

Message One

The Practices Needed to Carry Out God's Economy According to the High Peak of God's Revelation

1 Thes. 5:16-20

- 16 Always rejoice,
- 17 Unceasingly pray,
- 18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 19 Do not quench the Spirit;
- 20 Do not despise prophecies,

Rom. 10:12

- 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

Eph. 6:17-18

- 17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- 18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

2 Tim. 2:22

- 22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Message 2

Acts 2:21 Footnote 1

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21 And it shall be that everyone who ¹calls on the ²name of the Lord shall be ³saved."

21¹ Calling on the name of the Lord is not a new practice that began with the New Testament. Rather, it began with Enosh, the third generation of mankind, in Gen. 4:26. It was continued by Job (Job 12:4; 27:10), Abraham (Gen. 12:8; 13:4; 21:33), Isaac (Gen. 26:25), Moses and the children of Israel (Deut. 4:7), Samson (Judg. 15:18; 16:28), Samuel (1 Sam. 12:18; Psa. 99:6), David (2 Sam. 22:4, 7; 1 Chron. 16:8; 21:26; Psa. 14:4; 17:6; 18:3, 6; 31:17; 55:16; 86:5, 7; 105:1; 116:4, 13, 17; 118:5; 145:18), the psalmist Asaph (Psa. 80:18), the psalmist Heman (Psa. 88:9), Elijah (1 Kings 18:24), Isaiah (Isa. 12:4), Jeremiah (Lam. 3:55, 57), and others (Psa. 99:6), all of whom practiced this in the Old Testament age. Isaiah charged the seekers of God to call upon Him (Isa. 55:6). Even the Gentiles knew that the prophets of Israel had the habit of calling on the name of God (Jonah 1:6; 2 Kings 5:11). The Gentile raised up by God from the north also called upon His name (Isa. 41:25). It is God's commandment (Psa. 50:15; Jer. 29:12) and desire (Psa. 91:15; Zeph. 3:9; Zech. 13:9) that His people call on Him. This is the joyful way to drink from the fountain of God's salvation (Isa. 12:3-4) and the enjoyable way to delight oneself in God (Job 27:10), that is, to enjoy Him. Hence, God's people must call upon Him daily (Psa. 88:9). Such a jubilant practice was prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:32) concerning the New Testament jubilee.

In the New Testament, calling on the name of the Lord was first mentioned by Peter, here, on the day of Pentecost, as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. This fulfillment is related to God's outpouring of the all-inclusive Spirit economically upon His chosen people that they may participate in His New Testament jubilee. Joel's prophecy and its fulfillment concerning God's New Testament jubilee have two aspects: on God's side, He poured out His Spirit in the ascension of the resurrected Christ; on our side, we call on the name of the ascended Lord, who has accomplished all, attained unto all, and obtained all. Calling on the Lord's name is vitally necessary in order for us, the believers in Christ, to participate in and enjoy the all-inclusive Christ with all He has accomplished, attained, and obtained (1 Cor. 1:2). It is a major practice in God's New Testament economy that enables us to enjoy the processed Triune God for our full salvation (Rom. 10:10-13). The early believers practiced this everywhere (1 Cor. 1:2), and to the unbelievers, especially the persecutors, it became a popular sign of Christ's believers (9:14, 21). When Stephen suffered persecution, he practiced this (7:59), and his practice surely impressed Saul, one of his persecutors (7:58-60; 22:20). Later, the unbelieving Saul persecuted the callers (9:14, 21) by taking their calling as a sign. Immediately after Saul was caught by the Lord, Ananias, who brought Saul into the fellowship of the Body of Christ, charged him to be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord, to show others that he too had become such a caller. By his word to Timothy in 2 Tim. 2:22, Paul indicated that in the early days all the Lord's seekers practiced such calling. Undoubtedly, he was one who practiced this, since he charged his young co-worker Timothy to do this that Timothy might enjoy the Lord as he did.

The Greek word for call on is composed of on and call (by name); thus, it is to call out audibly, even loudly, as Stephen did (7:59-60).

Message Three

Enjoying the Word of God as God's Loving Seekers

- I. How the Old Testament seekers of God enjoyed His law (source: *Crystallization-study of Psalms (2)*, Msg. 8; originally based on *Life-study of Exodus*, Msg. 56):
 - A. They seek God with all their heart—Psa. 119:2.
 - B. They love God's name and remember it—vv. 132, 55.
 - C. They entreat God's face—v. 58.
 - D. They ask for God's face to shine on them—v. 135.
 - E. They walk in God's presence—v. 168.
 - F. They consider God's law to be God's word—vv. 17-18, 28-29.
- II. Psalm 119 expresses the attitude of God's loving seekers toward God's law as His living word (source, *Crystallization-study of Psalms (2)*, Msg. 8; originally based on *Life-study of Exodus*, Msgs. 56-57):
 - A. They choose God's word—vv. 30, 173.
 - B. They believe God's word—v. 66.
 - C. They lift up their hand to God's word, indicating that they receive the word of God warmly and gladly and say Amen to it—v. 48a; Neh. 8:5-6.
 - D. They love God's word—Psa. 119:47-48, 97, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 165, 167.
 - E. They delight in God's word—vv. 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 174.
 - F. They taste God's word—v. 103.
 - G. They rejoice in God's word—vv. 14, 111, 162.
 - H. They sing God's word—v. 54.
 - I. They regard God's word—vv. 6, 117.
 - J. They have a perfect heart in God's word—v. 80.
 - K. They incline their heart to God's word—vv. 36, 112.
 - L. They seek God's word (vv. 45, 94), long for it (vv. 20, 40, 131), and hope in it with prayer (vv. 43, 74, 114, 147).
 - M. They trust in God's word—v. 42.
 - N. They muse on God's word—vv. 15, 23, 48, 78, 99, 148.
 - O. They consider God's word—Psa. 119:95b.
 - P. They esteem God's word to be right in all things—v. 128a.
 - Q. They learn God's word—vv. 73, 71.
 - R. They treasure God's word—vv. 14, 162, 72, 127, 111.
 - S. They treasure up God's word in their heart—v. 11.
 - T. They remember God's word and do not forget it—vv. 52, 16b, 93.
 - U. They stand in awe of God's word—vv. 161b, 120.
 - V. They cling to God's word—v. 31.
 - W. They do not forsake God's word, do not swerve from it, do not turn aside from it, and do not stray from it—vv. 87, 51, 157, 102, 110.
 - X. They turn their feet toward God's word—v. 59.
 - Y. They keep, observe, and do God's word—vv. 33, 69.
 - Z. They walk in God's word and run the way of God's word—vv. 1, 32a.
- III. The function of God's law as His living Word to His loving seekers (Source: *Crystallization-study of Psalms (2)*, Msg. 8; originally based on *Life-study of Exodus*, Msg. 58, with some alterations):
 - A. As God's living word, the law functions to minister the living God to His seekers—Psa. 119:2, 88.
 - B. As God's living word, the law functions to dispense God Himself as life and light into those who love the law—vv. 25, 50, 107, 116, 130, 154.

- C. As God's living word, the law functions to restore man's soul and make man's heart joyous—19:7-8.
 - D. As God's living word, the law functions to bring us salvation—119:41, 170.
 - E. As God's living word, the law functions to strengthen (v. 28), comfort (v. 76), and nourish us (v. 103).
 - F. As God's living word, the law functions to uphold us, keep us safe, and cause us to hope—vv. 116-117, 49.
 - G. As God's living word, the law causes us to enjoy God as our portion—v. 57.
 - H. As God's living word, the law causes us to enjoy God's countenance (v. 58) and the shining of His face (v. 135).
 - I. As God's living word, the law causes us to enjoy God as our hiding place and shield (v. 114) and also enjoy God's help and well-dealing (vv. 175, 65).
 - J. As God's living word, the law functions to make us wise and give us understanding—vv. 98-99.
 - K. As God's living word, the law functions to give us proper discernment and knowledge—v. 66.
 - L. As God's living word, the law functions to keep us from sinning and from every evil way—vv. 11, 101.
 - M. As God's living word, the law keeps us from stumbling (v. 165), establishes our footsteps, and causes us to overcome iniquity (v. 133).
- IV. The blessing received by the loving seekers of God through His law as His living Word (sources: *Life-study of Exodus*, Msgs. 59-60, and *Crystallization-study of Exodus (2)*, Msg. 4):
- A. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers enjoy His Word as a realm of light—vv. 130, 105; 19:8b.
 - B. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers receive the blessing of light becoming life—Psa. 119:130a, 105, 25, 50.
 - C. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers receive the blessing of being watered and of absorbing God—Psa. 1:2-3.
 - D. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers receive the blessing of inhaling God—2 Tim. 3:16a; John 20:22.
 - E. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers receive the blessing of enjoying God as their portion—Psa. 119:57a; 73:26.
 - F. Through the function of the Word of God, God's loving seekers receive the blessing of enjoying God's countenance and the shining of His face—119:58a, 135a; 80:3; 24:6; 105:4; 2 Cor. 4:6; 3:16, 18.
 - G. Other blessings that come through the Word (from *Life-study of Exodus*, but not included in the *Crystallization-study of Exodus*):
 1. Restoration—19:7a.
 2. Deliverance—119:41, 170.
 3. Strength—v. 28.
 4. Comfort—v. 76.
 5. Nourishment—v. 103.
 6. Upholding and safeguard—v. 117.

Message 4

How to Get into the Life-Study Messages

Scripture Reading:

2 Tim. 2:15 Being diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

2 Tim. 1:13 Hold a pattern of the healthy words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim. 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.

Luke 8:15 But that which is in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word and hold it fast and bear fruit with endurance.

Acts 17:11 Now these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Psalms 119:11 In my heart I have treasured up Your word that I might not sin against You.

Col. 3:16 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.

I. The Attitude:

- A. Diligence—2 Tim. 2:15a
- B. Endurance—Luke 8:15; Rom. 15:4
- C. Thoroughness—Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15b; 1 Tim. 4:6

II. The Method:

- A. The focus – the central theme
- B. The outline – the structure
- C. The crucial points

III. The Way:

- A. Study—Acts 17:11
- B. Memorize—Psalm 119:11
- C. Speak—Col. 3:16

IV. The Companions—Col. 3:16