

# Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference

May 24-27, 2013

## GENERAL SUBJECT: THE COMPLETING MINISTRY OF PAUL

### Message Four

Hymns (no)

### **The Spirit with Our Spirit**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

#### **I. The Spirit of God has passed through a process, and our spirit has also passed through a process:**

A. The term the Spirit does not merely refer to the Spirit of God but to the consummated Spirit—the Spirit who has passed through the processes of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection; after Christ was glorified in resurrection, He became the life-giving Spirit, who is “the Spirit,” the consummated Spirit—John 7:39; Luke 24:26; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into His glory?

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

B. Our spirit was created by God (Gen. 2:7; Prov. 20:27), but through Adam it became fallen and deadened (Eph. 2:1); however, our deadened spirit was redeemed by Christ, and having been redeemed, it has been quickened, enlivened, by the Spirit, who regenerated us (Rom. 8:10).

Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

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

Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

C. When we speak of the Spirit with our spirit (v. 16), we mean that the consummated Spirit is with and in the believers' created and regenerated spirit.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

#### **II. “The Spirit...with our spirit” (v. 16) is the secret of God’s organic salvation; these two spirits working together are the skillfulness, the secret, of all spiritual things, especially of all the aspects of God’s organic salvation:**

A. The generating Spirit in our spirit, quickened by Christ, regenerates us, giving us authority to be the children of God, begotten of God—John 3:6; 1:12-13; Rom. 8:10.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

B. The nourishing Spirit in our spirit, cherished by Christ, feeds us with the spiritual milk of the Word that we may grow unto salvation—Eph. 5:29; 1 Cor. 3:2, 6; 1 Pet. 2:2-3.

Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

- 1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,
- 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
- 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
- 1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- C. The sanctifying Spirit from our spirit, captivated by Christ, sanctifies us with the nature of God, making us holy unto God—Eph. 1:4; 5:26-27; 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:13; Rom. 6:19, 22; cf. 2 Cor. 2:12-14.
- 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,
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 5:27 That 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.
- 1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Thes 2:13 But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,
- Rom 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.
- Rom 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.
- 2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- D. The renewing Spirit in our spirit, indwelt by Christ, renews us that we may put on the new man through the breaking of the cross—Eph. 4:23-24; Titus 3:5; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- E. The transforming Spirit in our spirit, filled by Christ, transforms us into the glorious image of Christ for His expression—2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:18.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
- F. The building Spirit in our spirit, possessed by Christ, builds us into the house of God and the Body of Christ for Their dwelling—2:21-22; 4:16.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 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.

- G. The maturing Spirit in our spirit, enriched with Christ, conforms us to the image of Christ, the firstborn Son of God—the model of God’s sons—Rom. 8:28-29; Phil. 1:19.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- H. The sealing Spirit in our spirit, exulting with Christ, saturates us with and brings us into the glory of God for our glorification—Eph. 1:13; 4:4, 30; 2 Cor. 1:22; Rom. 5:2.
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
- 2 Cor 1:22 He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
- Rom 5:2 Through whom also we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and boast because of the hope of the glory of God.
- I. The above steps are accomplished by the joining of “the Spirit...with our spirit” (8:16) as “one spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17); if this were not so, even though the gospel of God is powerful (Rom. 1:16), it still would not have any power or accomplish anything in the believers to make them God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead for the building up of the Body of Christ, which is the Triune God’s eternal heart’s desire and His ultimate purpose (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:9; 4:16).
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- 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.
- J. Christ can live in us by His being the Spirit in our spirit; it is only by the Spirit in our spirit that all the crucial points in Paul’s completing ministry become prevailing.

### **III. The revelation in the Bible concerning the Spirit is progressive:**

- A. The Spirit is mentioned first as the Spirit of God, in relation to the creation (Gen. 1:2); then, He is mentioned as the Spirit of Jehovah, in the context of God’s relationship with man (Judg. 3:10; 1 Sam. 10:6); as the Holy Spirit, in relation to the conception and birth of Christ (Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:20); as the Spirit of Jesus, in relation to the Lord’s human living (Acts 16:7); as the Spirit of Christ, in relation to the Lord’s resurrection (Rom. 8:9); and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19).
- Gen 1:2 But the earth became waste and emptiness, and darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was brooding upon the surface of the waters.
- Judg 3:10 And the Spirit of Jehovah came upon him, and he judged Israel. And he went out to battle, and Jehovah delivered Cushan-rishathaim the king of Aram into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.
- 1 Sam 10:6 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rush upon you; and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.
- Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

- Matt 1:20 But while he pondered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for that which has been begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

B. The Spirit of Jesus Christ is “the Spirit” mentioned in John 7:39; this is not merely the Spirit of God before the Lord’s incarnation but the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit with divinity, after the Lord’s resurrection, compounded with the Lord’s incarnation (humanity), human living under the cross, crucifixion, and resurrection:

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1. The holy anointing ointment in Exodus 30:23-25, a compound of olive oil and four kinds of spices, is a full type of the compound Spirit of God, who is now the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Exo 30:23 You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus two hundred fifty shekels,

Exo 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

Exo 30:25 And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a fragrant ointment compounded according to the work of a compounder; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

2. In Philippians 1:19 it is not the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7) or the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9) but the Spirit of Jesus Christ:

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

a. The Spirit of Jesus is related mainly to the Lord’s humanity and human living; the Spirit of Christ is related mainly to the Lord’s resurrection.

b. To experience the Lord’s humanity, as illustrated in Philippians 2:5-8, we need the Spirit of Jesus.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

c. To experience the power of the Lord’s resurrection, as mentioned in 3:10, we need the Spirit of Christ.

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

d. In his suffering the apostle Paul experienced both the Lord’s suffering in His humanity and the Lord’s resurrection; hence, the Spirit to him was the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the compound, all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit of the Triune God.

e. Such a Spirit has, and even is, the bountiful supply for a person like the apostle, who was experiencing and enjoying Christ in His human living and resurrection.

3. Eventually, this compound Spirit of Jesus Christ becomes the seven Spirits of God, who are the seven lamps of fire before God's throne to carry out His administration on earth for the accomplishing of His economy concerning the church, and who are the seven eyes of the Lamb for the transfusing of all that He is into the church—Rev. 1:4; 4:5; 5:6.
  - Rev 1:4      John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
  - 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;
  - Rev 5:6      And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

#### **IV. “The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:16); “he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17):**

1 Cor 6:17    But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

- A. To be “joined” to the Lord as one spirit refers to the believers’ organic union with the Lord through believing into Him (John 3:15-16; cf. 2 Tim. 4:22; 2 Cor. 3:17); this union is illustrated by that of the branches with the vine (John 15:4-5):

John 3:15    That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 3:16    For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

2 Tim 4:22    The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

2 Cor 3:17    And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

John 15:4    Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5    I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1. To practice being one spirit with the Lord is the consummate point of Paul’s completing ministry.
2. To walk according to the spirit and to set our mind on the spirit is to practice being one spirit with the Lord—Rom. 8:4, 6.
  - Rom 8:4      That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
  - Rom 8:6      For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

- B. The Spirit now dwells in our regenerated spirit and is joined to our spirit as one spirit:

1. We should have our whole being turned to and set on this joined spirit—v. 6b.

Rom 8:6b    ... but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

2. We should also live and walk according to this joined spirit—v. 4.

Rom 8:4      That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

3. When we thus live in this joined spirit, we can live out the Body of Christ to become the corporate expression of Christ—Eph. 1:23.

Eph 1:23      Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.