

Message Twelve
**The Inward Recovery by Life
for the Carrying Out of God's Economy**

MR *Hymns*: Translation of Chinese hymn 442

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 36:21-38

- Ezek 36:21 But I had regard for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.
- Ezek 36:22 Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, I am not doing this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.
- Ezek 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations will know that I am Jehovah, declares the Lord Jehovah, when I am sanctified in you in their sight.
- Ezek 36:24 And I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.
- Ezek 36:25 And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
- Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
- Ezek 36:27 And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do.
- Ezek 36:28 And you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you will be My people, and I will be your God.
- Ezek 36:29 And I will save you from all your uncleanness, and I will summon the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.
- Ezek 36:30 And I will multiply the fruit of the trees and the produce of the field, that you may no longer receive the reproach of famine among the nations.
- Ezek 36:31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your doings that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.
- Ezek 36:32 It is not for your sake that I am doing this, declares the Lord Jehovah; let it be known to you. Be ashamed and humiliated on account of your ways, O house of Israel.
- Ezek 36:33 Thus says the Lord Jehovah, On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt.
- Ezek 36:34 And the land that was desolate will be tilled instead of being desolate in the sight of all who passed by.
- Ezek 36:35 And they will say, This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.
- Ezek 36:36 Then the nations that are left all around you will know that I, Jehovah, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate. I, Jehovah, have spoken, and I will do it.
- Ezek 36:37 Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Moreover for this I will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.
- Ezek 36:38 Like the holy flock for sacrifices, like the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men; and they will know that I am Jehovah.

**I. “Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir, and prophesy against it”—
Ezek. 35:2:**

- A. That the judgment on Edom is repeated here (cf. 25:12-14) indicates that in the process of God's recovery by life, there is still the need of God's judgment, particularly on Edom, who typifies the old man (see footnote 1 on v. 12):

Ezek 25:12 Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Because ¹Edom has acted full of vengeance against the house of Judah and has incurred serious guilt by taking vengeance on them,

note 1 The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob (Gen. 36:1). Therefore, Edom and the sons of Israel were cousins. Edom signifies the unregenerated old man (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9), and Israel, the regenerated new man (Rom. 9:6b; 2:28-29; Gal. 6:16; Phil. 3:3). Edom was full of hatred toward Israel, continually seeking revenge and vengeance.

Ezek 25:13 Therefore thus says the Lord Jehovah, I will also stretch out My hand against Edom and cut off from them man and beast and make it a desolation. From Teman even to Dedan they will fall by the sword.

Ezek 25:14 And I will inflict My vengeance upon Edom by the hand of My people Israel, and they shall act in Edom according to My anger and My wrath. Then they will know My vengeance, declares the Lord Jehovah.

1. The old man refers to the natural life in our soul; the old man is our very being, which was created by God but became fallen through sin, and it is the same as the first “T” in Galatians 2:20.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

2. Formerly, our soul acted as an independent person, with the old man as its life and personality; now, since the old man has been crucified (Rom. 6:6), our soul should act only as an organ of Christ and should be under the control of our spirit, having Christ as its life.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

3. Because the old man is very difficult to deal with, the judgment on the old man must be repeated again and again, until the day of the redemption of our body—Eph. 4:30.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

B. In order to recover us and make us the new man, God must judge our old man, our old creation—Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-11.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,

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.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his practices

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

II. For the inward recovery of His people, God acts on behalf of His holy name—

Ezek. 36:21-23; Matt. 6:9; Isa. 29:23:

Ezek 36:21 But I had regard for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

Ezek 36:22 Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, I am not doing this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

Ezek 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations will know that I am Jehovah, declares the Lord Jehovah, when I am sanctified in you in their sight.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Isa 29:23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, / They will sanctify My name / And sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, / And hold the God of Israel in awe.

A. In His recovery God acts on behalf of His holy name—cf. Eph. 1:4; Rev. 21:2.

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,

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

B. We have been recovered and revived not because of any merit in ourselves but because God

did something in us for His own name—cf. 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:15.

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

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,

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, being always ready for a defense to everyone who asks of you an account concerning the hope which is in you,

III. For the inward recovery of His people, God applies His judicial redemption to them for their being cleansed with the precious blood of Christ—Ezek. 36:25; 1 Pet. 1:18-19:

Ezek 36:25 And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

1 Pet 1:18 Knowing that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers,

1 Pet 1:19 But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ;
A. The clean water in Ezekiel 36:25 refers to the redeeming and cleansing blood, which is a cleansing and opened fountain for sin and for impurity—Zech. 13:1; cf. Num. 19:2-10.

Ezek 36:25 And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

Zech 13:1 In that day there will be an opened fountain for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

Num 19:2 This is the statute of the law which Jehovah has commanded, saying, Tell the children of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which is no blemish and upon which a yoke has never come.

Num 19:3 And you shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and someone shall bring it outside the camp and slaughter it in his presence.

Num 19:4 And Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle its blood toward the front of the Tent of Meeting seven times.

Num 19:5 And the heifer shall be burned in his sight; its skin and its flesh and its blood, with its dung, shall be burned.

Num 19:6 And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet strands, and cast them into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

Num 19:7 Then the priest shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; but the priest shall be unclean until the evening.

Num 19:8 And he who burns the heifer shall wash his clothes in water and bathe his body in water, and shall be unclean until the evening.

Num 19:9 And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and place them outside the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the assembly of the children of Israel as water for impurity; it is a sin offering.

Num 19:10 And he who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. And it shall be a perpetual statute to the children of Israel and to the stranger who sojourns among them.

B. The Lord washes us from all our filthiness, including all kinds of sinful things, unjust things, unrighteous things, and dark things—1 John 1:7, 9; cf. Eph. 5:8-9.

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.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

C. The Lord cleanses us from all our idols—Ezek. 14:3; 1 John 5:21; Col. 1:18b.

Ezek 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I be inquired of at all by them?

1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

IV. For the inward recovery of His people, God applies His organic salvation to them to give them a new heart and a new spirit so that they may be deified to become a new creation, the New Jerusalem—Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:2; Psa. 51:10; 78:8; 1 Pet. 3:4:

Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, / And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Psa 78:8 That they might not be like their fathers, / A stubborn and rebellious generation, / A generation that did not set their heart right, / And whose spirit was not faithful to God.
1 Pet 3:4 But the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very costly in the sight of God.

A. While we are in a fallen or backslidden state, our heart toward the Lord is stony and hard, and our spirit is deadened—Eph. 2:1; 4:18:

Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

1. When the Lord saves us or revives us, He renews our heart, making our stony heart a heart of flesh, a heart that is soft and loving toward Him—cf. 2 Cor. 3:3.

2 Cor 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.

2. Furthermore, He enlivens and renews our spirit with His divine life—Col. 2:13.

Col 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;

3. As a result, we love the Lord and desire Him with our renewed heart, and we can contact Him, receive Him, and contain Him by exercising our renewed spirit.

B. The Lord gives us a new heart to love Him—Mark 12:30:

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

1. Our heart represents us with regard to our inclination, affection, delight, and desire—cf. Matt. 15:8.

Matt 15:8 "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me;

2. Our heart is our representative in action, our acting agent—cf. Prov. 4:23; Matt. 12:34-35; 15:18-19.

Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.

Matt 12:34 Offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matt 12:35 The good man, out of his good treasure, brings forth good things, and the evil man, out of his evil treasure, brings forth evil things.

Matt 15:18 But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those defile the man.

Matt 15:19 For out of the heart come evil reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnessings, blasphemies.

3. God gives us a new heart because He wants us to incline toward Him, adore Him, desire Him, and love Him—1 Cor. 16:22; 2:9.

1 Cor 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed! The Lord comes!

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for

those who love Him."

4. In order to maintain the newness of our heart, we must keep our heart turned to the Lord and seek purity, loving Him with our whole heart—Mark 12:30; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; Matt. 5:8; Prov. 4:20-23; Psa. 119:2, 11:

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

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

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.

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

Prov 4:20 My son, be attentive to my words; / Incline your ear to my sayings.

Prov 4:21 Do not let them depart from your sight; / Keep them in the midst of your heart.

Prov 4:22 For they are life to those who find them, / And healing to all their flesh.

Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.

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

Psa 119:11 In my heart I have treasured up Your word / That I might not sin against You.

- a. Our heart needs to be soft—Ezek. 36:26; cf. Matt. 13:19; 2 Cor. 5:10-11a; Isa. 11:2; Rom. 8:28.

Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Matt 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way.

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 5:11a Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; ...

Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, / The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, / The Spirit of counsel and might, / The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of Jehovah.

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.

- b. Our heart needs to be pure—Matt. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:22.

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

2 Tim 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- c. Our heart needs to be loving—Eph. 3:17, 19; 2 Cor. 5:14.

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

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

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

- d. Our heart needs to be at peace—Acts 24:16.

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

C. The Lord gives us a new spirit to receive and contact Him— John 4:24:

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

1. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man was created by God with a spirit so that he may contact God, receive God, worship God, live God, fulfill God's purpose for God, and be one with God—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.

2. For us to have a new spirit means that our old, deadened spirit has been enlivened through regeneration—Eph. 2:1; John 3:6.
 - Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,
 - John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3. In his subtlety Satan has hidden the matter of the human spirit from most Christians; the spirit is an overlooked part of man—Gen. 2:7; Prov. 20:27; Zech. 12:1; John 4:24; 1 Thes. 5:23; cf. Jude 19-21.
 - 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.
 - Zech 12:1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,
 - John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
 - 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.
 - Jude 19 These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit.
 - Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
 - Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

4. In order to maintain the newness of our spirit, we must continually exercise our spirit to contact the Lord so that we may walk, live, and have our being in and according to the spirit—Rom. 8:4; 6:4; 7:6; 1 Cor. 6:17:
 - 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 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
 - Rom 7:6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.
 - 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - a. We must call on the name of the Lord—Rom. 10:12.
 - Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
 - b. We must pray-read His word as the Spirit—Eph. 5:26; 6:17-18.
 - Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
 - Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
 - Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
 - c. We must rejoice always, pray unceasingly, and give thanks in everything—1 Thes. 5:16-18.
 - 1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,
 - 1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
 - 1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - d. We must fan our spirit into flame, not quenching the Spirit—2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:19.
 - 2 Tim 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.
- 1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
- e. We must practice prophesying for the building up of the church, not despising prophesying—v. 20; 1 Cor. 14:4b, 31-32.
- 1 Thes 5:20 Do not despise prophecies,
- 1 Cor 14:4b ... but he who prophesies builds up the church.
- 1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
- 1 Cor 14:32 And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

V. “And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do”— Ezek. 36:27:

- A. For the inward recovery of His people, God not only gives us a new heart and a new spirit (v. 26) but also puts His Spirit within us, in our spirit, making the two spirits one mingled spirit (Rom. 8:9, 16) and causing us to be one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17).
- Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
- 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.
- 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.
- B. God’s Spirit within us contains God’s nature, and God’s nature corresponds to God’s law; because we have God’s nature within us (2 Pet. 1:4), we are able to keep His law spontaneously by walking according to our regenerated spirit, which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16, 22-23, 25).
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- 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.
- Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- Gal 5:23 Meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
- C. The Lord’s causing us to walk in His statutes refers to the law (the automatic principle; the innate, automatic function) of the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2); this is the Lord’s guiding us to walk on the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake (Psa. 23:3).
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Psa 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness / For His name's sake.
- D. The righteous requirement of the law is spontaneously and automatically fulfilled in those who walk according to the spirit—Rom. 8:4, 2.
- 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 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- E. The Spirit with our spirit is the key, the secret, to God’s organic salvation—v. 16; 5:10.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

VI. As a result of the inward recovery by life, the desolate and waste places will become like the garden of Eden—Ezek. 36:34-36:

- Ezek 36:34 And the land that was desolate will be tilled instead of being desolate in the sight of all who passed by.

- Ezek 36:35 And they will say, This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.
- Ezek 36:36 Then the nations that are left all around you will know that I, Jehovah, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate. I, Jehovah, have spoken, and I will do it.
- A. The Lord’s recovery should come to the point where it is like the garden of Eden.
- B. In “the garden of Eden” we have Christ as the plant of renown (34:29), Christ as the tree of life with the rich food supply (Rev. 2:7; 22:14).
- Ezek 34:29 And I will raise up for them a planting place of renown, and they will no longer be consumed with famine in the land and no longer bear the disgrace of the nations.
- 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.
- Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

VII. In His recovery by life, the Lord desires to increase us “with men like a flock”—Ezek. 36:37-38:

- Ezek 36:37 Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Moreover for this I will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.
- Ezek 36:38 Like the holy flock for sacrifices, like the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men; and they will know that I am Jehovah.
- A. The Lord has promised to increase us, filling the waste cities “with flocks of men” (v. 38), but we still need to inquire of Him, asking Him to do what He desires to do—Luke 10:2.
- Ezek 36:38 Like the holy flock for sacrifices, like the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men; and they will know that I am Jehovah.
- Luke 10:2 And He said to them, The harvest is great, but the workers few; therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest that He would thrust out workers into His harvest.
- B. We should not say that numbers do not mean anything and that we do not care for numbers; we need to pray for the increase, claiming the Lord’s promise in Ezekiel 36; we need to remember that quality comes out of quantity.
- Ezek 36 be omitted.
- C. We need to pray that the Lord will give us the increase and that He will bring in flocks of men—cf. John 4:4-8, 28-30, 39-42; Luke 19:1-10.
- John 4:4 And He had to pass through Samaria.
- John 4:5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob gave to Joseph his son;
- John 4:6 And Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from the journey, sat thus by the well; it was about the sixth hour.
- John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me something to drink.
- John 4:8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.
- John 4:28 Then the woman left her waterpot and went away into the city, and said to the people,
- John 4:29 Come, see a man who told me all that I have done. Is this not the Christ?
- John 4:30 They went out of the city and came to Him.
- John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans from that city believed into Him because of the word of the woman who testified, He told me all that I have done.
- John 4:40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to remain with them, and He remained there two days.
- John 4:41 And many more believed because of His word.
- John 4:42 And they said to the woman, It is no longer because of your speaking that we believe, for we ourselves have heard and know that this One is truly the Savior of the world.
- Luke 19:1 And He entered and was passing through Jericho.
- Luke 19:2 And behold, there was a man whose name was called Zaccheus; and he was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.
- Luke 19:3 And he was seeking to see Jesus, who He was, and could not because of the crowd, for he was small in stature.
- Luke 19:4 And he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way.

- Luke 19:5 And as He came to the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay in your house.
- Luke 19:6 And he hurried and came down, and received Him, rejoicing.
- Luke 19:7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, He has gone in to lodge with a sinful man.
- Luke 19:8 And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much.
- Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham.
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost.