

Lesson 50

10.3. Church and Tri-Unity

- In the last lesson, we began studying our period: the Church Age, also known as the Age of Grace. We examined the foundations of this period: the Gospel and the Church. To understand what the Church is, we also studied the Universal Church (*the invisible Church seen by God*), the Local Church (*the visible Church in which we participate locally in our city*), and how teaching applies to the Church and to individuals.

⇒ Galatians 4:1~7

- After Jesus' sacrifice, death and resurrection, the adult phase of God's plan began. During the period of the law, we studied that one of the reasons the law was given was to act as a *guardian*. Israel was already in this phase of the plan and walking with God; they should have progressed from being an infant to an adult. When the time was right, Jesus came, and the younger son should become an older son. Jesus came, fulfilled the law and died in place of lawbreakers, thereby vindicating everyone before God. The law would then be removed as a regulator of life and Israel would receive the Spirit, beginning a life of spiritual adulthood in their relationship with God.
- However, the nation of Israel said no: '*We do not accept or recognize the Messiah*'. What happened then? Israel's spiritual adulthood was postponed, and God began a new program: the program of the Church.
- What was Israel's relationship with God like in the beginning? Do you remember how the Jews related to God? Two intermediaries were needed: an animal to be sacrificed and a priest to offer the sacrifice and its blood. People could not go straight to God because they would die. They only went as far as the first altar, from then on only the priests could enter, and in the Holy of Holies only the high priest entered once a year; there was a veil separating them and only the high priest could pass through. That was Israel's relationship with God.
- And now, what is the church's relationship with God like? What is our relationship as saved individuals with God like?

⇒ Matthew 27:50~51

When the veil of the sanctuary was torn, God came out of the Holy of Holies to dwell with the people, he was free. Therefore, our relationship with the Tri-Unity of God today is completely different from what it was with the nation of Israel in the OT.

God the Father

- What do we call God? Father, **He is God the Father**. We've created an idea of a tough, revengeful God who wants to '*catch us in the act*'. He is tender, he is loving, he is Father.
 ⇒ Galatians 4:4~7; '*Receive the adoption as sons.*'
 ⇒ John 1:12; '*We become children of God.*'
 ⇒ Luke 11:11~13
- It is true that God the Father disciplines us because he loves us. However, he is still our Father.
 ⇒ Hebrews 12:5~11; '*God deals with you as with sons.*'

- **Father!** Think about it. Perhaps you have a negative perception of fathers because your own father was difficult to relate to. However, if we search the Bible, we will see that our relationship with God transcends the concept of fatherhood as we know it. If God is our Father and spared not even his own son for our sake, won't he give us everything we ask for? He was God the Father in the Old Testament, but he wasn't our Father. Today, he is our Father: '*Our Father in heaven...*'. Our Father! Remember this firmly.

Jesus

- What about our relationship with Jesus? The New Testament describes our relationship with Jesus Christ in seven different ways.
 - **Jesus is the shepherd**, and we the sheep of his pasture.
 - ⇒ **Psalm 23:1~6**
 - ⇒ **John 10:1~30**

The shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, who hear his voice and follow him. Some people worry about which way to go, submitting to all kinds of doctrines and idolatries. '*My sheep hear my voice and follow me.*' Jesus is the shepherd.
 - **Jesus is the vine**, and we are the branches.
 - ⇒ **John 15:1~7**

The branch depends on the vine because the sap that nourishes the branches comes from the root. Jesus nourishes us, which is why he says, '*without Me you can do nothing*'.
 - **Jesus is the cornerstone**, and we are the building stones.
 - ⇒ **I Peter 2:1~10**
- Look at these figures that the Bible shows us as representing our relationship with Jesus Christ. They are figures that can only exist together; they are inseparable. If you cut off the branches of the vine, they die; if you remove the stones from a building, it becomes debris; if you remove the sheep or the shepherd, the sheep are lost and the shepherd without sheep is no longer a shepherd.

Sheep are very limited animals; without a shepherd, they are easy prey for wolves. If a sheep gets lost, it stays lost and doesn't return to its rightful place. If a sheep is injured, it stands still until it dies. This is why Isaiah uses the metaphor of the sheep to describe Jesus' death.

 - ⇒ **Isaiah 53:7**; '*As a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He (Jesus) opened not His mouth*'.
 - **Jesus is the High Priest**, and we are the Kingdom of Priests.
 - ⇒ **Hebrews 4:14~16**
 - ⇒ **Revelation 1:5~6**
 - **Jesus is the last and new Adam**, and we are the new creation.
 - ⇒ **Revelation 1:17**; '*I am the First and the Last*'.
 - ⇒ **Revelation 22:13**; '*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*'
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 15:45~49**
 - ⇒ **I Peter 2:9~10**

- **Jesus is the head**, and we are the body. This is the most commonly used figure of speech.
 - ⇒ **Ephesians 4:1~16**
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 12:12~31**
 - ⇒ **Romans 12:1~8**

When we read the metaphor of the Church as a body in the Bible, we should think of a human body with a head, a body that is huge and whose head is in heaven. This is the Church: Christ is the head who leads the Church. Not a single movement of the body or decision is made without the head's consent: *'For without me you can do nothing.'* ⇒ **Ephesians 1:15~23**

- **Jesus is the bridegroom**, and the Church is the bride; without a bridegroom there is no bride and vice versa.
 - ⇒ **Ephesians 5:22~27**; Jesus is preparing his Church, his bride.
 - ⇒ **II Corinthians 11:2**; To present to him as a pure virgin.
 - ⇒ **Revelation 19:7~9**; *'And His wife has made herself ready'*

- All of these figures use complementary parts; one cannot exist without the other. Jesus chose to be complete only by being with his Church, and these figures demonstrate that. The fact that Jesus is only complete with his Church is tremendous!

Holy Spirit

- There are four works that the Holy Spirit does in us which demonstrate our relationship with him, and they are as follows:
 - **The new birth**. When we are born again (whether you knew it or not, He has already done this work in you if you are born again), you become a new creation generated by the Holy Spirit. He is the seed that begot you. The Bible says that I am born again, but I am born of the Spirit
 - ⇒ **John 3:1~8**; The new birth, we are born of the Spirit.
 - **We are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit**. What is born in us as soon as we are born into the new race? A new spirit is born. Who comes to dwell with this new spirit? The Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Every saved person has the Holy Spirit dwelling in their new spirit. The Holy Spirit is within you; it is part of you; it is the only option (there is no alternative); the Holy Spirit dwells in your new spirit.
 - ⇒ **John 14:16~17**; *'You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.'*
 - ⇒ **I Corinthians 6:12~20**; Our body is the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit.
 - **We are baptized into the body of Christ**. When you are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you instantly, giving you a new spirit. This is the new birth. The Holy Spirit automatically places you in the body of Christ — the Universal Church, which is invisible to us but visible to God. This is called the baptism of the Spirit, and it is the Holy Spirit who places you in the body of Christ. 'Baptism' means 'to immerse'; therefore, the Holy Spirit immerses you in the body of Christ.
 - ⇒ **Mark 16:16**; *'He who believes and is baptized will be saved...'*, here, the Bible is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ; it is not a reference to water baptism.

- **We are sealed and have a pledge.** You are born of the Spirit; the Spirit dwells within you and places you in the body of Christ. Therefore, God seals you with the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is our seal. How does God recognize his church? Imagine a large quantity of goods, *for example*. You put aside the goods that are yours and identify them with a mark or a seal. Then, when we look at all the goods, you say: *'All those sealed with my seal are mine; no one else can lay their hands on them.'*

When God looks at the world, He recognizes those who belong to Him and His church through the seal of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is both the seal and the pledge. What is a pledge? What does it mean to pledge something? It is a guarantee. We have a person from the Trinity truly dwelling in us, and this person belongs to heaven. He guarantees that we will go to heaven or that heaven will come to us.

⇒ **Ephesians 1:13~14;** We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who serves as a guarantee of our inheritance.

⇒ **II Corinthians 1:21~22;** God has sealed us and placed the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

⇒ **II Timothy 2:19;** Having this seal: the Lord knows his own.

Therefore, through the Holy Spirit, we are **born, baptized, inhabited and sealed**.
HALLELUJAH!

- Have you considered our position in relation to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit after being saved by Christ? Does it make sense for us to be '*desperate*', to '*whining*' and to always run from the Devil? The Church of Jesus Christ holds this position! Is there any point in keeping our faces '*tied*' or defeated? We will have sorrows and tribulations, but we won't be defeated or fall to the ground.

⇒ **John 16:32~33;** *'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'*

⇒ **II Corinthians 4:7~10**

- We're going to have problems, but we're not going to keep saying, '*Oh, all that?*' If we realize our position in Jesus, the Holy Spirit and God the Father – *who we are in them* – we will never be discouraged. We may fall, but we will get up; we may grieve, but we know it is temporary; problems may come, but we know how to solve them. We have authority in Jesus Christ and in Jesus' name. The church must understand and practice this. We must wake up, stand up, and take our rightful place. We must stop following men and women because of the way they pray. No church! Every one of us has a unique position and relationship with the Trinity. We must recognize this, read the Bible and say: '*Holy Spirit, reveal this truth to me and free me from every lie so that I can stop running from the Devil*'.
⇒ **II Timothy 2:26.**

- *We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us* (⇒ **Romans 8:37**), *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ* (⇒ **II Corinthians 2:14**). *Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* (⇒ **James 4:7**). So why are we running away from him? No, we must recognize our position.

But we are often afraid of the position we have to take. It's the most wonderful position on earth. Do you know why we are afraid? It's because we live looking only at ourselves and what is around us, focusing on our *'little things'*. We must broaden our vision and look at the Kingdom.

⇒ **Luke 9:23~25;**

'For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it'.

⇒ **Luke 9:57~62;**

'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'

If we continue to sacrifice what we perceive as life, we will never experience the true life that God offers. Read The Word of God and declare, *'This is it; this is how I want to live.'* Surrender everything. We all have our idols – give them up! We all have our priorities – we need to be clear with God about them.

⇒ **John 4:1~30**

- When the woman from Samaria came to talk to Jesus, he identified her weak spot. He said: *'Go and call your husband.'* This was the woman's idol: a life after sex. God gets straight to the point: we don't have to be slaves to anything, so let go. *Jesus set us free – we were set free for freedom.* ⇒ **Galatians 5:13.**

⇒ **Mark 10:17~31**

- When the rich young man came to talk to Jesus, he had everything *'right'*: I mean no harm to anyone. *'All this I have kept since my youth.'* He was a great theologian with theology on the tip of his tongue! Then the young man asked Jesus, *'Lord, what must I do to follow you?'* Jesus replied: *'Sell everything you have and follow me.'* What happened? The young man was sad because he was so rich that he didn't have the courage. *'Children, how difficult it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!'*
- Jesus put his finger *'in those wounds'* of the young man and woman, which were the problems holding them back. The woman immediately let go of her problem, but the young man lacked the courage. He left feeling sad, while the woman left feeling happy and went to tell the townspeople about Jesus. This is what happens when we break free from our *'prisons'* and want to share our experience of God with others.
- We need to come to the Father in the name of Jesus with the awareness of who we are in Christ and tell Him everything we are feeling. Whatever the Holy Spirit reveals to us that is hindering our relationship with God, we must approach the Father and ask for deliverance. Come before God with everything and say: *'I want to be set free! I want to let go of everything holding me back!'* This will not be easy, but if we do this, we will experience true life and the purpose God has for us. This will only happen when we have a personal relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and talk to the Holy Spirit throughout the day as you would to someone next to you.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within us. Wherever you go, you take the Holy Spirit with you. You have no choice in the matter. He has been given to us to direct us in all things and to teach us the truth.

- ⇒ **John 14:26**; *The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.*
- ⇒ **John 16:7~13**; *The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.*
- ⇒ **I John 2:18~29**; *The anointing (which is the Holy Spirit) teaches you about all things.*

- We are 'obsessed' with the God of Sunday and the Holy Spirit, but only when it's time to receive the gift of the Spirit in a powerful meeting. True life with God is ordinary, day-to-day life, but totally supernatural. That's what we must pursue. We must go to work and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in everything. You, young man or woman, must go to school and declare that you are a witness for the Lord Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit, who is with you, to help you do this and to help you learn the teachings better. The Church's mistake is that it neither knows nor experiences; when it gets home, it forgets everything and leaves it until next Sunday.
- Experiencing life with God on a daily basis is true life, not just a few spectacular moments. It means having an intimate relationship with God in all things: a life of adoration and appreciation for God Himself. Remembering that the Holy Spirit dwells in you should be more important than anything else you value. Every time I remember this, it should give me great joy: '*How wonderful that the Holy Spirit dwells in me*'; '*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*'; nothing can frighten me; I can accomplish anything for God on this earth. We should act this way, rather than remaining in that religiosity that gets us nowhere, dragging on from Sunday to Sunday.

⇒ **Romans 8:31~39**

- Our position in the Tri-Unity of God is wonderful. We have come to this study at the right time, and we are going to truly understand who we are. It's not just about understanding who we are; it's about understanding and being who we are. I am going to be what God says I am in Jesus' name. **Amen.**