

Message Four

The Coordination of the Four Living Creatures

EM *Hymns*: 493, 840

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

- Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.
Ezek 1:11 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.
Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
Ezek 1:13 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.
Ezek 1:14 And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt.
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

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.

- 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.
Ezek 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they had the face of a man; and the four of them had the face of a lion on the right side, and the four of them had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four of them had the face of an eagle.
Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went—wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
Ezek 1:26 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.

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:

- Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.
Ezek 1:11 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.
Exo 19:4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.
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 faint; / They will walk and will not become weary.
2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
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.
Exo 26:29 And you shall overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold as holders for the bars; and you shall overlay the bars with gold.
Exo 26:30 And you shall set up the tabernacle according to its plan, which you were shown in the mountain.

- 1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.
 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 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.
 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 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.
 Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- 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.
 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- 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.
 Psa 17:8 Guard me like the pupil of Your eye; / In the shadow of Your wings hide me
 Psa 57:1 Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me; / For my soul takes refuge in You; / Indeed in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, / Until the destruction passes by.
 Psa 63:7 For You have been my help, / And in the shadow of Your wings I will shout for joy.
 Psa 91:4 With His pinions He will cover You, / And under His wings You will take refuge; / His truth is a shield and a buckler.
 2 Cor 12:9b ... Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- E. The living creatures look like a man (Ezek. 1:5), but they move like an eagle:
 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.
 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.

III. Ezekiel 1:9 and 11b-12 present a beautiful picture of the coordination that we need in the church life:

- Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.
 Ezek 1:11b ... And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.
 Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
- 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.
 Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went

straight forward.

- 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.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;
Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.
1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.
1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.
1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.
1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?
1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
1 Cor 12:23 And those members of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness,
1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
1 Cor 12:25 That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.
1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
1 Cor 12:28 And God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.
1 Cor 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all have works of power?
1 Cor 12:30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret tongues?
Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
Eph 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."
Eph 4:9 (Now this, "He ascended," what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth?
Eph 4:10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)
Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

- 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.
- 2 Tim 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.
- Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.

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.

- Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.
- Ezek 1:11b ... And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.
- Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
- 1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.
- 1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?
- 1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
- 1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
- 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
- 1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- 1 Cor 12:23 And those members of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness,
- 1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
- 1 Cor 12:25 That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.
- 1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- 1 Cor 12:28 And God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.
- 1 Cor 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all have works of power?
- 1 Cor 12:30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret tongues?

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.
Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
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.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- 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:
- Phil 1:17 But the others announce Christ out of selfish ambition, not purely, thinking to raise up affliction in my bonds.
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
- Gal 5:26 Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another.
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.
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
1 Cor 14:29 And as to prophets, two or three should speak, and the others discern.
1 Cor 14:30 But if something is revealed to another sitting by, the first should be silent.
1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
 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.
3 John 9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us.
 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.
Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke forth to them: Men of Judea, and all who are dwelling in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.
Acts 16:6 And they passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.
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.
Acts 16:8 And bypassing Mysia, they came down to Troas.
Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul during the night: A certain man, a Macedonian, was standing and entreating him and saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us.
Acts 16:10 And when he had seen the vision, we immediately endeavored to go forth into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to announce the gospel to them.
- 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.
- 1 Thes 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus, for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they also from the Jews,

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:

Ezek 1:13 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.

- 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.

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;

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

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.

Rev 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.
 3. The burning in the coordination produces the power and impact of the church—Acts 1:14.

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- B. The coals are for burning, and the torches are for enlightening—Ezek. 1:13:
- Ezek 1:13 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.
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.

Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Isa 6:5 Then I said, Woe is me, for I am finished! / For I am a man of unclean lips, / And in the midst of a people of unclean lips I dwell; / Yet my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.

Isa 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with an ember in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

Isa 6:7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, Now that this has touched your lips, / Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged.

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.
 - b. In the proper church life there should be nothing of darkness among the brothers and sisters; all should be thoroughly enlightened.
 2. The fire is not static but always moving—Heb. 12:29:

Heb 12:29 For our God is also a consuming fire.

 - 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.

Ezek 1:26 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.

Ezek 1:27 Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.

3. The fire being bright indicates that in their coordination the living creatures manifest a glorious and majestic condition—v. 13.
Ezek 1:13 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.
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.
Matt 24:27 For just as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
5. The living creatures run because they have the power and the impact—Ezek. 1:14.
Ezek 1:14 And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt.

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:

- Ezek 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward.
- Ezek 1:11 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.
- 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 faint; / They will walk and will not become weary.
- 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.
John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
 - 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.
Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;
Col 3:13 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive.
Col 3:14 And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.
Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
 - 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.
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?
Ezek 14:4 Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Each and every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face and goes to the prophet, I, Jehovah, will be found to be answering according to this, according to the multitude of his idols;
Ezek 14:5 That I may lay hold of the house of Israel in their heart, who have become estranged from Me because of all their idols.
Phil 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.
Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the

- knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
- 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.
- 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.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples;
- Psa 90:1 O Lord, You have been our dwelling place / In all generations.
- Psa 26:1 Judge me, O Jehovah; / For I have walked in my integrity, / And in Jehovah I have trusted; / I will not waver.
- Psa 31:20 You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence / Apart from the conspiracies of men; / You lay them away secretly in a shelter / Apart from the contention of tongues.
- Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- Psa 91:9 For You have made Jehovah, who is my refuge, / Even the Most High, Your habitation;
- Psa 91:14 Because He has set His love upon Me, I will rescue Him; / I will set Him on high, because He has known My name.
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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:

- Ezek 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.
- Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
- 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.
- 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:
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Num 16:22 But they fell on their faces and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, will one man sin and You be angry with the whole assembly?
- Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners and we respected them; shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?
- 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.

Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Phil 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

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

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

- 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.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,
Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
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,
Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.
1 Cor 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

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:

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

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.

2 Thes 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.
Jude 19 These are those who make divisions, soulless, 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.
John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.