

# KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING LIFE

## Session Seven

### Clearance of the Past and Dealing with Sins

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 5:17; Luke 19:1-10; Acts 19:18-19; Rom. 8:5-6; Matt. 5:23-26;  
1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Luke 19:8; Lev. 5:14-16

#### Outline

##### I. The clearance of the past:

- A. There is no clear teaching in the Scripture concerning the clearance of the past, but there are two very good examples: one is found in Luke 19 and the other is in Acts 19.
- B. There are four categories of the things of the past that need to be cleared up; after we have been saved, there needs to be a clearing up and conclusion of these matters:
  1. Unrighteous matters—Unrighteous means unjust, illegal; all we have obtained in the past by unjust, illegal means and all illegitimate relations with others and unjust dealings toward others are things we should clear up.
  2. Improper matters—Improper means that the very nature of a certain thing or matter is improper or indecent.
  3. Evil and unclean matters—Evil and unclean matters are things related to idols, such as graven or portrait idols, or candlesticks and censers used in idol worship.
  4. Old ways of living—Old ways of living refer to our entire old manner of living before we were saved; after we are saved, we should put an end to our whole former manner of living and have a new beginning—Luke 19:8-9; Acts 19:18-19.
- C. The basis of the clearance of the past is not according to the demand of outward regulations but according to the moving of the Spirit within—2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4.
- D. Life and peace are the degree to which we are required to clear the past; if we follow the demand of our inner sense to restore what we owe, to confess our sins, to eliminate improper, demonic, and dirty things, and to end our old way of living, we will have the sense that we are strengthened, enlightened, satisfied, and enlivened; we will also have the sense of peace, security, and God's full presence.

##### II. Dealing with sins:

- A. We see from the scriptures (Matthew 5:23-26; 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13) how we are to deal with sins: towards men, we must be reconciled with them and agree with them; towards God, we must confess our sins; and concerning sin, we must forsake it; this is what we mean by dealing with sins.
- B. The object of our dealing with sins is the sins themselves; there are two aspects with regard to sin: the nature of sin within and the action of sin without; the dealing with sins of which we are speaking is our dealing with the sins which we commit outwardly, the sins in our actions.
- C. Our object in dealing with sins includes all the sins we have committed; God does not require us to deal with all the sins at once, but to deal with all those that we are conscious of while in fellowship with Him.
- D. The limit of our dealing with sins is similar to that of our clearance of the past; it is life and peace; when we deal with sins, we should do it until we have life and peace within.
- E. The practice of dealing with sins depends on who we have sinned against; if we have offended God, we must deal with it before God and ask His forgiveness; if we have sinned

against man, we should deal with it before man by asking man's forgiveness and recompensing for any losses.

- F. Since dealing with sins has such a close relationship with our spiritual life, we should endeavor to experience this lesson continuously; although this experience is not a deep one, yet no one can be so spiritual as to say that they have no need to deal with sins—1 John 1:8-9.

**FOCUS:** *The burden of this lesson is to help the young people into a life of dealing with the obstacles to the experience and enjoyment of Christ. The most basic dealings involve dealing with our past and dealing with our sinful actions. This is a good place for the young people to begin their dealings with the Lord.*

### **READING MATERIALS:**

*The Experience of Life*, chapters 2, 4

*Life Lessons*, Lesson 3

*Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*, chapters 10-11

*Basic Principles of the Experience of Life*, chapter 13

### **Questions**

1. What are the four categories of the matter of clearance the past?
2. What is the basis of the clearance of the past? How should we lead others to end their past?
3. To what degree should we proceed in ending our past?
4. Give an example from the Bible of the clearance of the past.
5. Share one experience you had on clearance of the past.
6. What is the difference between sin and sins?
7. What is the basis of our dealing with sins?
8. To what extent should we deal with sins?
9. When does God forgive our sins?
10. List five verses that show a practical dealing of our sins.

### **Memory Verses**

- 2 Cor. 5:17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
- Rom. 8:5-6** For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Prov. 28:13** He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
- Psa. 66:18** If I regarded iniquity in my heart, / The Lord did not hear.