

**THE LIVING AND EXERCISE OF GOD-MEN  
FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF  
THE GOAL OF GOD'S ECONOMY TO GAIN  
HIS TESTIMONY IN THE CHURCH**

**By Titus Chu**

**MESSAGE TWO:  
THE GOD-MAN LIVING REQUIRED  
IN THE CHURCH LIFE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT  
THE GOAL OF GOD'S ECONOMY**

In the previous message, we asked how we can know if we are in God's economy. I would summarize in this way: if you see the household of God, if you are abiding in His administration, and if you are receiving and dispensing life, then you are certainly a person participating in God's economy.

**A REAL GOD-MAN**

What is a God-man? The best place to begin is to look at the Lord Jesus. Jesus has divinity, and He also possesses humanity. He has all the divine attributes as well as all the human virtues. He is the complete God and the perfect man. He was the first God-Man, and He became the prototype of all God-men, who are the reproductions of Christ Himself. If in your experience the divine attributes are expressed in the human virtues, you are a God-man. In a God-man, what is divine is lived out in humanity.

A real God-man does not shout in the streets, "I am a God-man!" Sometimes such shouting simply does damage to the Lord's testimony. However, through the Lord's mercy, all who through regeneration have received His life are God-men. Through our human birth we received the human life, and through regeneration, our second birth, we received the divine life. Praise the Lord! We are so different from other human beings. Others only have one nature and one life, but we have two. They are merely men, but we are God-men.

But we are God-men in differing degrees. The degree to which you are truly a God-man is determined by how much you have been constituted by God. You must be increasingly constituted with the divine attributes. When these divine attributes begin to be lived out through you, they become the real human virtues.

### **FILLED WITH THE BREATH OF GOD AS THE LIFE SUPPLY FOR ORGANIC SALVATION**

How can you be filled with God? He comes as breath to fill you. When you receive His breathing, you receive God. You cannot receive His breath without receiving Him, and you cannot receive Him in a “raw” way. The breath of God is the Spirit Himself, come into you for your organic salvation.

God is organically united with us. Wherever we go, He goes, because He is in us. If we went to the movie theater, He would go with us, although we might wish He wouldn't. As the One who is organically united with us, He is growing in us. Over the past months, Jesus has grown in us a bit more. We are different. Why? It is because of the nature of salvation; it is organic.

### **RENEWING**

In this organic salvation, after the forgiveness of sins, you begin to experience what the Bible calls “renewing.” The Christian life is a life of renewing. You find that things are changing; they are different. The more you know Christ and apprehend Him, the more you are renewed. This renewing process has three aspects: sanctification, transformation, and conformation. Eventually, this process will culminate in glorification.

The process of our being renewed will take years. Therefore, our experience of sanctification, transformation, and conformation are always advancing. We should not think that after we have passed through sanctification, then we are in the stage of transformation, and then after transformation, we will be in the

stage of conformation. All of these three matters go on and on as stages in an upward spiral, a spiral which represents our advancing experience of being renewed. As you are sanctified - as Christ's element is added to you - you experience a change, which is transformation. A little of the sweetness of Christ has come in. You are also more conformed to the image of Christ.

At one stage, sanctification may cause you to turn away from sinful things. At another stage, it may not be something sinful, but something improper (such as a habit) that you are able to drop. Later on, this cycle reaches a higher level. Perhaps as you are considering your future, how to make yourself rich, you feel ashamed. Then there is a further sanctification, transformation, and conformation. Eventually, you are waiting to be transfigured. Your regeneration and transfiguration take place in a moment in time, but this process of renewing is lifelong. This is the process of organic salvation. Eventually it will reach your entire being - spirit, soul, and body (1 Thes. 5:23).

Because of this process, the Christ I know now is different from the Christ I knew at the beginning of my Christian life, or even the Christ I knew a few months ago. My understanding of who Christ is and what He has done and is doing has become different.

### **BREATHING RESURRECTION**

When we breathe God in, we breathe in resurrection. Christ in resurrection became the life-giving Spirit for us to breathe in (1 Cor. 15:45; John 20:22). Therefore, when we breathe in God, we breathe in resurrection. This resurrection is not a mere sensation, but a fact. There is power involved in resurrection, but that power is for us to enter into the substance of resurrection.

Whenever we exercise our spirit, we are receiving the resurrection. How marvelous! What we breathe in is the divine resurrection. This is why we can be here today. If we were to consider how often we have failed the Lord, we would hide our faces in shame. Every failure or defeat, however, has become a

proof of resurrection. Every time we have breathed in God, we have breathed in resurrection. Over the past fifty years, I have failed numerous times, but this means that I have also resurrected numerous times. We should not be bothered by our failure, for the divine breath breathed into us is resurrection.

### **BREATHING THE SCRIPTURES**

The Lord also said that the words He spoke to us are spirit and are life (John 6:63). When we exercise our spirit to contact the Scriptures, we receive the breathing out of God. This breathing is profitable for teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness in order that the man of God might be complete, fully equipped for every good work (1 Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible contains the element that causes us to know God and His way, the economy of God, so that we can live and walk according to God in spirit. Apart from the Spirit, no one understands the Bible. With the Spirit and the Bible, we have a clear picture for following the Lord.

Teaching should never end up in mere teaching. The Bible should bring us into revelation. According to Psalm 36:9, light from the Lord causes us to see something further than what we have seen before. If the teaching among us does not bring in such light, it becomes only doctrine to us. Instead, the teaching among us should roll away veils so that we may see something more of God and His economy.

When you touch the Word, it should also result in conviction. When you turn on the light in a dark room, you see what is in the room, and you clearly see what is improper. When you are in darkness, no one cares about how you are dressed or how your hair is. However, when the light comes on, enlightenment comes! You see your mistakes and sins, and you abhor them and deal with them. A person who is convicted in the Lord in this way does not boast in himself or insist on anything. If you are insisting upon something, it means that you have not seen anything in the light. You may be right, but your person is wrong.

Second Timothy 3:17 also speaks of correction and instruction in righteousness. Correction is to set right what is wrong, bringing it into an upright state. The Greek word for “instruction” refers to the education of children, including discipline and chastisement as well as instruction. The Bible should discipline and chastise us as well as instruct us. In fact, the Bible as the Word of God is an entire school for our instruction as to what is going on. This very instruction is according to who God is, and it causes us to live out Christ as our righteousness. In this way, we become equipped for every good work. This is the issue of God’s exhaling and our inhaling. He keeps breathing Himself out to us through His Word, and we keep taking Him in. In this way, we are equipped for His work.

### **WONDERFUL GRACE AND MERCY**

We also are able to live as God-men in God’s economy by means of the empowering grace. When I was a child, I was naughty. How can we, who are sinners, still love and serve the Lord? How can we be in this church life? It is only by grace. This grace, this wonderful Christ, is unsearchably rich. We can never exhaust His supply.

We often forget about grace, however, and begin to think of ourselves as heroes. We begin to feel proud, as if we could boast in something. We think we know how to go on. We may feel so certain of our judgment that we insist upon things. However, our eyes need to be opened to see Christ. If our eyes were opened, seventy years from now we would be able to testify that every incident, every step, was of grace.

Even if you are a very good person, you still cannot do anything apart from grace. Grace is the capital for your growth. We need grace to be empowered. We also need mercy. Why do we need mercy in addition to grace? Mercy works when we refuse grace. Sometimes when grace comes to us, we do not know how to enjoy it. Sometimes we take grace too superficially. Therefore, we need mercy.

Furthermore, we need to be saved through the daily washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). The word regeneration here has the sense of restoration from stage to stage. When we enjoy Christ, we have the sense of being cleansed. However, the washing in this verse is mainly not for our cleansing, but for our being brought on to another stage. We need this washing all our lives, until our transfiguration. The renewing of the Holy Spirit is a renewing in nature. In other words, through the renewing of the Holy Spirit we become fresher and fresher. We are not simply revived; we are reconstituted and remodeled with newness of life! Thus, we become a different person.

### **APPRECIATING THE LORD**

In the midst of this rich, organic salvation, as we practice the church life we are able to abide in the excellent virtue of faith and love as the reality and expression of the Triune Cod. What is faith? Faith is our appreciating, substantiating, and receiving the unlimited riches of the Triune Cod. You and I hold the same Bible, but one of us may treasure and appreciate it, while the other simply reads it. If we appreciate Christ to the degree that we must have Him moment by moment, then our faith is wonderful.

It is by believing that we enjoy our organic union with the Lord. How much we are in the reality of this organic union with Him is determined by how much we appreciate Him. If we appreciate someone, we want to spend time with that one. It is the same with the Lord. The more we love and appreciate Him, the more this organic union of faith operates. Therefore, our love for the Lord must be the top love, the first love. We may still love something else, but our love for the Lord must exceed all other loves. Some may not be able to say that the Lord has the first place among their loves. In the meetings we often tell the Lord that we love Him, and we may believe such a performance. Yet in the church life, the Lord demands our first love. (This doesn't mean we should not love our spouse or children, of course.

These loves do not conflict, just as our love for our spouse does not conflict with our love for our children. We love each of our children absolutely.) Our first love must go to the Lord. Such love will cause us to become members who function with a ministry. The transmission of love will cause us to love others. If we are such people, the crown of righteousness is waiting for us as we wait for the Lord.

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