

Message Eight

Being Measured by God's Building

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 43:10-12; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 12:12-27

Outline

Day 1 & Day 2

- I. The entire Bible is a book of building; the main subject of the Bible is the building of God—Gen. 28:10-22; Exo. 25:8; 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; 1 Kings 6:1-2; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21; Rev. 21:2-3.**
- II. The book of Ezekiel begins with a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord and ends with a vision of the holy building of God; this indicates that the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord are all for the holy building of God—1:1, 28; 40:1—48:35.**
- III. According to the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Christ is both the One who builds the church as God's house and the element with which the church is built—Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:21:**
 - A. Christ is the house, His Body, and Christ is also the Builder—John 2:19-21; 1 Cor. 12:12; 2 Sam. 7:12-13.*
 - B. Christ builds the church by building Himself into us, that is, by entering into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit*

into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul—Eph. 3:17.

C. This building, a mingling of God's divinity with our redeemed, resurrected, and uplifted humanity, becomes God's habitation and our habitation—a mutual abode—John 14:23; 15:4.

D. Eventually, this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem for eternity, in which God's redeemed are the tabernacle for God to dwell in, and God Himself is the temple for His redeemed to dwell in—Rev. 21:3, 22.

Day 3

IV. The Lord instructed Ezekiel to describe God's house to God's people so that they would be measured by the house and be ashamed of their iniquities—Ezek. 43:10-12:

A. It was God's intention to check the living and conduct of the people of Israel by the house; in the book of Ezekiel God measured His people by the temple:

1. Because the house of God was to be their regulation, God charged Ezekiel to show them the design of the house—v. 11.
2. The temple of God is a pattern, and if the people examine themselves in light of this pattern, they will know their shortcomings—vv. 10-12.
3. The living of the people must match the temple of God—1 Cor. 3:16-17.

B. We need to see from the book of Ezekiel that the requirements of the indwelling Christ are according to His house; everyone must be measured and checked according to the measurement of God's house—43:10:

1. Our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral

regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God—1 Tim. 3:15-16.

2. Our main concern should not be with behaving ourselves or with becoming spiritual but with fitting into God's house—1 Cor. 14:12:

Day 4

- a. We may not have “latticed windows,” which signify the fellowship of the life-giving Spirit keeping the opening for the divine communication and protecting from the invasion of all negative matters—Ezek. 40:16.
 - b. We need to check our humanity by the building and take the humanity of Jesus as our humanity—Phil. 2:5-8.
 - c. We may realize that we are still “smooth wood” that has not experienced God's “carving” and thus does not have the expression of Christ's glorious image and glorious victory, signified by the cherubim and palm trees carved into the walls—Ezek. 41:18.
 - d. We need to be measured to see if we are “wood” of an appropriate measure and are not independent but built in.
3. If what we are and what we do cannot match God's building, it amounts to nothing in the sight of God—Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 8:1b; 12:28—13:3; 16:14.

Day 5

C. “This is the law of the house: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the law of the house”—Ezek. 43:12:

1. To be on the mountain is to be in resurrection and in the position of ascension; this indicates that the church must be high, on the top of the mountain—Eph. 2:5-6.
2. The church must also be holy, separated and sanctified from anything worldly—1 Cor. 3:17.

3. The law of God's house is related to God's character:

a. God is a God of height, that is, in resurrection and ascension, and He is a God who is holy.

b. Likewise, in position the church is high, and in nature the church is most holy.

c. If in our church life we are in resurrection and in the position of ascension and if we are most holy, then we can be God's habitation.

D. Most believers today feel that moral regulations and spiritual principles are sufficient as rules of behavior and conduct; few realize that our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God—14:4-5, 12, 26; Rom. 14:19; 15:2.

E. Today the Lord's concern is not the law—it is the house; His concern is not spirituality—it is the church—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:12, 16:

1. The Lord cares for the church—the place of His throne, the place of the soles of His feet, and the place where He can dwell for rest and satisfaction—Ezek. 43:7.

2. Because the Lord cares so much for the church, His house, we also should care for the church as His house and fashion ourselves according to it—Eph. 2:21-22.

Day 6

V. The Body life is the greatest test of our spirituality; if we cannot pass the test of the Body life, our spirituality is not genuine—1 Cor. 12:23-27:

A. Spirituality is a Body matter; everything we have is in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body—Eph. 4:16.

B. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism—1

Cor. 12:21-22, 27; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30:

1. In the Body life, individualistic thought and action are ruled out.
 2. Individualism is hateful in the sight of God; the enemy of the Body is the self—the independent “I”—Matt. 16:21-26.
- C. We must keep the oneness of the Body and practice blending, which is most helpful in keeping the oneness of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:24b.*
- D. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ through the power of resurrection—Phil. 3:10.*
- E. The reality of the Body of Christ is in the resurrection life of Christ; the Body requires the believers to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10.*
- F. Only Christ is the Head of the Body, and only He has the authority to direct the moves of the members of the Body—Col. 1:18; 2:19; Eph. 4:15.*
- G. We need to be Body-conscious and to care for the feeling of the Body and the peace of the Body—1 Cor. 12:26-27; Rom. 12:15; Col. 3:15; Phil. 1:8.*
- H. A basic requirement for the growth and development of the Body is that we recognize our measure and not go beyond it—Eph. 4:7, 16; 2 Cor. 10:13.*
- I. The Body has its proper order; thus, we should recognize and honor the order in the Body—1 Cor. 12:14-22.*
- J. Mutuality is the characteristic of the Body; our relationship in the Body is one of mutuality and interdependence—vv. 14-25.*

- K. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 John 1:3.*
- L. We need to care for the growth of the Body and the Body's building up of itself in love—Eph. 4:15-16.*
- M. We should always consider the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do what is best for the Body—1 Cor. 12:23-27.*
- N. The overcomers see the Body, know the Body, care for the Body, honor the Body, and do the work of the Body; they keep every principle of the Body of Christ, as the continuation and extension of Christ on earth, for the full expression of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:18-19; 4:1-6.*

WEEK 8 – DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

2 Sam. 7:12-14 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son...

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.

Now we come to the last section of Ezekiel (chs. 40—48), which is concerned with the holy building of God. The three previous sections [of Ezekiel] are for the last section; that is, the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord are all for the holy building of God. We may even say that the issue of the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord is the building of God. God's eternal purpose is to have a building. Whatever God does among His people on earth is for His building. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 209)

Today's Reading

In 2 Samuel 7 David, like many of us, had the mistaken concept that God needed him to build something for Him. When some hear this they may wonder how this concept can be wrong since we today are endeavoring to build up the church. Is building the church not a matter of building something for God? To answer this question we need to realize that apparently we are the ones who are building the church, but actually God is the One who is building the church with Christ as the unique element. When we are about to do some building work by speaking for God, He may check with us, saying, "Do you intend to build My house? With what material will you build My house?" If we say that we are building up the church with Christ, God may ask us how much we have of Christ. This exposes our shortage of Christ. We need Christ not merely in name and in

knowledge; we need the real Christ, Christ as the Spirit in resurrection. We all need more and more of Christ.

We may have much knowledge of the Bible and be able to teach the Bible to others, but this is not the way to build up the church. The church is not built with the knowledge of the Bible. The church is built with Christ as the unique element. Many times, after trying to build up the saints with Christ, I have had to ask myself, “How much of Christ have you really ministered to the saints? Did you minister only doctrine and the high truths concerning God’s economy, or did you minister the real Christ, the genuine Christ, the reality of Christ in resurrection as the Spirit?” Then I had to confess my shortage of Christ and repent, saying, “Lord, forgive me. I am still short of You. I need You to be wrought into me. I need more of You to be constituted into my being.”

In 2 Samuel 7 David wanted to build God’s house, but in this chapter God wanted David to realize that he needed God to build Christ into him. Thus, 2 Samuel 7 is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us there is no need for us to build something for God. We simply are not able to do this. We cannot build something for God with ourselves or with our knowledge of the Bible and theology. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. As a result, we are not only changed, but we are transformed from one kind of person into another.

Perhaps now we can see that 2 Samuel 7 simply indicates that God does not need us to build anything for Him. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Therefore, we need Christ to be wrought into our being.

God’s economy is to work Himself into us in Christ as His embodiment.... We need to let God work Christ as the Spirit into every part of our being. The more God does this, the more we will be able to declare, “To me, to live is Christ,” and “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20). (Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, pp. 159-161)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 19; Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, msg. 24

WEEK 8 – DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Matt. 16:18 ...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

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

The New Testament verse that best indicates that Christ is building Himself into us is Ephesians 3:17. Here Paul says that Christ is making His home in our hearts. This is building. What is of crucial importance today is the question concerning how much of Christ has been built into us. How much has Christ been built not only into your spirit but into your heart in order to make His home there?

Our spirit, the central part of our being, is surrounded by our heart, which is composed mainly of our mind, emotion, and will. Christ is in our spirit, but how much has Christ made His home in our heart? Most of our hearts are still vacant, not occupied, saturated, and soaked with Christ. Every day our hearts are filled with other things. As a result, Christ is imprisoned in our spirit.

Ephesians 3 indicates strongly that the Triune God is building Himself into us in Christ's making us His home....By building Himself into our being, He makes our heart, our intrinsic constitution, His home. (Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, pp. 161-162)

Today's Reading

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus said, "I will build My church." But how is the church to be built? The church is built with the Triune God: with the Father as the source, with the Son as the element, and with the Spirit as the essence. This is clearly indicated in Ephesians 4:4-6. According to these verses, the whole church, the Body of Christ, is a mingling of the human frame with the Triune God as the

source, the element, and the essence. On the one hand, the gifted persons perfect the saints unto the work of the ministry so that the Body may build up itself in love. On the other hand, the processed and consummated Triune God as the source, the element, and the essence is building the church by building Himself into our being.

We need to have this realization as we are working for the Lord. It is not adequate simply to present to others some knowledge concerning God's economy and other divine, spiritual, and heavenly things. We need to dispense the Triune God into others. Through our prayer, fasting, repentance, and confession, the Triune God can fill us, saturate us, and mingle with us as our source, element, and essence. Then we can go with Him and work with Him. If we are filled with the Triune God, when we speak He will flow out and be ministered to others for their nourishment.

In 2 Samuel 7 God seemed to be saying..., "David, ...do not think that you should do something to build a house for Me. You need to realize that you need Me to build Myself into you as the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Then you will have a house, and that house will also be My house."

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus declared, "I will build My church." How does Christ build His church? He builds the church not merely by saving sinners and making them believers and members of Himself but by building Himself into them. When we believed in Christ, He came into us and began the work of gradually building Himself into our being.

God is working Himself in Christ into us to make a house not only for us but to us. This house will be both God's house and our house, a mutual abode. Eventually, the Triune God and redeemed humanity will be mingled, blended, and built up to be one entity, and this entity will be the New Jerusalem. If we see this, we will realize that all our problems today are due to one thing—our shortage of having God in Christ built into our being. Thus, our need today is not merely to be holy, spiritual, and overcoming. Our need is for God to carry out His building work within us. (Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, pp. 162-163, 192-193)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, msgs. 24, 29; A Thorough View of the Body of Christ, ch. 2; Life-study of Colossians, msg. 58

WEEK 8 – DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 43:10-11 You, O son of man, describe the house to the house of Israel, ...and let them measure the pattern....Make known to them the design of the house, its arrangement, its exits, its entrances, its whole design, and all its statutes...

1 Tim. 3:15 ...I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

The Lord did not charge Ezekiel to teach God's people the law and the Ten Commandments as He had charged Moses. Rather, He told Ezekiel to show God's house to the people. Here the Lord seemed to be saying, "From now on, it is a matter not of the dispensation of the law but of the dispensation of My house. Simply to keep the law is not good enough. You have to keep the form, the fashion, the ordinances, the statutes, the laws, the comings in, and the goings out related to the house. You should behave not merely according to the Ten Commandments but also according to My house" [cf. 1 Tim. 3:15]. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 280)

Today's Reading

The temple of God is a pattern, and if the people would examine themselves in light of this pattern, they would know their shortcomings. It was God's intention to check the living and conduct of the people of Israel by His house, His habitation, as a rule and pattern. The living of the people of God must match the temple of God. Showing the temple to God's people exposes their sins and shortcomings and causes them to be ashamed of their iniquities.

Most believers today feel that moral regulations and spiritual principles are sufficient as rules of behavior and conduct. Few realize that our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God.

The common, or lower, teachings in today's Christianity tell the believers how to behave, that is, what to do and what not to do. The believers are given many rules of conduct. There are also higher teachings which encourage the believers to be spiritual. These teachings are an improvement over the teachings regarding behavior. The Lord did not tell Ezekiel to show the law or spiritual principles to the house of Israel. Rather, the Lord charged Ezekiel to show His house to the house of Israel. Because the house was to be their regulation, the Lord charged Ezekiel to show them "the design of the house, its arrangement, its exits, its entrances, its whole design, and all its statutes—indeed its whole design and all its laws" (Ezek. 43:11).

Our main concern today should not be with behaving ourselves or even with becoming spiritual. Our concern should be with fitting into God's house, that is, with how we conduct ourselves in God's house. The Lord did not command Ezekiel to show the law, the Ten Commandments, to the house of Israel; neither did He command him to show the spiritual principles to the house of Israel. On the contrary, the Lord charged Ezekiel to show His house to the house of Israel.

Suppose a certain young man gets saved. Before he was saved, he treated his parents and his sister quite poorly. Now that he has been saved, he learns how to treat them with respect and to behave rightly and properly in relation to his father, mother, and sister. Later, he learns to be spiritual and to do things such as reckon himself dead. He is good in conduct, and in certain matters he is even spiritual; however, he is altogether independent. He is so independent that he is not willing to pray with others. Such a person, who is extremely independent, does not know anything about God's house. He does not care at all for the church. Everything he does is for himself individually; nothing is for the church, the Body, Christ's corporate expression. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 280-281)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 24; The Vision, Type, and Practice of the Building Up of the Church, chs. 2, 5-6

WEEK 8 – DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 40:16 And the guardrooms and their posts had latticed windows within and all around the gate. The porches also had windows within and all around, and palm trees were on each post.

Phil. 2:7-8 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

If [a] person is measured by the house, he will realize that he is lacking in many ways. For instance, he will realize that he does not have the windows, that is, the life-giving Spirit. He needs to have the windows by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus. The more he calls on the Lord's name, the more windows he will have. This brother also needs to be checked by and compared with the doors of the house. This may cause him to realize that he has many doors by which he can exit the church life. Concerning the church life, he may come and go as he pleases, coming in one day and going out the next. Although he has many doors, the temple does not have many doors. He does not have windows, but he has many doors, many ways to leave the church life. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 281-282)

Today's Reading

We all need to be checked by the building, the house, in our comings in and goings out. If we would come into the church life, we must come in through one gate. Then we need to progress inward and upward, ascending higher and higher. Once we reach the rear of the third story, we realize that we cannot escape, for there are no gates through which we can go out.

God measures His people by the temple. For example, in the temple the number six is used many times....The number six here, which is used with the wall, the entry, and other parts of the temple, signifies the humanity of the Lord

Jesus. This indicates that we need to check our humanity by the building and take the humanity of the Lord Jesus as our humanity.

Another example is related to the wood used in the temple. The wood that was used for a certain purpose had to be of an appropriate measure. This means that the wood had to keep its position and function accordingly. If a piece of wood were either larger or smaller than its prescribed measure, it would not fit properly into the building. In applying this to our experience in the church life today, we need to consider whether in our situation we match the measurements of God's temple. Suppose God wants you to measure three cubits. Do you match this measure, or are you either more or less than three cubits? A sister should stand on the position of a sister. If she presumes to stand on the position of a brother, she will not be within her measure, and this will not match the building or fit into it.

Yet another example of being measured by God's building involves the cherubim and the palm trees. If we are measured by the cherubim and palm trees carved into the walls, we will consider the matters of the expression of Christ's glorious image and the expression of Christ's victory. As one who is in the church life, do you have the image of Christ? Do you express the glory of Christ and the victory of Christ? Have you experienced God's "carving"? Do you have any wounds or scars which testify that God has been carving you? If we are measured by the temple in this way, we may realize that we are still "smooth wood," wood that does not have cherubim and palm trees carved into it.

A particularly important point is that in the building there are no independent pieces. Every piece of material has been built in. Every piece is related to others, and no piece is independent. What about you? Are you independent? Have you been built into the building? Do your form and fashion fit into the building? You may say that you like this and not that, but the question is not what you like or do not like but whether or not you fit into the building, into the church. Does your way fit in with the church life? (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 282-283)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 24

WEEK 8 – DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Ezek. 43:12 This is the law of the house: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the law of the house.

Eph. 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.

The law of the house can be summed up in two points: the house must be upon the top of the mountain, and it must be most holy [Ezek. 43:12]. To be on the mountain is to be in resurrection and in the position of ascension. This indicates that the church life must be high, on the top of the mountain. The church must also be holy, separated, and sanctified from anything worldly.

The law of the house, the law of the temple, is related to God's character. God is a God of height, and He is a God who is holy. Therefore, He wants His dwelling place also to be high and holy. Everything in the church life must be both high and holy, able to match the law of the temple.

Height is the position of the church, and sanctification is the nature of the church. In position the church is high; in nature the church is holy. We should not lower the church, and we should not make the church common. Rather, we must always respect the height of the church and regard the holiness of the church, knowing that in position the church is in resurrection and ascension and that in nature the church is most holy. (Life-study of Ezekiel, p. 285)

Today's Reading

Is your church life on the top of the mountain? Is your church life holy? We all need to check ourselves by these two aspects of the law of the house. If in our

church life we are in resurrection and in the position of ascension and if we are most holy, then we can be God's habitation.

Ezekiel was told that from that point on the house of Israel was to behave according to God's house. This indicates that today we should behave ourselves not according to certain teachings but according to the church. The church has to be our regulation. We need to be regulated by the fashion of the church, by the comings in and goings out of the church, by the ordinances, statutes, and laws of the church. This means that we should be God's people not according to the law of Moses but according to the form of the temple in Ezekiel.

Today the Lord's concern is not the law—it is the house. His concern is not spirituality—it is the church. The Lord cares for the church, that is, for the place of His throne, for the place of the soles of His feet, for the place where He can dwell for rest and satisfaction. Because the Lord cares so much for the church, His house, we also should care for the church as His house and fashion ourselves according to it. If we realize this, we will not care merely for teachings from the Bible or about the inner life. Likewise, we will not care for speaking in tongues or for a particular way to pray. Instead, we should care absolutely for the church and fashion ourselves according to the church, God's house. The church life, or the Body life, is the greatest test of real spirituality. If we cannot pass the test of the church life, our spirituality is not genuine.

We need to see from the book of Ezekiel that the requirement of the indwelling Christ is not according to the law but according to His house. Everyone must be measured and checked according to the measurement of God's house. We are not under the dispensation of the law; we are under the dispensation of the house. This is the age of the church, not the age merely of being spiritual. Now is the time for the church life. If what we are and what we do cannot fit into the church life, it amounts to nothing in the sight of God and may even be an abomination to Him, a kind of whoredom. Therefore, we need to fashion ourselves according to the church and allow the church to measure us and check us in every aspect. (Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 285, 283-284)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ezekiel, msg. 24; The Body of Christ, ch. 2; The Testimony and the Ground of the Church, ch. 5

WEEK 8 – 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.

1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

Everything we have is in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body. In 1925 Brother T. Austin-Sparks...met a sister [in America] who had learned many lessons through her illnesses and who had subsequently rendered much help to many people. She had a ministry of life and was a person who supplied others with life. The lessons she learned were learned in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body. This is the kind of person God is looking for today... May the Lord deliver us from individualism into the Body. (CWWN, vol. 44, "The Mystery of Christ," p. 848)

Today's Reading

Some Christians are like butterflies; they act independently. Others are like bees; they live and move together... The butterfly lives and works individually, but the bee has a body-consciousness. We should all be like bees, having the consciousness of the Body so that we can live together with other members in the Body of Christ. Wherever there is Body-revelation, there is Body-consciousness, and wherever there is Body-consciousness, individual thought and action are automatically ruled out. Seeing Christ results in deliverance from sin; seeing the Body results in deliverance from individualism... As soon as we see the Body, our life and work as individuals cease. It is not a matter of changing our attitude or conduct; revelation does the work. We cannot enter the realm of the Body by anything other than seeing.

The Head is Christ, and the Body is also Christ. Each member is a part of the life of Christ. If I refuse the help of my fellow members, I am refusing the help of

Christ. If I am not willing to acknowledge my need of them, I am not willing to acknowledge my need of Christ. Just as I cannot be independent from the Head, I cannot be independent from the Body. Individualism is hateful in the sight of God. What I do not know, another member of the Body will know; what I cannot see, another member of the Body will see; what I cannot do, another member of the Body will do.... We must avail ourselves constantly of the fellowship of the Body, for it is our very life.

In the physical body, any dislocation or disproportionate growth of the members hinders its functioning. This is also true in the Body of Christ. In the meeting no one will stop you from speaking. But you have to speak according to your measure of faith and according to the leading of the Spirit. You have to know whether there is any overstepping in your speaking, and you have to know whether your speaking is too long. Many believers crave to be outstanding Christians and outstanding workers, but if some become overdeveloped, others will be underdeveloped....When we truly come under the authority of the Head, He sets us in our special place in the Body and appoints us to our special function.

A member functions in the Body according to what he has received from the Lord. It is according to the “measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3, 6). At the same time, it is according to God’s assigned order. Therefore, we have to seek revelation and experience from Christ so that we can have something to supply the Body, and we have to know the order of the Body, which is God’s assigned pattern in the Body. We must be willing to be limited to our measure. As soon as we go beyond it, we go beyond the authority of the Head and move out from under the anointing.... The Body of Christ is an organic life; it operates without any human arrangement. All the members must receive life from the Head and function in proper order. If our relationship with the Head is proper, we will keep our place in the Body spontaneously. (CWWN, vol. 44, pp. 796-797, 801, 822-823)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 44, chs. 98-99, 103, 106; The Practical Points concerning Blending, chs. 2, 4-5; The Experience of Life, ch. 15; CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, “The Heavenly Vision,” chs. 3-4

WEEK 8 — HYMN

Freed from self and Adam's nature

The Church — Her Building

840

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: 1. Freed from self and A - dam's na - ture, Lord, I would be built by Thee With the saints in - to Thy tem - ple, Where Thy glo - ry we shall see. From pe - cu - liar traits de - liv - er, From my in - de - pen - dent ways, That a dwell - ing place for Thee, Lord, We will be thru all our days.

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

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

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

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

