

Message Two
**Learning the Secret of Doing All Things in Christ
as the Empowering One
for Us to Live Christ, Magnify Christ, and Gain Christ
for His Glory in the Church**

RA Hymns: 564, 784

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:19-21a; 2:2; 3:14; 4:6-8, 11-13

Phil 1:19	For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
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.
Phil 1:21a	For to me, to live is Christ ...
Phil 2:2	Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
Phil 3:14	I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
Phil 4:6	In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
Phil 4:7	And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
Phil 4:8	Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
Phil 4:11	Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
Phil 4:12	I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
Phil 4:13	I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

I. Paul learned the secret of doing all things in Christ as the empowering One—

Phil. 4:11b-13:

- Phil 4:11b ... for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- A. The phrase *learned the secret* indicates that Paul had come into a new situation, a new environment; whenever we are put in a new environment, we need to learn the secret of living in that environment.
- B. *I have learned the secret* literally means “I have been initiated”; the metaphor here refers to a person’s being initiated into a secret society with instruction in its rudimentary principles.
- C. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and into the Body of Christ; he then learned the secret of how to take Christ as life (Col. 3:4), how to live Christ (Phil. 1:21a), how to magnify Christ (v. 20), how to gain Christ (3:8, 12), and how to have the church life (1:8, 19; 2:1-4, 19-20; 4:1-3).
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
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.
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 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 Phil 2:1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,
 Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
 Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
 Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.
 Phil 2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged by knowing the things concerning you.
 Phil 2:20 For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you;
 Phil 4:1 So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.
 Phil 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.
 Phil 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

II. The believers are disciples, learners, who are learning the secret, which is to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus by allowing the Spirit of reality to guide them into all the reality of the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, a life in which Jesus did everything in God, with God, and for God; God was in His living, and He was one with God—John 16:13; Eph. 4:20-21:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

A. The followers of Christ were disciplined through Christ's human living on the earth as the model of a God-man—living God by denying Himself in His humanity (John 5:19, 30), revolutionizing their concept concerning man (Phil. 3:10; 1:21a).

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

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

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

B. Because Christ lived God by denying Himself in His humanity, He “learned obedience from the things which He suffered” (Heb. 5:8), “becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross” (Phil. 2:8).

C. We learn Christ (Matt. 11:29) according to His example, not by our natural life but by His life in resurrection, which is a life of obedience; a disciple is one who lives the divine life in his human life.

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

D. “I was in the recovery observing how Brother Watchman Nee acted for eighteen years. All that I observed in him became things disciplining me” (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1994-1997*, vol. 5, “The Vital Groups,” p. 76).

E. As the Lord's disciples, His learners, we are continually under His training as the grace of

God, who also appeared to us as “the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God”; this grace is “training us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”—Titus 3:4; 2:11-13.

Titus 2:3 Older women likewise to be in demeanor as befits those who engage in sacred things, not slanderers, nor enslaved by much wine, teachers of what is good,

F. Because the sisters in the church life are the Lord’s disciples, the older sisters should be one with the Lord to train the young sisters “to love their husbands, to love their children, to be of a sober mind, pure, workers at home, good, subject to their own husbands, that the word of God would not be blasphemed”—2:3-5.

G. As the Lord’s disciples, we need to obey the Lord’s word to “go and learn what this means”; God desires to show mercy to pitiful sinners, so He wants us to show mercy in love to others—Matt. 9:12-13; Micah 6:6-8; Mark 12:33.

Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.

Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Micah 6:6 With what shall I come before Jehovah / And bow myself before the high God? / Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, / With one-year-old calves?

Micah 6:7 Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, / With tens of thousands of rivers of oil? / Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, / The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah 6:8 He has declared to you, O man, what is good; / And what does Jehovah require of you, / But that you would execute justice and love mercy / And walk humbly with your God?

Mark 12:33 And to love Him from the whole heart and from the whole understanding and from the whole strength and to love one's neighbor as himself is much more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.

III. The secret in **Philippians 4** is to do all things in Christ as the One who empowers us—v. 13; *Hymns, #564*:

Phil 4 be omitted.

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

Hymns #564

1	I have learned the wondrous secret I have tasted life's pure fountain, I have found the strength and sweetness I have lost myself in Jesus, CHORUS I'm abiding in the Lord I am hiding in the bosom of His love. And confiding in His word,	Of abiding in the Lord; I am drinking of His word; Of abiding 'neath the blood; I am sinking into God. And confiding in His word; Yes, abiding in the Lord I am hiding in the bosom of His love.
2	I am crucified with Jesus, I have ceased from all my struggling, All my will is yielding to Him, And His precious blood each moment	And He lives and dwells with me; 'Tis no longer I, but He. And His Spirit reigns within; Keeps me cleansed and free from sin.
3	All my sicknesses I bring Him, All my fears and griefs I tell Him, All my strength I draw from Jesus, E'en His very mind He gives me,	And He bears them all away; All my cares from day to day, By His breath I live and move; And His faith, and life, and love.
4	For my words I take His wisdom, For my ways His ceaseless presence Of my heart, He is the portion, Savior, Sanctifier, Healer,	For my works His Spirit's power; Guards and guides me every hour. Of my joy the boundless spring; Glorious Lord, and coming King.

A. Paul was a man in Christ (2 Cor. 12:2a), and he desired to be found in Christ by others; in Philippians 4:13 he declared that he was able to do all things in Him, the very Christ who

empowered him; this is an all-inclusive and concluding word concerning his experience of Christ; it is the converse of the Lord's word in John 15:5 concerning our organic relationship with Him: "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

2 Cor 12:2a I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know; ...

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

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.

- B. Paul had been altogether in the Jewish religion under the law and had always been found by others in the law, but at his conversion he was transferred from the law and his former religion into Christ and became "a man in Christ"—2 Cor. 12:2a.

2 Cor 12:2a I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know; ...

- C. Now he expected to be found in Christ by all who observed him; this indicates that he aspired to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him might find him fully in Christ; only when we are found in Christ will Christ be expressed and magnified—Phil. 3:9a; 1:20.

Phil 3:9a And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, ...

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.

- D. On the one hand, by the empowering of Christ we can live a contented life (4:11-12); on the other hand, by the empowering of Christ we can be true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, and well spoken of (v. 8).

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

- E. Paul's word about Christ as the empowering One specifically applies to Christ's empowering us to live Him as our human virtues and thereby to magnify Him in His unlimited greatness; to live a life of these virtues is much more difficult than doing a Christian work.

IV. The practical way to do all things in Christ as the empowering One is seen in Philippians 4:6-7: "In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus":

- A. Christ Himself is the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding—Isa. 9:6; John 14:27; Luke 7:50; Rom. 3:17; 5:1; 8:6; 15:13; 16:20.

Isa 9:6 For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Luke 7:50 But He said to the woman, Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

Rom 3:17 And the way of peace they have not known.

Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

- Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- B. *To God* denotes motion toward, in the sense of a living union and communion, implying fellowship; hence, the sense of to God here is “in the fellowship with God”—Phil. 4:6.
 Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- C. The result of practicing fellowship with God in prayer is that we enjoy the peace of God; the peace of God is actually God as peace (v. 9) infused into us through our fellowship with Him by prayer, as the counterpoise to troubles and the antidote to anxiety (John 16:33).
 Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.
 John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.
- D. The God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil (cf. Isa. 30:15a); if we would have a life free of anxiety, we need to realize that all our circumstances, good or bad, have been assigned to us by God in order to serve us in fulfilling our destiny to gain Christ, live Christ, and magnify Christ (Rom. 8:28-30; Matt. 10:29-31; 2 Cor. 4:15-18).
 Isa 30:15a For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, / In returning and rest you will be saved; / In quietness and in trust will be your strength; ...
 Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
 Matt 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And not one of them will fall to the earth apart from your Father.
 Matt 10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.
 Matt 10:31 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.
 2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.
 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,
 2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

V. To learn the secret of doing all things in Christ as the empowering One is to “pray to fellowship with Jesus,” who is our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband (*Hymns, #784*); prayer that contacts God consists of words spoken genuinely from the heart:

Hymns #784

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| 1 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Ask and listen in His presence, | In the spirit seek His face;
Waiting in the secret place. |
| <i>CHORUS</i> | | |
| | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Ask and listen in His presence, | In the spirit seek His face;
Waiting in the secret place. |
| 2 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
With thy face unveiled, beholding, | Fully opened from within,
Single, pure, and genuine. |
| 3 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Learn to touch Him as the Spirit, | Seeking Him in confidence;
Looking up in reverence. |

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| 4 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Ask according to the spirit, | Speaking nothing in pretense;
Praying by the inner sense. |
| 5 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Be impressed with His intentions, | List'ning earnestly to Him;
Yielding to Him from within. |
| 6 | Pray to fellowship with Jesus,
Saturated with His beauty, | Bathing in His countenance;
Radiate His excellence. |

A. We may be in a situation of sorrow, depression, and disappointment; we should bring our problems to the Lord and tell Him about them; He is the best listener; He knows our emotion, and He sympathizes with our heart; He can comfort us and help us.

B. We should realize that when we have a thorough talk with the Lord and pour out our heart to Him, our intimacy with the Lord is one step further, and we know Him a little more; intimate contact with Him at these times is hundreds of times better than our ordinary fellowship with Him; it is by these contacts that we grow in life—Psa. 62:6-8; 56:8; cf. 1 Sam. 1:15.

Psa 62:6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, / My high retreat; I will not be shaken.

Psa 62:7 On God my salvation and my glory depend; / The rock of my strength, my refuge, is in God.

Psa 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; / Pour out your heart before Him; / God is a refuge to us. Selah.

Psa 56:8 You have counted my wanderings. / Put my tears into Your bottle. / Are they not in Your book?

1 Sam 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord. I am a woman oppressed in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before Jehovah.

C. If a person has never shed tears before the Lord, never shared his joy or sorrow with the Lord, and never talked with the Lord about his private matters, he has never had any intimate fellowship with the Lord, and he has never had any deep acquaintance with the Lord; one can only be drawn closer to the Lord through telling Him everything.

D. He is sympathetic to every one of our problems; our Lord is willing to bear all our anxieties, and He is happy to listen to our speaking; in order to enjoy Him as the living water of life, we need to speak to Him as our spiritual rock—Num. 20:8; 1 Cor. 10:4; Exo. 17:6; *Hymns*, #248.

Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather the assembly, you and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, so that it yields its water. Thus you shall bring forth water for them out of the rock and give the assembly and their livestock something to drink.

1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Exo 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Hymns #248

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| 1 | Fainting in the desert,
At the rock of Kadesh.
Speak to the Rock,
Strike not its bosom
Speak to the Rock, | Israel's thousands stand
Hark! the Lord's command,
Bid the waters flow,
Opened long ago.
Till the waters flow. |
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CHORUS

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| 2 | Blessed Rock of Ages,
Thy blest Holy Spirit
Still Thou dost say,
Call for the Spirit,
Speak to the Rock | Bid the waters flow,
Given long ago;
Freely to bestow,
All Thy being know.
Thou art open still;
All our being fill;
Wherefore struggle so?
Whisper soft and low,
Bid the waters flow. |
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3	Oh, for trust more simple, Oh, for hearts more childlike, E'en as a babe, So on Thy bosom Filled with Thy life,	Fully to believe; Freely to receive; On its mother's breast, Let my spirit rest, With Thy blessing blest
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E. The title of Psalm 102 says, “A Prayer of an afflicted one, when he is fainting and pours out his complaint before Jehovah”; we may complain to God, but our complaining may be the best prayer, the most pleasant prayer to God; while we are complaining, God is rejoicing because He is causing all things to work together for good that we may be conformed to the image of His Son—Rom. 8:28-29.

Psa 102:1 O Jehovah, hear my prayer; / And let my cry come unto You.
 Psa 102:2 Do not hide Your face from me / On the day of my distress; / Incline Your ear to me; / On the day when I call out, answer me quickly.
 Psa 102:3 For my days are consumed in smoke, / And my bones burn like a hearth.
 Psa 102:4 My heart is stricken like grass and dried up; / Indeed I have even forgotten to eat my bread.
 Psa 102:5 Because of the voice of my groaning / My bones cling to my flesh.
 Psa 102:6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness; / I have become like an owl of the desolate places.
 Psa 102:7 I watch, and I am like / A lone sparrow on a housetop.
 Psa 102:8 All day long my enemies reproach me; / Those who deride me use me as a curse.
 Psa 102:9 For I have eaten ashes like bread, / And have mixed my drink with weeping,
 Psa 102:10 Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; / For You have taken me up and cast me away.
 Psa 102:11 My days are like a shadow that declines, / And I am dried up like grass.
 Psa 102:12 But You, O Jehovah, abide forever; / And Your memorial is from generation to generation.
 Psa 102:13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion, / For it is time to be gracious to her; the appointed time has come.
 Psa 102:14 For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, / And show favor to her soil.
 Psa 102:15 And the nations will fear the name of Jehovah, / And all the kings of the earth, Your glory;
 Psa 102:16 For Jehovah has built up Zion; / He has appeared in His glory.
 Psa 102:17 He has regarded the prayer of the destitute, / And has not despised their prayer.
 Psa 102:18 This will be written for a generation to come, / And a people to be created will praise Jehovah.
 Psa 102:19 For He has looked down from the height of His sanctuary; / From heaven Jehovah beheld the earth,
 Psa 102:20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner, / To release those appointed to die;
 Psa 102:21 That the name of Jehovah may be declared in Zion, / And His praise, in Jerusalem,
 Psa 102:22 When the peoples are gathered together, / And the kingdoms, to serve Jehovah.
 Psa 102:23 He has weakened my strength in the way; / He has shortened my days.
 Psa 102:24 I said, My God, / Do not take me away in the middle of my days; / Your years are throughout all generations.
 Psa 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, / And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
 Psa 102:26 They will perish, but You endure; / Indeed all of them will wear out like a garment; / Like clothing You will change them, / And they will be changed.
 Psa 102:27 But You are the same, / And Your years are without end.
 Psa 102:28 The children of Your servants will continue, / And their seed will be established before You.
 Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

F. Psalm 73 is a record of the sincere prayer of the seeking psalmist who was nearly stumbled by his own suffering and by the prosperity of the wicked; he considered that he had purified

his heart in vain because, instead of enjoying material prosperity, he was plagued all day long and chastened every morning—vv. 12-16:

Psa 73:1 Surely God is good to Israel, / To those who are pure in heart.
Psa 73:2 But as for me, my feet were nearly turned aside; / My steps had almost slipped.
Psa 73:3 For I was envious of the arrogant, / When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
Psa 73:4 For they have no pangs in their death, / And their body is well nourished.
Psa 73:5 They do not find themselves in the hardship of men, / Nor are they plagued like other men.

Psa 73:6 Therefore pride is a necklace for them, / Violence covers them like a garment.
Psa 73:7 Their eyes bulge out from fatness; / The imaginations of their heart overflow.
Psa 73:8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; / They speak loftily.
Psa 73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, / And their tongue walks about on the earth.

Psa 73:10 Therefore His people return here, / And waters of abundance are drained by them;
Psa 73:11 And they say, How does God know? / And is there knowledge with the Most High?
Psa 73:12 Behold, these are the wicked; / And always at ease, they heap up riches.
Psa 73:13 Surely I have purified my heart in vain, / And I have washed my hands in innocence.
Psa 73:14 For I have been plagued all day long / And chastened every morning.
Psa 73:15 If I had said, I will speak thus; / Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

Psa 73:16 When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight,
Psa 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end.
Psa 73:18 Surely You set them in slippery places; / You cast them down into ruins.
Psa 73:19 How they are made desolate in a moment! / They are utterly consumed by terrors.
Psa 73:20 Like a dream, when one awakes, You, O Lord, / Upon arising, will despise their image.

Psa 73:21 When my heart was embittered, / And inwardly I was pricked;
Psa 73:22 I was brutish and knew nothing; / I was like a beast before You.
Psa 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; / You have taken hold of my right hand.
Psa 73:24 You will guide me with Your counsel, / And afterward You will receive me in glory.
Psa 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.

Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.
Psa 73:27 For behold, those who are far from You will perish; / You destroy all who go about as harlots away from You.

Psa 73:28 But as for me, drawing near to God is good for me; / I have made the Lord Jehovah my refuge, / That I may declare all Your works.

1. The solution to the psalmist's perplexity concerning the prosperity of the wicked was obtained in God's sanctuary (v. 17); first, God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit (Eph. 2:22) and, second, it is the church (1 Tim. 3:15); to go into the sanctuary of God is to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church and the meetings of the ministry; in our spirit and in the church we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems.

Psa 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end.
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, 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.

2. Through his honest conversation with the Lord and his entering into God's sanctuary, the Lord's seeker was eventually enlightened by the Lord to the extent that he was able to say to Him, "Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth. / My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever"—Psa. 73:25-26.
3. God's intention with His seekers is that they may find everything in Christ and not be distracted from the absolute enjoyment of Christ; God's ultimate desire in His

economy is for us to live Christ, magnify Christ, and gain Christ for His glory in the church—Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:7-8; Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor. 10:31; 6:20; 1 Pet. 4:11; Eph. 3:16-21.

- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- 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.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- 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
- Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.
- 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- 1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.
- 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- 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 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.