

WEEK 4 —OUTLINE

The Coordination of the Four Living Creatures

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:9, 11-14; Rom. 12:4-5

<< DAY 1 >>

- I. The central point in Ezekiel 1 is the revelation that God needs a group of living creatures who can coordinate together as one corporate entity, the corporate Christ, for His expression, move, and administration; coordination is the key to understanding the vision in Ezekiel 1 (vv. 5, 10, 12, 20, 26).
- II. The coordination of the four living creatures is not in themselves but in God and by the divine power, the divine strength, and the divine grace, because the eagle's wings are the means by which they are coordinated and move as one (vv. 9, 11; Exo. 19:4; Isa. 40:31; 2 Cor. 12:9; 1 Cor. 15:10):
 - A. God Himself is the coordinating factor that enables all the parts of the divine building to be one (Exo. 26:29-30; cf. 1 John 4:8; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:31; 13:5, 7).
 - B. Whatever we are in ourselves, have in ourselves, and do in ourselves results not in coordination but in division and separation (cf. Phil. 3:3; Rom. 8:16).
 - C. The wings of an eagle are not only for moving but also for protection; whatever we do and whatever we are must be by the grace of the Lord and the power of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 4:7).
 - D. At the same time, we are under the overshadowing, the covering, of the Lord's grace and the Lord's power (Psa. 17:8; 57:1; 63:7; 91:4; 2 Cor. 12:9b).
 - E. The living creatures look like a man (Ezek. 1:5), but they move like an eagle:
 1. This indicates that we must always express ourselves like a normal man.
 2. However, the moving and overshadowing wings should give others an impression of the Divine Being, an impression that we have God with us as our power and protection.

<< DAY 2 >>

- III. Ezekiel 1:9 and 11b-12 present a beautiful picture of the coordination that we need in the church life:
 - A. Each of the living creatures faces one direction (respectively facing north, south, east, and west), and two of their wings spread out and touch the adjacent creatures' wings, forming a square.

- B.No matter in which direction the living creatures are moving, there is no need for any of them to turn; one simply goes straight forward; one returns, moving backward; and the other sides move sideways (v. 9).
- C.This is a beautiful picture of the coordination in the church as the Body of Christ, in which each member has his particular position and function, or ministry (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:14-30; Eph. 4:7-16; 2 Tim. 4:5; Col. 4:17).
- D. When one member functions, he moves “straight forward” to fulfill his function, and the other members accommodate him by moving in the same direction, some moving “backward” and others moving “sideways,” doing everything through the cross and by the Spirit to dispense Christ into others for the sake of His Body (Ezek. 1:9, 11b-12; 1 Cor. 12:14-30).

« DAY 3 »

- E.In the church service we all need to learn not only how to walk straight forward but also how to walk backward and sideways:
- 1.In coordination there is no freedom or convenience; coordination keeps us from making turns (cf. Eph. 3:18).
 - 2.Before doing anything, we need to stop to fellowship and coordinate with those who serve with us.
 - 3.Fellowship blends us, mingles us, adjusts us, tempers us, harmonizes us, limits us, protects us, supplies us, and blesses us; the Body is in the fellowship (cf. 4:4; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- F.If brothers with different functions do not know to coordinate, they will compete and even strive against each other, which could result in division (cf. Phil. 1:17; 2:2; Gal. 5:25-26):
- 1.When a brother who is burdened for the gospel is functioning, moving straight forward, the brother who is burdened for shepherding should learn to walk backward; the other saints should follow these two, walking sideways.
 - 2.To walk backward and sideways is to say Amen to another’s ministry, function, and burden (Rom. 12:4; cf. 1 Cor. 14:29-31).
 - 3.If we care only for our particular service and do not have these four kinds of walk, eventually we will become a problem in the church (cf. 3 John 9).
 - 4.The one who is walking straight forward has the responsibility of following the Spirit (Ezek. 1:12; cf. Acts 2:14; 16:6-10).
- G.We should apply this matter of coordination not only in a particular local church but also among the churches; this means that we are followers of the churches (1 Thes. 2:14).

« DAY 4 »

IV. The result of the coordination of the living creatures is that they become burning coals and burning torches; the more we coordinate together, the more we burn one another (Ezek. 1:13):

A. The burning of the coals does at least three things:

1. Anything that does not correspond to God and to the nature of God will be burned out by the sanctifying and purifying fire of the burning coals, and only what is of God will remain.
2. The burning in the coordination makes us fervent, intensely hot (Rev. 4:5; Rom. 12:11; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Rev. 3:15-16).
3. The burning in the coordination produces the power and impact of the church (Acts 1:14).

B. The coals are for burning, and the torches are for enlightening (Ezek. 1:13):

1. The sanctifying fire becomes the sanctifying light:

- a. The areas in which we have been burned by the sanctifying fire spontaneously become the areas in which we are enlightened and can enlighten others (cf. Isa. 6:1, 5-8).
- b. In the proper church life there should be nothing of darkness among the brothers and sisters; all should be thoroughly enlightened.

« DAY 5 »

2. The fire is not static but always moving (Heb. 12:29):

- a. There is fire with the living creatures, because in their fellowship they allow God to move freely among them.
- b. The appearance of the living creatures being like burning fire indicates that they have the appearance of the sanctifying God (Ezek. 1:26-27).
3. The fire being bright indicates that in their coordination the living creatures manifest a glorious and majestic condition (v. 13).
4. Whereas the brightness is usual, the flashing of lightning is special, indicating that at special times there may be a special light that flashes suddenly and causes others to be astonished (cf. Matt. 24:27).
5. The living creatures run because they have the power and the impact (Ezek. 1:14).

« DAY 6 »

V. In order to coordinate with others, we need to deny our self,

experiencing the dealing of the cross, and live and act by God's grace and God's power, signified by the eagle's wings (vv. 9, 11; Isa. 40:31):

- A. We must not act or do anything to express our self; rather, we must do things in the Father's life with the Father's nature to express the Father; this is glory, and it is in this glory that we all are one (John 17:22-24).
- B. In order to coordinate with others, we need to take the forgiving Lord as our forgiving life to forgive others and seek to be forgiven, letting the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts (Col. 3:12-15).
- C. In order to coordinate with others, we need to deal with the idols in our heart, counting all things as loss on account of Christ and counting them as refuse that we may gain Christ (Ezek. 14:3-5; Phil. 3:7-8, 12-14).
- D. If we abide in God, rely on God, dwell in God, and express God, we can coordinate together in God (John 15:5, 7; 8:31; Psa. 90:1; 26:1; 31:20; 91:1, 9, 14; Phil. 1:20; 1 Cor. 10:31).

VI. The living creatures follow the Spirit, indicating that in order to coordinate with others in the Body of Christ, we need to walk by the Spirit and according to the spirit (Ezek. 1:12; Gal. 5:16, 25; Rom. 8:4):

- A. Our spirit is universally spacious; God dwells in our spirit, and our spirit is today's Jerusalem (Eph. 2:22; Num. 16:22; Heb. 12:9):
 - 1. When the Bible speaks of "your spirit," it includes the spirits of all the saints (Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17).
 - 2. "The words 'our spirit' [in Romans 8:16] include Paul's spirit, Martin Luther's spirit, John Wesley's spirit, Brother Nee's spirit, your spirit, and my spirit" (Life-study of Ephesians, p. 213).
- B. The book of Ephesians reveals that we need to be in the mingled spirit to be in the blending for the reality of the Body of Christ (1:17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18; cf. Lev. 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:24).

VII. In order to coordinate with others, we need to be one with the coordinating Triune God:

- A. The move of the Divine Trinity with the divine coordination in Matthew 12:28 is an excellent and beautiful example for us to follow; this is a good pattern that our Head has set up for our coordination as members of His Body:
 - 1. The way the Lord cast out demons, by another One and for another One, shows that He did not act individualistically but with humility and selflessness.
 - 2. The Son as the center of the Divine Trinity was altogether not by Himself, for Himself, or to Himself; whatever He did was by the Spirit of God and for the kingdom of God the Father.
 - 3. This shows us the harmony, beauty, and excellency in the Divine Trinity.

4. Today in the church life the Body of Christ has not been built up adequately because of the shortage of the proper coordination.
 5. We may do something according to the will of God, but what we do should not be by ourselves but by some others; furthermore, what we do should not be for ourselves but for the interest, the right, of God on this earth.
- B. Every day we need to move out of ourselves and into the coinhering and coordinating Triune God (2 Thes. 3:5; Jude 19-21; John 17:17).

« WEEK 4 —DAY 1 »

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 1:5 And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.

11 ...And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

The four living creatures with their four faces signify a coordinated, corporate entity, the corporate Christ (1 Cor. 12:12).

First, these living creatures are for God's expression....Second, the living creatures are for God's move. As they coordinate together, they are full of burning, shining, and enlightening, and the great and high wheel, which is for God's move, follows them. This one entity composed of four living creatures is both for God's expression and His move....Third, the living creatures are for God's administration....The throne [over their heads (Ezek. 1:26)] is for God's ruling, God's administration. When God has His expression, move, and administration, He can manifest Himself in His glory and complete His eternal purpose and plan.

Coordination is the key to understanding the vision in Ezekiel 1....May we all see this and may the Lord bring us all into a coordination with many other living creatures for the sake of the corporate expression of Christ, God's move, and God's administration. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 79-80, 90)

Today's Reading

[Ezekiel 1:11b] indicates that the four living creatures were arranged not in a line but in a square. We have pointed out that in the Bible the wings of an eagle signify the grace and power of God. If the four living creatures were not joined together by the wings to form a square, they could not be coordinated. This indicates that the coordination of the living creatures is in the Lord and by the grace of God.

Those who can coordinate are those who deny themselves, reject themselves, regard themselves as nothing, and trust in God's grace, power, and work in everything and for everything. These ones can easily coordinate with others. Actually, there is no need for them to endeavor to coordinate; they coordinate spontaneously and effortlessly because they are in God, not in themselves.

[In Ezekiel 1:11b] we see that two of their wings are for moving, and this moving is in coordination. By two of their wings they are joined to one another, and in this way they are coordinated....The living creatures use the other two wings to cover themselves.

In the Old Testament the eagle's wings signify the divine power, the divine strength, and the divine supply. This indicates that the coordination of the living creatures is not in themselves. In themselves they do not have the ability to be coordinated. Their coordination is in the divine power, in the divine strength, and in the divine supply because the eagle's wings are the means for them to be coordinated with one another. Thus, their coordination does not depend on themselves; it does not depend on what they are or on what they can do. Their coordination depends on the eagle's wings. The eagle's wings are the means by which they are coordinated and move as one. God Himself is the power and strength, and it is by this divine power and strength that they are coordinated.

[In the same principle], the overlaying gold [in the tabernacle (Exo. 26:29-30)] signifies the divine nature and indicates that God Himself is the coordinating factor that enables all the parts of the divine building to be one.

In themselves the living creatures are separate and are individuals, but with the eagle's wings they are coordinated as one body. This indicates that the coordination among us Christians is not something of ourselves. What we have in ourselves does not coordinate—it divides. Whatever we are in ourselves, whatever we have in ourselves, and whatever we do in ourselves result not in coordination but in division and separation. However, we have the eagle's wings, and with the eagle's wings we can be one and we can be coordinated. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 86, 85, 67-68)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 8

« WEEK 4 —DAY 2 »

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.

11 And thus their faces were. And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.

We need to see how the four living creatures are coordinated. Each of the living creatures faces one direction, respectively facing north, south, east, and west. As they face these four directions, two of their wings spread out and touch the adjacent creatures' wings, forming a square.

[In Ezekiel 1:12] every one of the living creatures goes straight forward. They do not turn, but some return, that is, move backward. For instance, while one of the living creatures is moving toward the north, the living creature facing the south must return, moving backward. Thus, one goes straight forward while the opposite creature moves backward. At the same time, the other two living creatures must move sideways. One moves sideways to the left, and the other moves sideways to the right. No matter in which direction the living creatures are moving, there is no need for any one of them to turn. One simply goes straight forward; one returns, moving backward; and the other sides move sideways. This is a beautiful picture of the coordination that we need in the church life. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 68-69)

Today's Reading

Certain brothers and sisters cannot tolerate being coordinated together. Instead, they prefer to be separated and to do things on their own. As long as they are separated, there is no suffering. Once they are coordinated, there is a kind of suffering, because in coordination there is no freedom or convenience.

Coordination keeps us from making turns. If one is moving by himself, he may first move to the north and then turn and move to the east. Later he may turn again to move to the south and eventually turn once more and move to the west. He moves in many directions by making many turns. In the Lord's ministry, on the contrary, there is no such turning. Instead, one moves straight forward, and those who coordinate with him move either backward or sideways.

In the church service,...everyone has his function and position. He can simply go straight forward in his function and position. If there is the need to move in another direction, others can take care of that. There is no need for anyone to turn.

In the church life we all need to learn not only how to walk straight forward but also how to walk backward (that is, to return) and to walk sideways. Although this may seem quite awkward, we all need to learn this lesson. Otherwise, we cannot be coordinated.

One problem is that certain brothers and sisters either want to do everything or do nothing at all. Those who want to do everything want to be able to move in every direction.

When the living creatures move, they go straight forward; they do not make any turns. If one living creature takes the lead to move straight forward toward the east, the other living creatures also move in this direction. This indicates that everyone functions properly in coordination. In the church life today, every member has his own function (1 Cor. 12:14-30) and moves in a straightforward direction to fulfill his function, without turning to do something else...Only one living creature at a time can move forward. However, in moving with him, the others do not turn; rather, they walk backward or sideways. Regardless of the direction in which the living creatures move, one moves forward, one moves backward, and the others move sideways. Thus, those who move backward and sideways accommodate the one who moves forward. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 69-70, 88)

Whatever we do should be through the cross by the Spirit to dispense Christ to others for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. (The Divine and Mystical Realm, p. 84)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 7

« WEEK 4 —DAY 3 »

Morning Nourishment

1 Cor. 12:24 ...But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked.

Ezek. 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.

God has blended..., adjusted..., harmonized..., tempered..., and mingled the Body. The Greek word for blended [in 1 Corinthians 12:24] implies the losing of distinctions...Whatever we do should be by the Spirit to dispense Christ. Also, what we do should not be for our interest and according to our taste but for the church.

When a co-worker does anything, he should fellowship with the other co-workers. An elder should fellowship with the other elders. Fellowship tempers us; fellowship adjusts us; fellowship harmonizes us; and fellowship mingles us...Fellowship requires us to stop when we are about to do something. In our coordination in the church life, in the Lord's work, we all have to learn not to do anything without fellowship.

Among us we should have the blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ, the blending of all the churches in certain districts, the blending of all the co-workers, and the blending of all the elders. Blending means that we should always stop to fellowship with others...If we isolate and seclude ourselves, we will lose much spiritual profit. Learn to fellowship. Learn to be blended. (The Divine and Mystical Realm, pp. 86-87)

Today's Reading

If in a local church one brother has a ministry to preach the gospel and another has a ministry to build up the saints, they must coordinate. Otherwise, they may cause a problem...If brothers with different ministries do not know how to coordinate, they will compete and may even strive against each other...When the brother who is burdened for the gospel is functioning, moving straight forward, the brother who is burdened for shepherding should learn to walk backward. Likewise, when the brother who is burdened for shepherding is functioning and moving straight forward, the brother who is burdened to preach the gospel should walk backward. The other saints should follow these two, walking sideways, sometimes in the direction of the ministry of gospel preaching and at other times in the direction of the ministry of shepherding...To walk backward is to say Amen to another's ministry, function, and burden. While one brother is walking straight forward according to his burden, you should say Amen and walk backward in coordination with him. To walk sideways is also to say Amen to another's function...In the church life we all need to learn to have four kinds of walk: the straightforward walk, the backward walk, the sideways walk to the right, and the sideways walk to the left. If we do not learn to have these four kinds of walk, we will become a problem to our local church. The more we grow, learn, function, and minister, the more trouble we will cause because we know only how to walk forward and to have turns.

If you are the one who is walking straight forward, you must be very careful to walk according to the leading of the Spirit. Ezekiel 1:12 says, "Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went." To follow the Spirit is the responsibility of the one walking straight forward; it is not the responsibility of those walking backward or sideways. If the one who is walking straight forward is not careful to follow the leading of the Spirit, the coordination will be damaged.

Sometimes a certain brother...[who] is naturally humble...hesitates and does not take the lead in a bold way...[and] this causes the church to be delayed and to have no direction for its going on. At other times one who should not be leading takes the lead. This damages the church life.

We should apply this matter of coordination not only in a particular local church but also among the churches. This means that we should be followers of the churches (1 Thes. 2:14). We are one Body in one move of the Lord. When one church takes the lead in a definite direction under the leading of the Holy Spirit, we all should walk backward and sideways to follow. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 70-73, 78)

Further Reading: The Divine and Mystical Realm, ch. 6

« WEEK 4 —DAY 4 »

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 1:13-14 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches; the fire went to and fro among the living creatures, and the fire was bright; and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt.

[In Ezekiel 1:13] we see that the result of the coordination of the living creatures is that they become burning coals [and burning torches]. There is a fire among them and within them. Because they are coordinated ones, God comes in as fire, and each of them becomes a burning coal....Where there is coordination, there will surely be the burning coals.

In the coordination we burn one another. You burn me, and I burn you. However, if we are isolated from the saints and do not attend the meetings, we will not be burning coals....From experience we can testify that the more we coordinate together, the more we burn one another. The issue, the result, of coordination is that we all become burning coals. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 73-74)

Today's Reading

The burning of the coals does at least three things. First, it burns out everything that is negative. If something is put upon a heap of burning coals, that thing will be burned. If there is proper coordination in the church, there will be a burning to burn away such things as worldliness, the flesh, self-aims, self-goals, pride, opinions, and boasting. All kinds of negative things will be burned away by the coordination. Anything that does not correspond to God and to the nature of God will be burned out by the sanctifying and purifying fire of the burning coals, and only what is of God will remain. This is the proper condition of the church life.

Second, the burning of the coordination will make us fervent, intensely hot. Instead of coldness and lukewarmness, everyone will be burned and burning. When others come to the church, they will realize that they cannot stay unless they are willing to be burned....This burning will not allow you to be like the church in Laodicea, which was lukewarm, having no fervency, no burning.

Third, the burning in the coordination produces the power and impact of the church. The impact in a local church comes out of the burning. This power is internal and mysterious because it comes from the burning. If you want to have impact, you must be coordinated, and in this coordination you will become burning. Then out of this burning will be the impact and the power. The negative things will be consumed, you will be set on fire, and you will have power and impact.

The four living creatures look not only like burning coals but also like burning torches. Whereas the coals are for burning, the torches are for enlightening. From the proper coordination in a local church, there will not only be burning but also enlightening and shining. If a church is normal in its condition, it will be full of burning coals and enlightening torches.

Whenever the coals are burning, the torches will be shining. This means that the sanctifying fire becomes the sanctifying light. The more the fire burns, the more the light enlightens. If the fire burns us thoroughly, we will be enlightened thoroughly. However, if we do not allow the sanctifying fire to burn us in a certain matter, we will not be enlightened regarding this matter. The areas in which we have been burned by the sanctifying fire spontaneously become the areas in which we are enlightened and concerning which we can enlighten others. If a particular aspect of your character has been burned by the sanctifying fire, in this matter you will be enlightened, and thus you will be able to enlighten others in this matter.

The more intensely the fire burns in the church, the brighter will be the shining in that church. Everything negative will be exposed and burned. In the proper church life there should be nothing of darkness among the brothers and sisters. Every corner should be thoroughly enlightened. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 74-75)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 7

« WEEK 4 —DAY 5 »

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 1:26-27 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it. Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around;...I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.

Among the coordinated living creatures, who are burning coals and burning torches, there is the fire going up and down. This indicates that the fire is not static but is always moving, because the fire is God Himself. Whenever the church is properly coordinated, burning as coals and enlightening as torches, there will be the divine fire going up and down.

The fire among the living creatures has its source in God's burning fire. God's fire is not next to the living creatures; it is above them. There is fire with the living creatures because in their fellowship they allow God to move freely among them. Thus, the fire in their fellowship is the likeness of God's fire.

The likeness of God is burning fire [Ezek. 1:27], and the likeness of the four living creatures also is burning fire [vv. 13-14]. This indicates that the living creatures have the likeness of God's sanctification. They are like God in sanctification. From this we see that the more we are burned and enlightened, the more we have God's likeness and express Him. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 76)

Today's Reading

Ezekiel 1:13b says, "The fire was bright; and out of the fire went forth lightning." The fact that the fire was bright indicates that the living creatures manifested a glorious and majestic condition. This should be the condition in the church life today. If this is the situation in the church, there will be no discord. On the contrary, the younger ones will obey the older ones, and the older ones will serve the younger ones. Such a situation is beautiful and radiant.

If we want this to be the condition of the church, we must be thoroughly burned and enlightened. The more we are burned and enlightened, the more others will see the brightness of God's glory, beauty, and majesty.

In the fire there is not only brightness but also the flashing of lightning. Whereas the brightness is usual, the flashing of lightning is special, as it is often related to storms and darkness. Ordinarily, the church should be full of God's enlightening with its brightness. However, at special times—in an emergency or in a crisis—there may be the flashing of lightning. This means that at special times there may be a special light that flashes suddenly and causes others to be astonished.

Ezekiel 1:14 says, "And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a flash of a lightning bolt." This indicates that the living creatures, having such a coordination, being the burning coals and the burning torches, and having the fire going up and down, will not walk but run. They run because they have the power and the impact. In some churches, however, there is no running. Instead, there is fighting. In other churches the saints are either sitting or squatting. In still other churches they may be crawling. A proper church is a church that runs.

The church runs because in that church there is the proper coordination. The church runs like lightning, and as the church runs it gives light to others....Every local church should be like this. Since the coordination is for the move and the move is in the coordination, with such a coordination there is the move of a local church.

Others will see the light in our running. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we will manifest the lightning. With us there will be the flashing of light, causing others to be enlightened. This moving is the proper church life. Such a coordination will bring in the Lord's presence and blessing, and it will keep the church in a proper balance, preventing it from going to extremes. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 76-78)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 7

<< WEEK 4 —DAY 6 >>

Morning Nourishment

John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one...

Matt. 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

If as believers in Christ we are not in the Lord and in the grace of God, we cannot be joined to others. But if we abide in God, rely on God, and express God, we can coordinate together in God. Our coordination, therefore, is not based on our ability and talent but on our dwelling in God and depending on God. If we all abide in God, trust in God, and express God, God will become the power and the means of our coordination. We will then coordinate and move in oneness because we are in God. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 86)

Today's Reading

[The move of the Divine Trinity with the divine coordination] is a good pattern our Head has set up for His Body, of which we all are members. As members of Him, we should behave, act, and live according to what He did and was. When we do things, we should learn to do them not by ourselves. We are the doers, but we should not be the channel...Furthermore, we should not be the beneficiary of what we do. Someone else should be our beneficiary to receive the very benefit of our doing and of our being.

The move of the Divine Trinity as seen in Hebrews 9:14 and Matthew 12:28 is an excellent and beautiful example for us to follow. In saving us, He did not act individualistically. He did not do things to Himself and for Himself, nor did He trust in Himself.

In Matthew 12:28 the Lord said, "But if I [the Son], by the Spirit of God [the Triune God including the Father], cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God [the Triune God] has come upon you."...[The Lord] was not individualistic. He was not doing something by Himself and for Himself. He was doing something by the Spirit of God and for the kingdom of God. He never did anything by Himself or for Himself. Is this not beautiful? This shows us the excellency in the Divine Trinity.

This is surely a good pattern for our coordination. The Lord has produced a Body constituted with many members, so all the members should learn of Him...to be coordinated in His Body...We should behave ourselves just like our Head. He behaved Himself in a way of neither doing anything by Himself nor doing anything for Himself. Today in the church life, the Body of Christ has not been built up adequately because of the shortage of the proper coordination. If we want to be coordinated with all the members in the Body, we have to learn of Christ our Head, taking Him as our pattern. We should not do anything by ourselves or for ourselves. I may do something according to the will of God, but what I do should not be by myself but by some others. Furthermore, what I do should not be for myself but for the interest, the right, of God on this earth. This is a beauty, and this beauty is a real excellency, a real divine attribute, and an excellent virtue that we need to copy...[The Lord] cast out demons by another One and for another One. His spirit was so humble, so selfless. (Living in and with the Divine Trinity, pp. 48-49, 45-46)

When we are with the Lord in the Father and in the glory, we are one. But when we are in ourselves, we cannot be one with others. In ourselves we are one only with ourselves, not with anyone else. If we desire to be one with others, we need to move out of the self and into God the Father. No one can make this move for us; we are responsible to do it ourselves. When we move out of ourselves and into the Father and into the Father's glory, we are one and are even perfected into one. (CWWL, 1978, vol. 3, "Truth Messages," p. 336)

Further Reading: The Issue of the Dispensing of the Processed Trinity and the Transmitting of the Transcending Christ, ch. 6; Living in and with the Divine Trinity, ch. 5; CWWL, 1978, vol. 3, "Truth Messages," chs. 6-7

Freed from self and Adam's nature

The Church — Her Building

1. Freed from self and A - dam's na - ture, Lord, I would be built by
 Thee With the saints in - to Thy tem - ple, Where Thy glo - ry we shall
 see. From pe - cu - liar traits de - liv - er, From my in - de - pen - dent
 ways, That a dwell - ing place for Thee, Lord, We will be thru all our days.

2. By Thy life and by its flowing
 I can grow and be transformed,
 With the saints coordinated,
 Builed up, to Thee conformed;
 Keep the order in the Body,
 There to function in Thy will,
 Ever serving, helping others,
 All Thy purpose to fulfill.

3. In my knowledge and experience
 I would not exalted be,
 But submitting and accepting
 Let the Body balance me;
 Holding fast the Head, and growing
 With His increase, in His way,
 By the joints and bands supplying,
 Knit together day by day.

4. By Thy Spirit daily strengthened
 In the inner man with might,
 I would know Thy love surpassing,
 Know Thy breadth and length and height;
 Ever of Thy riches taking,
 Unto all Thy fulness filled,
 Ever growing into manhood,
 That Thy Body Thou may build.

5. In God's house and in Thy Body
 Builed up I long to be,
 That within this corporate vessel
 All shall then Thy glory see;
 That Thy Bride, the glorious city,
 May appear upon the earth,
 As a lampstand brightly beaming
 To express to all Thy worth.