

Special Fellowship for the Churches in Canada

November 8, 2020

Renewal, Revival, and Restoration

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:16, 10-11; Titus 3:5b; Eph. 4:23; Rev. 21:2; Hab. 3:2; Hosea 6:2; Psalms 80:3, 7, 18-19; Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:20-22; Rev. 11:15; 12:5, 10-12

I. We all need to be renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16, 10-11; Titus 3:5b; Psalms 103:5:¹

- A. God is ever fresh and ever new—Hosea 14:8, and note 1; 2 Cor. 5:17; *Hymns*, #16:²
 - 1. Our God is a renewing God, who is always new and is even newness itself—Rev. 21:5.³
 - 2. All the new items in the New Testament, such as the new heart, the new mind, the new man, and the new creation, are new because God has been wrought into them—Ezek. 36:26; Eph. 2:15; Gal. 6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17.⁴
 - 3. We are renewed day by day by being constituted with God as the element of newness within us—4:16.⁵
- B. We are renewed by the cross, the Holy Spirit, the mingled spirit, and the Holy Word:⁶
 - 1. The cross is the greatest help to accomplish the renewing for us—vv. 10-11.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit's main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day—Titus 3:5.
 - 3. Our spirit is the place where we receive the renewing; we have to learn how to turn to our spirit, which is our refuge, our hiding place, to receive the renewing—Eph. 4:23.
 - 4. The Lord cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word; washing is a synonym of renewing—5:26.
- C. We are being renewed through sufferings to be a new creation—2 Cor. 4:16, 10-11.⁷
- D. We need to enjoy the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection day by day; this requires us to contact God, to receive God, and to allow God to add Himself into us all day long—Matt. 6:6; Jer. 17:7-8, and note 8¹; Eph. 3:17; Col. 2:19.⁸
- E. When all of the Lord's children pass through the process of renewing to become the New Jerusalem, they will be in a state of being fully renewed; the holy city is called the New Jerusalem because it has no old element of God's old creation—Rev. 21:2.⁹
- F. A characteristic of the Lord's recovery is not remaining in oldness but constantly being renewed:¹⁰
 - 1. Our views, feelings, knowledge, and even the lessons we have learned can become old.
 - 2. We need to put aside all the old things and empty ourselves before the Lord, allowing Him to reveal our oldness so that nothing would hinder us from receiving His leading.

II. To have a church life that is living and prevailing, we all need to be revived—Hab. 3:2:¹¹

- A. There has always been an aspiration among God's people to be revived—v. 2; cf. Hosea 6:2:¹²

¹ CWWL, 1970, vol. 1, "The Fulfillment of God's Purpose by the Growth of Christ in Us," ch. 5, p. 35.

² Life-Study of Genesis, msg. 108, p. 1385.

³ CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, "Being Renewed Day by Day by Enjoying God in Christ as the Renewing Element," no chapter, p. 440.

⁴ CWWL, 1984, vol. 3, "God's New Testament Economy," ch. 27, p. 360.

⁵ CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, "Being Renewed Day by Day by Enjoying God in Christ as the Renewing Element," no chapter, p. 440.

⁶ CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," ch. 1, pp. 351-352.

⁷ CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," ch. 1, pp. 345-347.

⁸ CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," ch. 2, pp. 355-363.

⁹ CWWL, 1989, vol. 2, "Being Renewed Day by Day," ch. 2, p. 363.

¹⁰ CWWL, 1984, vol. 4, "Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 3: The Future of the Lord's Recovery and the Building Up of the Organic Service," ch. 15, p. 230.

¹¹ CWWL, 1988, vol. 1, "Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ," ch. 3, p. 174.

¹² Holy Bible Recovery Version, Hab. 3:2, note 1.

1. Since the fall of man there has been in all creation an aspiration for revival; all things that are under the slavery of corruption due to the fall aspire to be revived—Rom. 8:19-22.
2. The universal need for revival can be met only by Christ and in Christ:
 - a. Only Christ, who was resurrected on the third day is the renewing power; the reality of the third day is the person of the resurrected Christ with the reality of revival—1 Cor. 16:3-4.
 - b. The pneumatic Christ is the element of revival for which all of creation aspires; for the whole universe and for all of mankind, Christ is the reality of the third day—John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
- B. The way of restoration and revival is the exaltation of Christ—Psa. 80:3, 7, 18-19:¹³
 1. We can have revival among us only if we exalt Christ, letting Him have the preeminence and giving Him the first place in everything.
 2. If a church is somewhat cold and old and desires revival, that church should give Christ the preeminence, recognizing Him as the One who is at the right hand of God.
 3. In our private life, married life, family life, and church life, Christ needs to be at the right hand of God.
 4. We need to come together in the meetings to exalt Christ by praising, singing, and shouting, exercising our spiritual birthright to exalt Christ; the more we exalt Christ, giving Him the preeminence in everything, the more we will be revived and restored.
- C. A vital matter that is crucial to the practice of the church life in the new way is our living a life of morning revival and daily victory—Prov. 4:18; Phil. 1:19-21a:¹⁴
 1. Morning revival based upon God’s natural law; every twenty-four hours there is a morning to begin the new day—Prov. 4:18.
 2. In our time with the Lord, the main thing is to clear up our conscience, to get rid of our inner condemnation; this is done by making a thorough confession of all of our failures, defects, defeats, wrongdoings, mistakes, even sinfulness to the Lord—Acts 24:16; 1 John 1:7, 9.
 3. Then we can take one or two verses from the Holy Word to use in our prayer—Eph. 6:17-18.
 4. By calling on the Lord, contacting Him, and touching Him according to the inner sense we are kept in a direct, fresh, intimate, and loving contact with the Him—Rom. 10:12-13; 1 Thes. 5:16-18; Rom. 8:6.
- D. We need to enter into a new revival by arriving at the highest peak of the divine revelation, living the life of a God-man, and shepherding people according to God—Prov. 29:18; Acts 26:19; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; John 21:16-17; 1 Pet. 5:2.¹⁵

III. We need to see the hope of restoration—Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21:¹⁶

- A. Between eternity past and eternity future, there are three ages—the age of the old creation, the age of the new creation, and the age of restoration:
 1. From God’s creation of the heavens and the earth in Genesis 1:1 to the age of grace is the age of the old creation; the age of grace is the age of the new creation; the work of God in the age of grace is to produce the new creation—John 1:16; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15.
 2. The coming age will be the age of restoration—Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Isa. 2:2-5; 11:1-10; 30:26; 35; 61:4-9; 65:18-25:
 - a. Restoration is not to regenerate with the divine life but to restore the fallen things; in the coming age God will neither create nor produce the new creation; rather, He will do the work of restoring the old, fallen creation—Rom. 8:20-22.
 - b. The restoration will affect not only man but also the entire creation—the heavens, the earth, the animals, and even the trees; everything that was cursed through the fall of man will be restored—Acts 3:21.

¹³ Life-Study of Psalms, msg. 31, p. 365.

¹⁴ CWWL, 1989, vol. 3, “The Exercise and Practice of the God-Ordained Way,” ch. 28, pp. 455-456.

¹⁵ Conference Outlines, Memorial Day 2015, “The Need for a New Revival,” msg. 1, Roman Numeral 11.

¹⁶ CWWL, 1985, vol. 3, “Elders’ Training, Book 5: Fellowship Concerning the Lord’s Up-to-date Move,” ch. 8, pp. 424-426.

- c. After the age of restoration, the entire universe will be changed from the old to the new; then there will be the new heaven and the new earth with the New Jerusalem—Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:12-13; Rev. 21:1-2.
- B. The spreading of the truths of the Lord’s recovery will be a preparation for the Lord’s coming back to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation—Matt. 24:14; cf. Rev. 5:6.¹⁷
 - 1. According to Isaiah 11, the restoration will come because “the earth will be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, / As the waters cover the sea” (v. 9).
 - 2. May the Lord burden us to learn the divine truths and to spread them everywhere for His recovery and restoration.
- C. God wants to end this age and bring in the kingdom and the age of restoration; for this He needs a dispensational instrument—Rev. 11:15; 12:5, 10-12.¹⁸
 - 1. Every time God wants to make a dispensational move, He must obtain His instrument—cf. 1 Chron. 12:22-23.
 - 2. Everyone who is used by God to turn the age is one who consecrates himself voluntarily to the Lord and who is willing to go against the tide of this age—Rom. 12:2; 2 Tim. 4:10, 8.¹⁹
 - 3. In these last days before the Lord’s coming, we must be those who have great resolutions in heart and great searchings of heart—Judg. 5:15-16.²⁰
 - 4. We should tell the Lord, “Lord, these days are the consummation of the age; Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward You.”²¹

¹⁷ CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 1, “The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord’s Move,” ch. 2, pp. 288-289.

¹⁸ CWWN, vol. 34, “The Glorious Church,” appendix, p. 153-156.

¹⁹ CWWL, 1957, vol. 3, “Men Who Turn the Age,” ch. 1, p. 515.

²⁰ Holy Bible Recovery Version, Judg. 5:15-16.

²¹ CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 1, “The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord’s Move,” ch. 1, p. 277.