

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
EPHESIANS**

Message Thirteen

A Walk in Love and in Light

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5:2, 8; John 8:12; 1 John 4:8, 16-17; 1:5; Psa. 119:105, 130

Eph. 5:2—And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

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

John 8:12—Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

1 John 4:8—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16-17—And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. ¹⁷In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.

1 John 1:5—And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Psa. 119:105—Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psa. 119:130—The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

I. “Walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor”—Eph. 5:2:

- A. The burnt offering typifies Christ in His living a life that was absolutely for God and for God's satisfaction (Lev. 1:3, 9; John 8:29); Christ lived in this world a life of God as love, and He is now our life that we may live the same life of love in this world and be the same as He is (1 John 4:16-17); this is Jesus living again on the earth in His divinely enriched humanity as a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah (Exo. 29:18, 25; 2 Cor. 2:15).

Lev. 1:3—If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah.

Lev. 1:9—But its inward parts and its legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

John 8:29—And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

1 John 4:16-17—And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. ¹⁷In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.

Exo. 29:18—And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to Jehovah; it is a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.

Exo. 29:25—And you shall take them from their hands and burn *them* on the altar upon the burnt offering for a satisfying fragrance before Jehovah; it is an offering by fire to Jehovah.

2 Cor. 2:15—For we are a fragrance of Christ to God in those who are being saved and in those who are perishing:

- B. The goal of the book of Ephesians is to bring us into love as the inner substance of God that we may enjoy God as love and enjoy His presence in the sweetness of the divine love, and thereby love others as Christ did—5:25:

Eph. 5:25—Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

1. In the condition and atmosphere of love, we are saturated with God to be holy and without blemish before Him—1:4.

Eph. 1:4—Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

2. The love in which we are rooted for growth and grounded for building is the divine love realized and experienced by us in a practical way—3:17.

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

3. The love of Christ, which is Christ Himself, is immeasurable and knowledge-surpassing, yet we can know it by experiencing it—v. 19.

Eph. 3:19—And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

- C. As those who have been regenerated to become God's species, we, the children of God, should be love because God is love; since we become God in life and in nature, we should also become love—1 John 4:8, 16.

1 John 4:8—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16—And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

- D. If we would experience and enjoy the divine love and have it become the love by which we love others, we need to know God experientially by continuously living in the divine life—vv. 8, 16; 1:3-6; Phil. 3:10a.

1 John 4:8—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16—And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

1 John 1:3-6—That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write that our joy may be made full. ⁵And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

Phil. 3:10—To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

- E. God first loved us in that He infused us with His love and generated within us the love with which we love Him and the brothers—1 John 4:19-21.

1 John 4:19-21—We love because He first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.

- F. Our natural love must be put on the cross; one difference between God's love and our natural love is that it is very easy for our natural love to be offended.

- G. We must be persons who are flooded with and carried away by the love of Christ; the divine love should be like the rushing tide of great waters toward us, impelling us to live to Him beyond our own control—2 Cor. 5:14.

2 Cor. 5:14—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

- H. The commandment regarding brotherly love is both old and new: old, because the believers have had it from the beginning of their Christian life; new, because in their Christian walk it dawns with new light and shines with new enlightenment and fresh power again and again—1 John 2:7-8; 3:11, 23; cf. John 13:34:

1 John 2:7-8—Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard. ⁸Yet again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

1 John 3:11—For this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 3:23—And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.

cf. John 13:34—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

- 1. The commandments of the Lord are not merely injunctions; they are His words, which are spirit and life as a supply to us—6:63.

John 6:63—It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2. God's love is His inward essence, and the Lord's words supply us with His divine essence, with which we love Him and love the brothers.
 3. We should love God and His children with the divine love that is conveyed to us through the words of the Lord to become our experience and enjoyment.
- I. The church life is a life of brotherly love—1 John 4:7-8; 2 John 5-6; John 15:12, 17; Rev. 3:7; Eph. 5:2; cf. Jude 12a:

1 John 4:7-8—Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

2 John 5-6—And now I ask you, lady, not as writing a new commandment to you but that which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you walk in love.

John 15:12—This is My commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

John 15:17—These things I command you that you may love one another.

Rev. 3:7—And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:

Eph. 5:2—And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

cf. Jude 12—These are the hidden reefs in your love feasts, feasting together with *you* without fear, shepherding themselves; waterless clouds being carried off by winds; autumn trees without fruit, having died twice, rooted up;

1. The Body builds itself up in love (Eph. 4:16); “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” (1 Cor. 8:1b; cf. 2 Cor. 3:6).

Eph. 4:16—Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

1 Cor. 8:1—Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

cf. 2 Cor. 3:6—Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2. Our God-given, regenerated spirit is a spirit of love; we need a burning spirit of love to conquer the degradation of today's church—2 Tim. 1:7.

2 Tim. 1:7—For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

3. Loving one another is a sign that we belong to Christ (John 13:34-35); loving to be first in the church is versus loving all the brothers (3 John 9).

John 13:34-35—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

3 John 9—I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us.

4. Just as the Lord Jesus laid down His soul-life so that we might have the divine life, we need to lose our soul-life and deny the self to love the brothers and minister life to them in the practice of the Body life—1 John 3:16; John 10:11, 17-18; 15:13; Eph. 4:29—5:2; 2 Cor. 12:15; Rom. 12:9-13.

1 John 3:16—In this we know love, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.

John 10:11—I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18—For this *reason* the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it away from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. This commandment I received from My Father.

John 15:13—No one has greater love than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Eph. 4:29—5:2—Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

¹Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; ²And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

2 Cor. 12:15—But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?

Rom. 12:9-13—Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be burning in spirit, serving the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.

5. We need to lose our soul-life by not loving the world with its pleasure; instead, taking in God and expressing God as love in the church life of brotherly love should be our joy, amusement, entertainment, and happiness—1 John 2:15-17; Matt. 16:25-26; Psa. 36:8-9; cf. 2 Tim. 3:4.

1 John 2:15-17—Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him; ¹⁶Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matt. 16:25-26—For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. ²⁶For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

Psa. 36:8-9—They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. ⁹For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

cf. 2 Tim. 3:4—Traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

6. Brotherly love in the church life is expressed practically in our caring for the necessities of the needy saints without any self-serving purpose or outward self-display; in the sharing of material things with the needy saints, the grace of the Lord's life with His love flows among the members of the Body of Christ and is infused into them—1 John 3:17-18; Matt. 6:1-4; Rom. 12:13; 2 Cor. 8:1-7.

1 John 3:17-18—But whoever has the livelihood of the world and sees that his brother has need and shuts up his affections from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word nor in tongue but in deed and truthfulness.

Matt. 6:1-4—But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens. ²Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. ³But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Rom. 12:13—Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.

2 Cor. 8:1-7—Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, ²That in much proving of affliction the abundance of their joy and the depth of their poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality; ³That according to *their* power, I testify, and beyond *their* power, of their own accord, ⁴With much entreaty they besought of us the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints; ⁵And *this*, not as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord, and to us through the will of God. ⁶So we entreated Titus that, even as he began before, so also he would complete for you this grace as well. ⁷But just as you abound in everything, in faith and in word and in knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love in you from us, abound in this grace also.

- J. To abide in love is to live a life in which we love others habitually with the love that is God Himself so that He may be expressed in us—1 John 4:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:10, 14.

1 John 4:16-18—And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. ¹⁷In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.

2 Cor. 5:10—For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

2 Cor. 5:14—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

- K. Perfect love is the love that has been perfected in us by our loving others with the love of God; such love casts out fear and has no fear of being punished by the Lord at His coming back—1 John 4:17-18; cf. Luke 12:46-47.

1 John 4:17-18—In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.

cf. Luke 12:46-47—The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him asunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷And that slave who knew his master's will and did not prepare or do according to his will, will receive many lashes;

- L. Love is the most excellent way for us to be anything or do anything for the building up of the church as the organic Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:31b—13:8a.

1 Cor. 12:31—13:8—But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³And if I dole out all my possessions to feed *others*, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I profit nothing. ⁴Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up; ⁵It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil; ⁶It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never falls *away*. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless.

- II. **“You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light”—Eph. 5:8:**

- A. Light is the presence of God; the inner shining of the light should govern and rule within us so that we may confess our sins in order to be brought into the Lord's presence—1 John 1:5, 7; Gen. 1:18.

1 John 1:5—And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:7—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Gen. 1:18—And to rule over the day and over the night and to separate the light from the darkness, and God saw that it was good.

- B. Isaiah 2:5 is a call for God's people to walk in the light, a call to repent and to confess our sins in order to be brought into God's presence—"House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah":

1. At the time that God spoke this word to His people, He also said through His prophet Isaiah: "Woe to those who call evil good, / And good evil; / Who put darkness for light, / And light for darkness; / Who put bitter for sweet, / And sweet for bitter!"—5:20.

2. We need to abide in Christ and walk in the light of life (John 8:12) so that we may partake of Christ as our portion "in the light" (Col. 1:12); when the light shines and rules within us, it is the kingdom of the Son of God's love in contrast to the authority of darkness, which is the kingdom of Satan (v. 13; Acts 26:18-19).

John 8:12—Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Col. 1:12—Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Col. 1:13—Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Acts 26:18-19—To open their eyes, to turn *them* from darkness to light and *from* the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. ¹⁹Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

- C. In the experience of God's loving seekers, the Word of God is a realm of light, because light is in the word of God—not the written word of the Bible but the word that the Spirit speaks to us from within, revealing anew the word of the Bible to us—Rev. 2:7a; Psalms 119:105, 130; John 6:63; Eph. 5:26-27; S. S. 8:13-14; Isaiah 66:2, 5.

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Psalms 119:105—Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psa. 119:130—The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

John 6:63—It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Eph. 5:26-27—That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word, ²⁷That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

S. S. 8:13-14—O you who dwell in the gardens, *My* companions listen for your voice; Let me hear *it*. ¹⁴Make haste, my beloved, And be like a gazelle or a young hart Upon the mountains of spices.

Isa. 66:2—For all these things My hand has made, And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is* poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Isa. 66:5—Hear the word of Jehovah, You who tremble at His word: Your brothers who hate you, Who cast you out because of My name, said, Let Jehovah be glorified So that we may see your joy. But they will be put to shame.

- D. Whether or not the Word is a realm of light to us in our experience depends on our attitude and condition in coming to the Word—cf. John 5:39-40:

cf. John 5:39-40—You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. ⁴⁰Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

1. We need to humble ourselves, having no confidence in ourselves but looking to the Lord for His mercy—Isa. 57:15; 66:2; Luke 11:34-36.

Isa. 57:15—For thus says the high and exalted One, Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I will dwell in the high and holy place, And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, To revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:2—For all these things My hand has made, And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is* poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Luke 11:34-36—The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark. ³⁵Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness. ³⁶If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

2. All the chambers of our soul should be open to receive the Lord's shining—Prov. 20:27.

Prov. 20:27—The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

- E. If we would receive light through the Word, we need to deal with the hindrances and frustrations in our heart (Luke 8:12-15; Matt. 18:35); whenever we come to

the Word, we should exercise our heart, seek the Lord with all our heart, and not have a divided heart (Psa. 119:2; cf. Jer. 29:10-13; 24:7; 32:39).

Luke 8:12-15—And those beside the way are those who heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they would not believe and be saved. ¹³And those on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; yet these have no root, who believe *only* for a while, and in time of trial they draw back. ¹⁴And that which fell into the thorns, these are those who heard and, going away, are utterly choked by anxieties and riches and pleasures of this life, and do not bring *any fruit* to maturity. ¹⁵But that which is in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word and hold *it* fast and bear fruit with endurance.

Matt. 18:35—So also will My heavenly Father do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts.

Psa. 119:2—Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with all *their* heart.

cf. Jer. 29:10-13—For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you; ¹³And you will seek Me and find *Me* if you search for Me with all your heart;

cf. Jer. 24:7—And I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am Jehovah; and they will be My people, and I will be their God; for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

cf. Jer. 32:39—And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear Me all the days, for their own good and for *the good of* their children after them.

- F. Enlightening rests with the mercy of God; whenever God comes and bestows His mercy, the light of His countenance is our light, His appearing is our vision, and His presence is our gain—Rom. 9:15; Acts 9:3-4; Isa. 50:10-11; Num. 6:25-26.

Rom. 9:15—For to Moses He says, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”

Acts 9:3-4—And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

Isa. 50:10-11—Who among you fears Jehovah; Who hears the voice of His servant; Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, And rely on his God. ¹¹Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

Num. 6:25-26—Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

- G. To be enlightened by the Lord, we must pay careful attention to the following five points:

1. In order to be enlightened, we must want and accept the Lord's shining, setting our heart to be single in seeking the Lord alone with all our desire—Psa. 139:23-24; Phil. 2:12-16; 2 Chron. 12:14; 16:12; 34:1-3; Psa. 27:8; 73:25; Luke 11:33-36.

Psa. 139:23-24—Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴And see if there is some harmful way in me, And lead me on the eternal way.

Phil. 2:12-16—So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and reasonings ¹⁵That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

2 Chron. 12:14—And he did what was evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek Jehovah.

2 Chron. 16:12—And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet; his disease was very severe, yet even in his disease he pursued not Jehovah but the physicians.

2 Chron. 34:1-3—Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ²And he did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah and walked in the ways of David his father and did not turn to the right or to the left. ³And in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek after the God of David his father. And in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places and the Asherahs and the idols and the molten images.

Psa. 27:8—*When You say, Seek My face, To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.*

Psa. 73:25—Whom do I have in heaven *but You?* And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.

Luke 11:33-36—No one, after lighting a lamp, puts *it* in the cellar or under the bushel, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter in may see the light. ³⁴The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark. ³⁵Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness. ³⁶If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

2. In order to be enlightened, we must open ourselves to the Lord, turn our hearts to Him, and place ourselves before Him without any reservation or holding back; those who close themselves to the Lord are experts in judging and criticizing others—2 Cor. 3:16; Prov. 20:27; Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:36-37, 41-42.
2 Cor. 3:16—But whenever *their heart* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Prov. 20:27—The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

Matt. 7:1-5—Do not judge, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you. ³And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the splinter from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye? ⁵Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

Luke 6:36-37—Be full of compassion, even as your Father also is full of compassion. ³⁷And do not judge, and you shall by no means be judged; and do not condemn, and you shall by no means be condemned; release, and you will be released;

Luke 6:41-42—And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam which is in your own eye you do not consider? ⁴²How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me remove the splinter which is in your eye, you yourself not seeing the beam which is in your eye? Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter which is in your brother's eye.

3. In order to be enlightened, we must put a stop to ourselves; this means to put a stop to our views, our ways of looking at things, our feelings, our ideas, and our opinions; when a person who is completely stopped comes before the Lord, he can be exceedingly single and simple in receiving the word of the Lord—10:38-42; John 11:21-28; Isa. 40:31; Matt. 5:3; Luke 18:15-17; Isa. 66:1-2. **Luke 10:38-42**—Now as they went, He entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her home. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was being drawn about with much serving, and she came up to *Him* and said, Lord, does it not matter to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to do her part with me. ⁴¹But the Lord answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴²But there is need of one thing, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

John 11:21-28—Then Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You. ²³Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again. ²⁴Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day. ²⁵Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live; ²⁶And everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this? ²⁷She said to Him, Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world. ²⁸And when she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Teacher is here and is calling you.

Isa. 40:31—Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew *their* strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not become weary; They will walk and will not faint.

Matt. 5:3—Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

Luke 18:15-17—And they were bringing to Him also their babies that He might touch them. But when the disciples saw *this* they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them to *Him*, saying, Allow the little children to come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

Isa. 66:1-2—Thus says Jehovah, Heaven is My throne, And the earth the footstool for My feet. Where then is the house that you will build for Me, And where is the place of My rest? ²For all these things My hand has made, And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is poor* And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

4. In order to be enlightened, we must not dispute with the light of the Spirit who speaks within us or of the ministers of the Spirit who speak without—Acts 22:10; S. S. 5:4-6; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 11:2-3; Num. 16:1-7, 33-39; 17:1-8; cf. Exo. 33:11, 14.

Acts 22:10—And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.

S. S. 5:4-6—My beloved put his hand into the opening of *the door*; And my inner parts yearned for him. ⁵I rose up to open to my beloved; And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, Upon the handles of the bolt. ⁶I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had withdrawn; he was gone. My soul failed when he spoke; I sought him, but found him not; I called him—he answered me not.

2 Cor. 10:3-5—For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh; ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, ⁵As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

2 Cor. 11:2-3—For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ. ³But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Num. 16:1-7—Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took *men* ²And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men. ³And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah? ⁴And when Moses heard *this*, he fell on his face. ⁵And he spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose He will bring near to Himself. ⁶Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company, ⁷And put fire in them, and

put incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow; and the man whom Jehovah chooses, he *shall be* holy. It is you who take too much upon yourselves, O sons of Levi!

Num. 16:33-39—So they and all that belonged to them descended alive into Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the congregation. ³⁴And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, The earth may swallow us up too! ³⁵And fire came forth from Jehovah and consumed the two hundred fifty men who presented the incense. ³⁶Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁷Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take the censers up out of the burning and scatter the fire about; for they are holy. ³⁸The censers of those who have sinned against their own lives, let them be made into beaten plates for a covering of the altar, for they presented them before Jehovah and they became holy. So they shall be a sign to the children of Israel. ³⁹And Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which those who were burned had offered; and they beat them out as a covering of the altar,

Num. 17:1-8—Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, ²Speak to the children of Israel, and take from them rods, one for each father's house, twelve rods from all their leaders according to their fathers' houses; you shall write everyone's name upon his rod. ³And you shall write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi, for there shall be one rod for the head of *each* of their fathers' houses. ⁴And you shall place them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you. ⁵And the rod of the man whom I choose shall bud, and I will put a stop to the murmurings of the children of Israel against Me, which they murmur against you. ⁶So Moses spoke to the children of Israel. And every one of their leaders gave him a rod, one rod for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods, with the rod of Aaron among their rods. ⁷And Moses placed the rods before Jehovah in the Tent of the Testimony. ⁸And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

cf. Exo. 33:11—And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

cf. Exo. 33:14—And He said, My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest.

5. In order to be enlightened, we must continuously live in the light—Isa. 2:5; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:14; 10:22; Matt. 5:3, 8, 14; Psalms 119:105; Revelation 1:20; Psalm 36:8-9.

Isa. 2:5—House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah.

1 John 1:7—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Heb. 9:14—How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb. 10:22—Let us come forward to *the Holy of Holies* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Matt. 5:3—Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt. 5:8—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt. 5:14—You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

Psa. 119:105—Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Rev. 1:20—The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Psa. 36:8-9—They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. ⁹For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

H. We should not manufacture our own light; instead, we should rely on the Lord to enlighten us—Isa. 50:10-11:

Isa. 50:10-11—Who among you fears Jehovah; Who hears the voice of His servant; Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, And rely on his God. ¹¹Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

1. A Christian cannot advance in the spiritual pathway by his own fire; he should trust in the name of Jehovah and rely on his God.
2. If we gird ourselves with self-made light, though we may walk in the light of our own fire for a while, in the end we will lie down in torment—v. 11b.

Isa. 50:11—Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

3. We should not replace God's light with our own light; rather, we should always receive light from God—1 John 1:5; John 8:12.

1 John 1:5—And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

John 8:12—Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

III. Our Christian life should be “like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day” (Prov. 4:18); then we will “shine forth like the sun” in the kingdom of our Father (Matt. 13:43).

Prov. 4:18—But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

Matt. 13:43—Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

IV. Eventually, the entire New Jerusalem will be the diffuser of the divine light; today this diffuser is the Body of Christ with the kingdom people as the light of the world, effacing the world's darkness—Rev. 21:23; 22:5; 4:5; Matt. 5:14.

Rev. 21:23—And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev. 22:5—And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Rev. 4:5—And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Matt. 5:14—You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.