

# Message Six

## **Living in the Resurrection Life of Christ under the Unique Headship of Christ and Growing Up into the Head, Christ, in All Things for the Reality and Building Up of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 1:9; Col. 1:18; 2:19; Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10; 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 4:15-16

### **OUTLINE**

#### **Day 1**

#### **I. The church as the Body of Christ is an organism absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—Col. 1:18; John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10:**

- A. The principle of resurrection is that the natural life is killed and that the divine life rises up in its place—2 Cor. 1:9.
- B. In our natural life and in the old creation, we are not the Body; we are the Body in the new creation germinated by Christ's resurrection—Eph. 1:19-23.
- C. To be in resurrection means that our natural life is crucified and that the God-created and redeemed part of our being is uplifted to be one with Christ in resurrection—Rom. 6:4, 6; 8:2, 11; Gal. 2:20.
- D. When we live not by our natural life but by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection, and the issue of this is the Body of Christ—Rom. 6:6; 8:11; 12:4-5:
  - 1. The leadership among God's people must be Christ Himself as the resurrection life that buds, blossoms, and bears almonds—Num. 17:8.
  - 2. Everything we say, everything we do, and everything we are in the church life as an expression of the Body of Christ must be in resurrection.

#### **Day 2**

#### **II. Christ is the unique Head of the Body, the church, corporately and of all the believers individually; He is the Head directly of every one of us—Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 11:3:**

- A. The Head is a matter of authority; for Christ to be the Head is for Him to have all the authority in the Body—Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18:

1. To be under the headship of Christ is to be absolutely under His authority—Eph. 4:15.
  2. The authority to direct the Body and all its members rests with the Head.
- B. Whether we are under the authority of the Head determines whether we know the life of the Body—1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 3:4:**
1. The Body can have only one Head and can submit only to one Head—1:18.
  2. Christ is the unique Head, and we must submit to Him, honoring and testifying to the unique headship of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 23:8-12.
  3. The members of the Body are fitted together and are able to live the Body life through holding the Head; our relationship with the Head determines our relationship to the other members—Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:18, 27.

### **Day 3**

## **III. The reality of the Body of Christ is a group of God's redeemed who have been made the God-men by God and who live not by themselves but by another life, which is the processed and consummated Triune God—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10:**

- A. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but who do not live by their own life but by the life of the processed and consummated Triune God, whose attributes are expressed through their virtues—1:19-21a.
- B. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by all the God-men, united, mingled, and constituted together with God by mingling humanity with divinity and mingling divinity with humanity—John 14:20.
- C. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of the conformity to the death of Christ through the power of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10.

### **Day 4**

- D. Because the Body of Christ is in the mingled spirit, to be in the reality of the Body of Christ is to be in the mingled spirit and to live in the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27:
  1. To live, act, and move in the mingled spirit is to live, act, and move in the Body and to be in the reality of the Body—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5.
  2. To be in the mingled spirit is to be in the Body of Christ actually and practically—1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27.

### **Day 5**

## **IV. We need to grow up into the Head, Christ, in all things—Eph. 4:15:**

- A. To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we attain to a full-grown man—vv. 15, 13.
- B. The word Head in Ephesians 4:15 indicates that our growth in life by the increase of Christ in us should be the growth of the members in the Body under the Head.
- C. We need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small—v. 15:
  - 1. There are still many things in which we have not grown up into Christ; in these things we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ.
  - 2. When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we will all be one in Christ.

## Day 6

- D. To grow in life is to grow with the growth of God; the growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the increase of God, within us—Col. 2:19.

## V. The growth of the Body is the building up of the Body—Eph. 4:16:

- A. The growth of the Body of Christ is the increase of Christ in the church, which results in the building up of the Body by the Body itself—3:17a:
  - 1. When Christ enters into the saints and lives within them, the Christ within the saints becomes the church—Col. 3:10-11.
  - 2. The Body of Christ grows by the growth of Christ within us and is built up this way—1:18; 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- B. The Body builds itself up in love—v. 16:
  - 1. The love in which the Body builds itself up is not our own love but the love of God in Christ, which becomes the love of Christ in us, by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16, 19.
  - 2. Love is the inner substance of God; when we enter into God's inner substance, we enjoy God as love and enjoy His presence in the sweetness of the divine love, and thereby love others as Christ did—Eph. 5:25.
  - 3. We need to be brought into love as the inner substance of God for the building up of the Body of Christ—4:12, 16.

# WEEK 6 — DAY 1

## Morning Nourishment

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

Eph. 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand...

22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

A great part of the believers in the local churches are still in the natural man, but to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ. We do have some good coordination in the local churches. However, I would ask, “Is this kind of coordination carried out by the natural life or in resurrection?” To be in resurrection means that our natural life is crucified, and then the God-created part of our being is uplifted in resurrection to be one with Christ in resurrection. In Philippians 3:10 Paul said that we all need to be conformed to the death of Christ by the power of His resurrection. We all need to ask ourselves whether the coordination among us is by the power of Christ’s resurrection or merely by our natural man.

I do not deny, and I cannot deny, that as I was carrying out the Lord’s ministry, especially the ministry of life to establish the churches, some part was in resurrection, but not every part. Anything that is carried out even scripturally but in the natural life is not the reality of the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is absolutely something in the resurrection life of Christ. (The Practical Points concerning Blending, pp. 19-20)

## Today’s Reading

It is common today that in the local churches what we can see is mostly the “church” in its meetings, activities, works, and services. But we cannot see much of the reality of the Body of Christ in resurrection, that is, in the Spirit, in the pneumatic Christ, and in the consummated God. So there is the need for us to endeavor to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ. (The Practical Points concerning Blending, p. 20)

The Body is the issue of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ who is continually being transmitted into us. According to our natural life, we are not qualified to be part of the Body. On the contrary, we are qualified only to be terminated and buried so that we can be resurrected. By nature, not even our spirit is qualified to be part of the Body. Before Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection, the Body of Christ was not in existence. He had a number of followers, but He did not have the Body. The Body of Christ could not come forth from the incarnated Christ until He had been crucified to terminate the flesh, the natural man, and the entire old creation. After terminating all these things through His crucifixion, Christ entered into resurrection to germinate something new. Therefore, it was after His resurrection that the Body of Christ came into being. In our natural life and in the old creation we are not the Body. But we are the Body in the new creation germinated by Christ’s resurrection life. On the day of Pentecost, the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ, who was given to be Head over all things, began to transmit all that He had accomplished, attained, and obtained to the church. Since that day, this transmission has not ceased. This indicates that this transmission has a beginning but that it has no ending.

After all the wonderful steps taken by the Triune God—creation, incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension—He came into the church with all His accomplishments. Thus, the church, the Body, is an entity altogether in resurrection and ascension with both the natural element and the old creation terminated. The Body, an organism in resurrection and ascension, is wholly in the new creation and has nothing to do with the old creation. Every part of the Body is of the new creation. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 2098-2099)

Further Reading: The Practical Points concerning Blending, ch. 2; Life-study of Numbers, msg. 25; CWWN vol. 42, chs. 37, 39; vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” ch. 15

# WEEK 6 — DAY 2

## Morning Nourishment

Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead..

3:4 When Christ our life is manifested..

1 Cor. 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

Paul spoke of “holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God” (Col. 2:19). Since Christ is the Head of the Body, we have to hold the Head. Holding the Head is acknowledging that only Christ is the Head; it is coming absolutely under His authority. We can be joined to the brothers and sisters only when we hold the Head. The members of the Body are fitted together and able to live the Body life through holding the Head. Our relationship to the Head determines our relationship to the other members. All the questions regarding our relationship with the brothers and sisters can only be solved when we come under the absolute authority of the Lord. Unless we recognize the headship of Christ in the Body, we will never have a perfect fellowship with the other members, because it is our common relationship to Him that causes us to be related to one another. We may look different outwardly, but the Christ within us is the same. This is why we can fellowship with one another and be one with each other. Apart from Christ, we have no means of fellowship. When we do not hold the Head, our fellowship becomes invalid. The basis of our fellowship is our mutual holding of the Head. When we all hold the Head, we will hold to one another, and our relationship with the Body will be proper. (CWWN, vol. 44, “The Mystery of Christ,” pp. 811-812)

## Today’s Reading

Christ is the life of the Body; He is also the authority of the Body. Since life is in Him, authority is also in Him. Since He is our life, He has authority over us. Whenever we submit to His authority, we have life. Every move of our body is governed by the head. For Christ to be the Head means for Him to have the authority in the Body. Brothers and sisters, if we see what the Body is, we will spontaneously come under the control of the Head. The Body cannot move freely; it can only move at the direction of the Head. Without direction from the Head, the Body cannot move. The Body is under the authority of the Head; it cannot propose anything on its own. The power to direct the Body rests with the Head.

Whether we are under the authority of the Head determines whether we know the life of the Body. Toward God’s Word, some have the attitude: “Although the Lord has said this, yet...” Who has given us permission to say “yet”? What authority do we have to say “yet”? In the world anyone who disobeys the command of his superior is lawless. If Christ is the Head, then we cannot be the Head and we have no right to disobey Him.

Many times there are too many heads in the church. There are many human leaders, methods, and ordinances in the church. Man wants to be the head. Christ is the Head in heaven, and man wants to be the head on earth. When the “head” on earth agrees with the Head in heaven, there is obedience. But when the “head” on earth does not agree with the Head in heaven, there is disobedience. How wrong this is! In the church only Christ is the Head; there is no other head. As long as Christ is the Head, no one else can be the head. Brothers and sisters, have you ever said to the Lord, “Lord, You are my Lord. I have no right to make any decision, and I have no right to choose anything. May You deliver me from being my own head and from taking anyone else as the head”? Brothers and sisters, we must all learn to receive orders from God. Christ is the Head, and no one can walk according to his own will. It is a basic Christian experience to surrender to the Lord and submit to Him. (CWWN, vol. 38, pp. 414-415)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 38, ch. 55; vol. 44, ch. 101; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msgs. 18, 24, 31, 57-58, 75; CWWL, 1978, vol. 3, “Crucial Principles for the Proper Church Life,” ch. 3

# WEEK 6 — DAY 3

## Morning Nourishment

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me...

Phil. 1:19-21 ...This will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ;...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. For to me, to live is Christ...

In Philippians 3 Paul said that he lived a life conformed to the death of Christ (v. 10). The death of Christ is a mold, and Paul put himself into that death-mold to be conformed there. On this man, Paul, all men could see the mark and the image of the cross (Gal. 6:14, 17—see footnote 1 on v. 17). His old life was conformed to the image of the death of Christ by the power of Christ's resurrection. The power of resurrection strengthened him to live the life of a God-man. The Lord expects that many of us would be such ones. (The Practical Points concerning Blending, p. 36)

## Today's Reading

Many times when I was trying to talk to my wife, something within said, "This is not from your spirit. This is from your old man." Right away I stopped. Sometimes I would go to her, and then right away I returned. This is because my going was by my natural man. While I was doing that, something within turned me. That was the very life-giving Spirit, the pneumatic Christ. The processed Triune God turned me, and that was in resurrection. Such a corporate living is the reality of the Body of Christ, dear saints. This is a corporate living of the conformity to the death of Christ through the power of the resurrection of Christ.

In brief, the reality of the Body of Christ is a kind of corporate living, not a living by any individual. This corporate living is the aggregate of many saints who have been redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, and transformed by the processed and consummated God within them. By this indwelling consummated God, these redeemed saints have been made actual God-men.

For thirty-three and a half years, this God-man, Jesus, was a genuine man, but He lived not by man's life but by God's life. To live such a life He had to be crucified. The crucifixion mentioned in the New Testament transpired on the wooden cross on Mount Calvary. But you have to realize that before Christ was there in the physical crucifixion, He was being crucified every day for thirty-three and a half years. Was not Jesus a human being, a genuine man? Yes. But He did not live by that genuine man. Instead, He kept that genuine man on the cross. Then, in the sense of resurrection, He lived God's life. God's life with all its attributes was lived within this God-man Jesus and expressed as this God-man's virtues.

Such a life was there originally just in an individual man, Jesus Christ. But this life has now been repeated, reproduced, in many men who have been redeemed and regenerated and who now possess the divine life within them. All of them have been nourished, sanctified, transformed, and perfected not just to be matured Christians, but to be God-men. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life, but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues.

We should not live by ourselves. According to God's design in His economy we were already put on the cross. We should not call ourselves back off the cross. To remain on the cross is to bear the cross and be under the cross. I have been crucified. There is no more I. I am finished. I am through. But there is a new man with me. That is the resurrected God-created man uplifted with God's divinity in him. That man is actually God Himself. Now I live by that man. But if I do not practice to keep my old man on the cross, I can never live the new man. This is why in the first chapter of Philippians, Paul told us he lived such a life by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (The Practical Points concerning Blending, pp. 36 -37, 34-36)

Further Reading: The Practical Points concerning Blending, chs. 3-5

# WEEK 6 — DAY 4

## Morning Nourishment

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.

12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Have you realized that as long as God the Spirit indwells you, you do not need any leading? You do not need to pray for something to come upon you, and you do not have to pray to receive some inspiration. God the Spirit is indwelling you....Many Christians, when they need to buy a house or rent an apartment, pray that the Lord would lead them to the right place, to the best neighborhood, and so forth. They tell the Lord to cut it off if they should not get it. Most Christians pray in this way. They never do it according to the indwelling. If you need to get a house or rent an apartment, just go according to the indwelling....The leading is there. Because in our daily walk we have never entered into such a stage that we act and behave and move according to the indwelling, there is no possibility for us to have the Body life. It is altogether not a small thing to get into this stage. This means that when you get into this stage of acting and moving and behaving according to the spirit, according to the indwelling, you are out of your self, out of your flesh, and out of your natural life. Actually, right away you are in the Body life. (CWWL, 1980, vol. 1, "Perfecting Training," pp. 308-309)

## Today's Reading

The Spirit of Christ is simply the real person of Christ. This person, this Spirit of Christ, has first regenerated you, putting His life and His nature and His element into your spirit, making your spirit one with Him. Individually speaking you have Christians, and corporately speaking you have a Body-Christ. The Body-Christ is comprised of the Head and the Body with so many members. This is Christ... What is Christ? The mingled spirit.

Now you can see that we have a lot of problems in Romans 8 that have not been solved. How then could we expect to be in the Body life? We have not gone through Romans 8. How could we be in Romans 12? It is impossible. It does not mean that because you are humble, meek, patient, nice, loving, or forbearing that you are in the Body. It means that when you are behaving, acting, moving, and living according to the spirit, to the mingled spirit, to the indwelling of the Spirit, then you are actually moving, living, behaving in the Body of Christ. What, actually speaking, is the Body of Christ? What is the Body of Christ practically speaking? It is the mingled spirit. Oh, may the Lord open our eyes! May He show us such a fact, such a practicality! If we would see this, we would say, "Lord, have mercy upon me. I am too far off. I have never entered into such a stage of the mingled spirit. I have never entered into a stage of the Body life. I still pray for this and for that, and I still wait for this and for that. I have never realized that the reality of the Body is right within me. The regenerated spirit and the indwelling Spirit are now one, mingled together right within me. I do not need to pray; I do not need to wait; I do not need to expect anything. Everything is within me. I just walk according to this mingled spirit. I just set my mind on the spirit. Life is here, and peace is here."

I just need to behave and act and live according to this mingled spirit. If I do, I am living in the Body. I simply need to set my mind on the spirit. Then I have life and peace. Then I am under the leading of the Spirit. Step by step I am being led by the Spirit.

This is the picture in Romans 8. I hope we all could see something here. It does not mean that I am simply cooperative and not individualistic, that I am not a hard person, so I am in the Body. It does not mean that I am flexible, so I am in the Body. You are so flexible, but you are in the body of flexibility, not in the Body of Christ. You have to be so Christ, not so flexible. Where is Christ? And what is Christ? And who is Christ? He is the Spirit mingled with our spirit. It is here that we live Christ, and it is here that we live the Body of Christ. When we have entered into this stage, we are right away in Romans 12. We are in the Body. (CWWL, 1980, vol. 1, "Perfecting Training," pp. 309-311)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1980, vol. 1, "Perfecting Training," ch. 30

# WEEK 6 — DAY 5

## Morning Nourishment

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.

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ.

We must grow up into Christ in all things...Regardless of whether you are from Africa or Australia and regardless of whether you are white, yellow, or black, we all must grow up into Christ in all things. Here all things means every single thing, whether big or small; we must grow up into Christ in all things. Even today there are still many things in which we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ. We need to grow up into Christ in all things, both big and small. You have Christ in you, but there are still many things in you that have not grown up into Christ. This is entirely a matter of the Spirit. To grow up into Christ is to grow up into the Spirit. Your speaking must be in the Spirit; your actions, your adornment, and your attire must all be in the Spirit; your dealings with others, your managing of affairs, and the way you treat people must be in the Spirit. You need to get into the Spirit in all things. (CWWL, 1977 vol. 3, "One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man," p. 339)

## Today's Reading

By holding to truth in love we grow up into Christ in all things. To be no longer little children (Eph. 4:14) we need to grow up into Christ. This is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we attain to a full-grown man (v. 13). The word Head here in verse 15 indicates that our growth in life with Christ should be the growth of the members in the Body under the Head.

To grow up into the Head means that we care only for Christ and the church. We grow by caring only for Christ and the church, that is, by handling truth in love. We do not grow by some kind of honesty or sincerity related to ethical behavior.

In this verse the matter of growth is specifically related to growing up into Christ, the Head, in all things. Verses 13 through 16 all point to the need for growth. If we would be a full-grown man, we need to grow. Likewise, if we would be no longer little children tossed to and fro and carried about, we also need to grow. But we should grow up into Christ, not up into ourselves or into something else apart from Christ.

Paul clearly says that we are to grow up into the One who is the Head. This indicates that our growth must be in the Body. In order to grow into the Head, we must surely be in the Body. Many Christians are apparently growing spiritually; however, their supposed growth is not in the Body. I have known some Christians who have actually become more dissenting as they have had this kind of growth. It seems that the more they grow, the more critical they become. When they have relatively little growth, they are no problem in the church life. But as they grow, they become troublesome. This is an indication that their growth is not growth into the Head.

It is of great importance that Paul does not tell us to grow up into the Savior, into the Master, or into the Lord. He says specifically that we are to grow up into the Head. This can take place only in the Body. If you do not remain in the Body, you may have a certain kind of growth, but it will not be the growth into the Head.

In verse 15 Paul tells us that we must grow up into the Head in all things. In certain aspects you have grown up into the Head, but in other aspects you probably have not. According to my experience, the most difficult matter in which to grow up into Christ, the Head, is in our talking. Psalm 141:3 says, "Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Because it is so hard for us to control our speaking, we should make this our prayer also. Whether you are young or old, a brother or a sister, this is an area in which all of us desperately need to grow up into Christ as the Head. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 384-385)

Further Reading: One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man, ch. 7; Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 45; Life-study of Colossians, msg. 44, 56; Service for the Building Up of the Church, chs. 1, 6



# WEEK 6 — DAY 6

## Morning Nourishment

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.

Col. 2:19 ...Not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

[The church] is an organism composed of the life in our spirit, which is Christ Himself. The resurrected Christ is the life-giving Spirit... Within us we have the same life and the same spirit. In this one life we become organic, being joined together as one. The problem now is that we have two lives within us. One is the original natural life; the other is the Lord Jesus as our life... If we live by our natural life, we are not the church. If we live according to Christ and live Christ, we are the church... When Christ is in Himself, He is just Christ. When He enters into the saints and lives with the saints, the Christ within the saints becomes the church. The reality of the church is Christ living in us. The key to the building up of the Body of Christ is to live Christ. If we live our natural life, the Body of Christ will not be built up. For this reason we must deny and reject our natural life and must put the natural life aside. In this way, Christ will have the proper place within us and will be able to increase day by day. This is the building up of the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ grows by the growth of Christ within us and is built up this way. (The Economy of God and the Building Up of the Body of Christ, pp. 66-67)

## Today's Reading

Now we must go on to ask in what way God gives the growth. He gives the growth by getting into us. The more God is added to us, the more growth He gives... Without the increase of God within us, there cannot be any growth. The growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us. Therefore, God gives the growth by giving Himself to us in a very subjective way.

Since God gives growth in this way, we need to take time to absorb Him. A well-known hymn exhorts us to "take time to be holy." Actually, our need is to take time to absorb God. As we daily take time to eat food, we should daily take time to absorb the Lord, take time to assimilate the riches of Christ. Our contact with the Lord should not be rushed. If we are in a hurry, we shall not be able to absorb much of His riches. We need to allow adequate time for prayer. This will enable us to absorb more of the riches of our God.

God is not simply a term or an object of worship. He is real, rich, and substantial, and we need to absorb Him. Our God today is the processed, all-inclusive Spirit, and we have a spirit with which to absorb Him. Thus, we must exercise our spirit to stay in His presence to absorb Him. This takes time. Although we all have experienced absorbing the riches of God, our experience is not yet adequate. For this reason, we must spend more time to absorb Him. Do not spend so much time in your mind, emotion, and will, but spend more time in your spirit to adore the Lord, to praise Him, to offer thanks to Him, and to speak to Him freely. As you fellowship with Him in this way, you will absorb His riches, and He will add more of Himself into you. The more God is added into us, the more growth He gives to us. This is the way God gives the growth.

Only God can give growth. In my ministry the most I can do is to plant or water. I cannot give growth to anyone, for I cannot give God. Only God can give you Himself. Without Him, we cannot have growth. God Himself is our food, and we need to seek Him at His dining table, where we need to take time to eat Him slowly. Then more of Him will be added into us. This addition of God into us is the growth He gives. For God to give us growth actually means that He gives us Himself. (Life-study of Colossians, pp. 456-457)

Further Reading: The Economy of God and the Building Up of the Body of Christ, ch. 6; The Subjective Truths in the Holy Scriptures, ch. 7; Life-study of Colossians, msg. 52

# WEEK 6 — HYMN

## O Jesus Christ, grow Thou in me Longings — For Growth in Christ

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The musical score is written in G-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with the lyrics '1. O Je - sus Christ, grow Thou in me, And all things else re - cede;'. The second staff continues with 'My heart be dai - ly near - er Thee, From sin be dai - ly'. The third staff is marked 'Chorus' and begins with 'freed. (C) Each day let Thy sup - port - ing might My weak - ness still em - brace;'. The fourth staff concludes with 'My darkness va - nish in Thy light, Thy life my death ef - face.' Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Eb, Bb7/F, Eb/G, Ab, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb, Abm/Eb, Eb, Bb7/F, Eb/G, Ab, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb/F, Eb/G, Eb, Ab, Eb/G, Fm, Eb, Ab, Bb7, Eb, Bb7/F, Eb/G, Ab, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb.

2. In Thy bright beams which on me fall,  
    Fade every evil thought;  
    That I am nothing, Thou art all,  
    I would be daily taught.
3. More of Thy glory let me see,  
    Thou Holy, Wise, and True;  
    I would Thy living image be,  
    In joy and sorrow too.
4. Fill me with gladness from above,  
    Hold me by strength divine;  
    Lord, let the glow of Thy great love  
    Through all my being shine.
5. Make this poor self grow less and less,  
    Be Thou my life and aim;  
    Oh, make me daily through Thy grace  
    More meet to bear Thy name.