

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING LIFE

Session Four

The Growth of Life and the Experience of Life and Living a Normal Christian Life

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9; 1 Cor. 8:1; 13:2; Eph. 3:19; 4:13; Rom. 8:6; 2 Cor. 4:16; Phil. 2:12-16; Rom 8:9-11; 13, 26; Rev. 2:4-5; 3:14-16; Psa. 119:147-148; 2 Tim. 1:6a; Rom. 12:11; 1 John 1:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:19-21; John 7:37-39

Outline

I. The growth of life and the experience of life:

A. What is *not* the growth of life:

1. Man, by his own determination and effort, can improve considerably in behavior and yet still be very immature and weak in the life of God; this is because his improvement is not the result of his growth in life; therefore, growth of life is not the improvement of behavior.
2. The increase of a believer's spiritual knowledge alone simply causes men to be puffed up and is nothing before God and has no value in life; thus, growth of life is not the increase of knowledge—John 5:39-40; 1 Cor. 8:1; 13:2.

B. What is the growth of life:

1. Life is God Himself, and to experience life is to experience God; therefore, the growth of life is the increase of the element of God in us, until all that is of the Godhead is completely formed in us that we may be filled unto all the fullness of God—Eph. 3:19.
2. When we love Christ, seek Christ, and allow Christ to live in us more and thereby gain us, the stature of Christ gradually increases within us; since this life is Christ who lives in us, the growth of this life is therefore the increase of the stature of Christ within us—Eph. 4:13; Col. 2:19.
3. When we pursue more urgently the working of the Holy Spirit within us and give diligence in obeying the teaching of the Holy Spirit within us as the anointing, the Holy Spirit can then expand His ground extensively; thus life within us will grow to a great extent; therefore, the growth of life means also that the ground of the Holy Spirit has expanded within us.
4. If a believer has really grown in life, his speech, actions, living or working must all impart the sense that they are not according to himself, but according to God, which also means that the human element has decreased and the element of God has increased; thus, the growth of life is not only the increase of the element of God, but also the decrease of the element of man—John 3:30.

C. The way to grow in life is to be filled with the Spirit every day and by living according to the Spirit and remaining in the fellowship of life, and by fleeing all negatives things and overcoming all the hindrances to life—1 Thes. 5:16-19; 2 Tim. 2:22.

D. What is the experience of life:

1. To experience God—God Himself flowing into us, being received and experienced by us is life; an experience which results from God passing through man and man passing through Him is considered an experience of life—Phil. 2:13-16.

2. To experience Christ—to let Christ live both within us and out from us; to take Christ as life and thus to live by Christ; to experience Christ means that all our living and actions are Christ Himself living out and acting out from us—Gal. 2:20.
3. To experience the Spirit—all our experiences of life, whether deep or shallow, are produced by the Spirit; therefore they are all experiences of the Spirit of life.

II. Living a normal Christian life:

- A. To live a normal Christian life the first and most important thing is loving the Lord; if we love the Lord, we surely will be filled with Him; whatever fills us within will come out of us; when we love the Lord, He will fill us—Mark 12:30.
- B. To live a normal Christian life we must be revived every morning; our Christian life begins anew every day in the morning; we must enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start of each day—Psa. 119:147-148.
- C. To live a normal Christian life we must be overcoming every day.
- D. To live a normal Christian life we also must abide in the fellowship with the Lord daily and hourly—1 John 1:6; 2 Cor. 13:14.
- E. For us to live a normal Christian life we must be praying persons; this means that we have to call on His name; such a short calling means a lot to our Christian life; by calling on the name of the Lord, we can pray unceasingly—1 Thes. 5:17.
- F. To live a normal Christian life we also must learn to walk by and according to our spirit mingled with the Spirit; after having a good start in the morning, we should continue to walk, to live, to do everything by this mingled spirit and with this mingled spirit all day long; we must learn to practice this—Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- G. To live a normal Christian life we must live Christ for His magnification by the bountiful supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ, and this bountiful supply is right within us—Phil. 1:19-21; Gal. 2:20.

FOCUS: *The burden of this lesson is to bring the young people into a clear revelation of what is life and what is not life. We also want to show them what the real experiences of life are. We also want to help them build up the healthy life practices that will cause them to grow normally in the divine life.*

READING MATERIALS:

The Knowledge of Life, chapters 12, 2

Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, chapter 3

Further Talks on the Knowledge of Life, chapter 18

Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life, chapters 15-16

Questions

1. What is the growth of life?
2. Explain the difference between the growth of life and self improvement.
3. When we baptize people, what should we help them realize?
4. What should we experience as a normal outcome of prayer and reading the Bible and spiritual books?
5. What is the way to be filled with the Lord?

6. Give several illustrations used in the Bible to show how we grow in life.
7. What is the definition of an experience of life? Have you had such an experience? If so, describe it.
8. What is the most important thing in a normal Christian life?
9. Give an example of how can we have a new start every morning.
10. How can we have a victorious Christian life? Itemize the things we must overcome in our daily walk.
11. Give a list of ten verses describing how to have a normal Christian life.

Memory Verses

- Col. 2:19** And 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.
- Eph. 3:17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.
- 2 Cor. 3:16-18** But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Col. 3:15-16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.
- 1 John 2:27** And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- 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.

Notes
