worship something. Animals have no thought about God, but throughout history and regardless of race, people have always worshipped. Although what they worship may be wrong, their desire to worship is right. Atheists say that there is no God, yet deep in their being is a desire to worship something. Within man there is a subconscious need to worship God, because man has a spirit. Just as we hunger for food because we have a stomach, we hunger for God because He created a spirit in us.

The Lord said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness" (John 4:24). We cannot worship God with our physical body. We should not try to physically feel, see, smell,

or hear God. We must use the proper organ. Just as we must exercise our ears to substantiate sound, we must exercise our spirit to substantiate God. Although radio waves are everywhere in the air, the proper receiver must be used to prove that they are real. God is real, but we need to exercise the proper organ—our human spirit—to know Him. People often come to a point in their lives when it seems that nothing can satisfy them. Although we may have a good family, education, job, and financial situation, we will come to a point when we realize that there is still a hunger and thirst within that is not satisfied. This hunger and thirst are in our spirit. Man was created with a spirit to seek after God.

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE SPIRIT BEING THE ULTIMATE CONSUMMATION OF THE PROCESSED TRIUNE GOD

Romans 8 shows that the Spirit today is all-inclusive. In verse 9 Paul first says, “The Spirit of God dwells in you.” Then he continues in the same verse, “Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ.” In verse 11 Paul says, “The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.” Thus, the Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of the resurrecting One. He is the Spirit of the Triune God. John 4:24 says, “God is Spirit.” God here surely refers to the entire Triune God, comprising the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Therefore, the Father is Spirit, the Son is Spirit, and of course, the Spirit is Spirit.

Some may be unfamiliar with terms such as the processed Triune God. However, all believers know that God passed through incarnation. To be incarnated, God was conceived in a virgin, grew in her womb, and was born of her. Such a birth was surely a process. Further, God in Christ lived on earth

for thirty-three and a half years, passing through all kinds of experiences and sufferings of human life. This too was a process. His crucifixion was also a process. Likewise, His passing through death and Hades and entering into resurrection were also processes.

God today is different from God in Genesis 1. God the Creator in Genesis 1 possessed only divinity, but God today possesses also humanity. In Genesis 1 God was merely God, but today He is both God and man; He is fully God and fully man, the real God and a true man. He is human as well as divine, possessing the human nature as well as the divine nature.

In Genesis 1 and even in the Gospels before John 20, God had no way to enter into the believers. Because He had not accomplished redemption, the requirements of His righteousness, His holiness, and His glory had not been fulfilled. The righteous, holy, glorious God could not come into fallen sinners. Therefore, in John 14:2-3 the Lord said to His disciples, “In My Father’s house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.” The Lord died to prepare the way so that He could bring us not into heaven but into the righteous, holy, and glorious God. Christ’s death satisfied all the requirements of God—His righteousness, holiness, and glory. Moreover, Christ’s resurrection brought His human body into glory. Today in resurrection He possesses a glorious body, and He will make our body the same as His (Phil. 3:21). Our God today is utterly complete in what He is, has done, and is able to do. He has accomplished, obtained, and attained

everything. This God, who is complete, full, and perfect, is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit.

The all-inclusive Spirit is the ultimate consummation and application of the processed Triune God. God the Creator was mysterious and far away from us, but as the Spirit God is near and applicable to us. The all-inclusive Spirit is the Triune God reaching us. We need to see that the all-inclusive Spirit of the processed Triune God resides in us. Although we may not recall every point that we have read in these chapters, we need to at least remember the good news that we live in an age in which the Triune God is fully processed, has accomplished everything, and is the applicable God as the life-giving Spirit. He is in our mouth and in our heart, and if we only say, "O Lord Jesus," He will come into us (Rom. 10:8-9).

NEEDING TO LIVE CHRIST CONTINUALLY

Because we are genuine Christians, Christ has come into us to be our life, and we should live Him all the time. However, we mostly live by many things other than Christ. For instance, we often live by the traditions of our nationality or culture. Instead of living as an American or a Chinese, we should live Christ. Because we have received the Lord's mercy and grace, we may hate sin, not commit gross sins, and even not love the world. Nevertheless, day after day we may still live by tradition, living Christ only for a short time each day. Although we do not live in sin or love the world, neither do we live Christ. Instead, we live by our tradition or habit. However, as genuine believers in Christ, we should live only Christ, who is the embodiment of the Triune God and is applied to us as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit. The Spirit who resides in us is the ultimate consummation and application, or reaching, of the Triune God. He is within us, expecting that we would walk according to

Him, live by Him, and live Him out. The genuine Christian life is not merely a sinless, perfect, and ethical life but a life that is Christ Himself. We should live by and with Christ, and we should live out Christ. Christ should be our life within and our living without. We need to live Christ continually.

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for YP that they will be companions with one another to pursue the Lord together.
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- Pray for the follow-up of door-knocking contacts in Campbell.
- Pray for gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- Pray for the growth of the feeling of the Body of Christ.
- 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.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: 2011 Thanksgiving International Conference Message Three: Romans 8-The Focus of the Entire Bible and the Center of the Universe
- YP Bible reading: John chapter 12.
- Prayer meeting Tuesday (1/17) 7:30 pm at Campbell meeting hall.