

Morning Nourishment

Rom. 12:1-2 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, *which is your reasonable service. And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.*

God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life so that we may take Him as our person, live Him, and express Him. This is the desire of God's heart; it is also the focal point of the Bible. In order to fulfill this purpose, God created man in His image and after His likeness. God's intention in creating man was that man would receive God into him and take Him as his life and everything to him. For this reason, after God created man, He placed him in front of the tree of life. This indicates that God wanted man to eat of this tree, which is a symbol of God Himself as life. To eat of the tree of life is to take God into us as our life and life supply.

The tree of life is seen both in Genesis 2 and Revelation 22. From eternity to eternity, God's intention is for man to partake of this tree. Our destiny in eternity future is to eat the tree of life and thereby to live God and express Him. This is God's eternal intention. (*Life study of Exodus*, p. 753)

Today's Reading

The Lord has a plan, and the center of this plan is that God in Christ as the Spirit desires to mingle Himself with us. The carrying out of God's plan requires our cooperation. We were created as vessels for God, but God did not create us as vessels without life, feelings, intentions, desires, or understanding... God made us as living vessels, but when He comes to fill us with Himself, many times we do not cooperate with Him.

The most glorious and pleasing thing to God is our cooperation with Him in allowing Him to fill us with Himself. Sooner or later we will discover that we are persons who are willing to act by ourselves in doing many things for God, but we are not willing to

cooperate with God... This is our real condition before God. We like to help people, preach the gospel, and do many things for the Lord, but as we are doing these things, deep within us there is a sense that we must stop ourselves from our doing, open ourselves to cooperate with the Lord, and let the Lord operate on us.

God wants to fill us with Himself; He wants to enter into us to saturate us with His element and permeate us with all His riches. For this, He needs our cooperation. Everything of the Christian life, the Christian service, and the church life must come out of this. We may have been a Christian for many years, but even today we may not have seen the eternal plan of God.

When we see God's eternal purpose, the only thing that counts is God mingling Himself with us by working Christ into us. As long as we cooperate with God to have Christ wrought into us, we will have the deeper life, the holy life, the victorious life, the sanctified life, the crucified life, and the spiritual life. We will also be prevailing and powerful in our prayer and service, and we will be full of life in our work and in our daily living. This is the central point. The centrality and universality of everything is for Christ to be wrought into us. (*The Living That Fulfills God's Eternal Purpose*, pp. 48-49, 51-52)

The heavenly vision arrests you in whatever you are doing. You are left with nothing to do, because you realize that what you do in yourself is rebellion, even if it is seeking the Lord. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into your being, but in your spiritual seeking you have no concern about this. Your spiritual seeking is going in the opposite direction, only considering your intention.

[God must] find a people feeding on Christ and building up His dwelling place... for His purpose to be fulfilled and for Him to have the ground to come back. (*Life Messages*, vol. 1, pp. 281-282)

Further Reading: The Living That Fulfills God's Eternal Purpose, ch. 4; *Messages Given During the Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry*, vol. 1, ch. 20

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____
