

**THE VISION, THE LIVING, AND THE PRACTICE
OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY TODAY**

Afternoon Message Three

**The Experience Of The Cross—
For the Carrying Out of the New Testament Ministry
in the Lord's Recovery Today**

I. The life that can carry out the ministry of the new covenant is a life of having the outward man put to death and the inward man renewed and resurrected—2 Cor. 4:10-12, 16:

- A. A basic principle of religion is that it is full of work but lacking in life; in the Lord's recovery, our dying is our working.
- B. The putting to death of Jesus is related to the outward man, which needs to be consumed:
 - 1. The outward man does not deserve to be edified, strengthened, exalted, or enthroned; it needs to be put to death.
 - 2. Because we all have a strong outward man, we need to experience the putting to death of Jesus.
- C. Gifts, ability, energetic activity, and diligent works do not avail; the only thing needed is a crucified life.
- D. As the outward man is being consumed, the inward man is being resurrected, renewed, and developed—v. 16.

II. Our need for the cross along with the high peak of the truth—1 Cor. 2:1-2; Col. 1:24-26:

- A. Four negative factors remaining among us today:
 - 1. Ambition to be the leader, to get a place for our work and to captivate people to be our private co-workers by attracting, charming, and capturing people—3 John 9; 1 Cor. 1:12.
 - 2. Proud to boast hiddenly of our spiritual capacity and to exalt ourselves and despise others—1 Tim. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 4:6.
 - 3. Self-justification in speaking well of our success and merits, and condemning others by exposing their failures and defects—Matt. 7:1-5; Phil. 2:3.
 - 4. Not being conformed to the death of Christ by denying the self, bearing the cross, crucifying the natural man, and not putting to death our disposition by birth—Matt. 16:24; Phil. 3:10.
- B. These four "gophers" will annul whatever benefit we receive from the high peaks of the divine truth.
- C. The natural man, the self, can be fed with the high-peak truths to become more ambitious and prouder.
- D. We cannot have the high-peak truths without the germ-killing cross.
- E. The full ministry of Christ in His incarnation, inclusion, and intensification should cause us to be conformed sevenfold to the death of Christ—Matt. 16:24; John 12:24-26; Rev. 1:14-17a.
- F. "I am concerned for the Lord's recovery. Nothing else on this earth is upon my heart, especially at the end of my course. I must treasure the end of my course. I want to do the best to minister the all-inclusive Christ and the compound, all-inclusive, consummated Spirit, but not without the cross." (*A Word of Love to the Co-workers, Elders, Lovers, and Seekers of the Lord*, p. 46)

III. To be rich in the leadership, we need a willingness, an emptiness, and continuous prayer:

- A. God's initiation begins with our willingness to seek after the Lord's mind and to pick up the burden for the church life; He treasures our willingness—1 Tim. 3:1.
- B. But we need to empty ourselves, to have an absolute openness to God, even to be emptied out of our education, knowledge, and our experience in the church life—Matt. 5:3, 5; Luke 1:53.
- C. We should not have confidence in our ability to do things, but should see our need of God and should pray constantly and instantly—Phil. 3:3; 1 Thes. 5:17.