

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2018**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CENTRAL VISION**

Message Two

**Being Mingled with God to Grow with the Growth of God and
to Be Transformed by God to Minister God for the Building of God**

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Col. 2:19; Matt. 13:18-23; John 17:11, 21; Eph. 4:15-16

- I. The church as the Body of Christ is the organism of the Triune God, and the building up of the church is by our being mingled with God to grow with the growth of God and to be transformed by God to minister God for us to be perfected into one for the building of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4, 16; Lev. 2:4-5; Col. 2:19; Acts 6:4; John 17:23; cf. Eph. 4:11-13:**
 - A. Real building is the growth in life (1 Cor. 3:6-12a; Eph. 2:21-22), real building is the transformation in life (Rom. 12:2), and real building is the oneness of the Body, the oneness in the Triune God (Eph. 4:4-6, 12-13; John 17:21, 23).
 - B. The mingling of God with man and the oneness of the Body are the central matters in the Bible and in our Christian life; the oneness is like a thermometer—it can tell us how much we are in the mingling; the result of being mingled with God is the oneness of the Body—1 Cor. 6:17; 12:13 and footnote 1.
 - C. The mingling of God and man causes the growth and transformation in life, and this mingling takes place by our eating, drinking, digesting, and assimilating Christ as our spiritual food and drink—John 6:57, 63; 1 Cor. 10:3-4.
 - D. The more we enjoy Christ by eating and drinking Him, the more we experience the inner spiritual metabolism of transformation, which is both the growth and the building up of the church—Jer. 15:16; John 4:10, 14; Rom. 12:2; Matt. 16:18.
 - E. God’s economy is to work Himself into us so that we may experience the metabolic process of spiritual digestion and assimilation for our transformation by giving Him the thoroughfare in our whole being for God’s building—Eph. 3:16-19; Matt. 5:3, 8; Isa. 66:1-2; Psa. 51:10-12.
 - F. The organic building up of the church through the process of spiritual metabolism is actually what Jehovah prophesied to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a; it is only through this process that something human—the human seed—can become divine—the sons of God.

- II. Matthew 13 reveals that Christ is the Sower, the Distributor of the divine life, to sow Himself as the life seed, the word of God, into our human spirit with the human heart to grow Christ as the divine seed in us for God’s cultivated land, God’s building—John 10:10b; Matt. 5:3, 8; 13:3, 8, 18-23; Mark 4:14; John 6:68; Mark 12:30; 1 Cor. 3:9:**
 - A. For the growth of Christ as the life seed in us, we must deal with the Lord daily to be poor in spirit, to be emptied in our spirit, acknowledging that we have nothing, know nothing, can do nothing, and are nothing apart from Christ as the Spirit, the new, present, and “now” Christ—Matt. 5:3; John 8:58.

- B. For the growth of Christ as the life seed in us, we must deal with the Lord daily to be pure in heart, keeping our heart with all vigilance—Matt. 5:8; Prov. 4:23:
1. We must love the Lord with all our heart, keeping it from becoming hardened by worldly traffic, like the wayside—Matt. 13:19.
 2. We must love the Lord with all our heart, keeping our heart from being shallow, with hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity, which are rocks that hinder the life seed from taking root in us—vv. 20-21.
 3. We must love the Lord with all our heart, keeping our heart free from the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches, which are thorns choking the growth of the life seed to make us become unfruitful—v. 22.
 4. We must love the Lord with all our heart, giving our entire heart to Him so that it can be the good earth to supply the divine seed with all its human nutrients for His growth in us—v. 23; cf. 12:34-37.
- C. For the growth of Christ as the life seed in us, we need to have a fresh, up-to-date, daily consecration to Him of our human spirit, our human heart, and our mortal body so that the divine seed of life can grow in us with the full supply of all the human nutrients of our inner being for Christ to be magnified in our mortal body and for us to be swallowed up by life for the building up of Christ's Body—Matt. 5:3, 8; Prov. 4:23; 20:9; 22:11; Phil. 1:20; Col. 2:19:
1. We need to take time to absorb God so that we may grow with the growth of God for the building up of the church as the house of God and the kingdom of God—v. 19; Isa. 50:4-5; Mark 1:35; cf. Luke 8:13.
 2. Those who serve the Lord must see that their service must originate from God—cf. Acts 22:7-10:
 - a. "Whoever cannot stop working for the sake of God cannot work for the sake of God"—M. E. Barber.
 - b. Although David had the opportunity, saw the need, and had the ability to build the temple of God, he stopped when God's word came to him—2 Sam. 7:18, 25, 27; cf. Luke 1:38.
 - c. David's stopping established a twofold testimony in the universe: first, all the work in this universe should come from God, not from man; second, all that matters is what God does for man, not what man does for God—Rom. 11:36; cf. Num. 18:1.
 - d. The builder of the temple and the site of the temple both came out of David's being forgiven of his sins, out of what God did for David—2 Sam. 12:24-25; 24:1-10, 18-25; 1 Chron. 21:18; 2 Chron. 3:1; Psa. 51.
 - e. We need to let God speak to us, command us, and then we need to cooperate with Him because we fear Him and love Him—Exo. 21:1-6; Psa. 86:11; 1 Cor. 2:9.
 3. We must be strengthened into our spirit so that we worship God in and with our spirit and with Christ as our truthfulness for Christ to make His home in our heart—Eph. 3:16-19; John 4:23-24.
 4. Our heart needs to be established blameless in holiness; we need to ask the Lord to direct our heart into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ, and we need to deal with our heart so that it may be the good earth in which Christ can grow in an unhindered way—1 Thes. 3:13; 2 Thes. 3:5; Matt. 13:8.
 5. We need to forgive others from our heart by the indwelling Christ as our forgiving life, allowing Him to rule in us for the reality of the kingdom, and

to forgive others from our heart by the indwelling Christ as our arbitrating peace, allowing Him to preside in us for the one new man; we need to release others by forgiving them so that we may be released to be forgiven by God for the freedom of the growth of the seed of God in us—6:15; 18:35; Col. 3:12-15; Luke 6:37.

6. We need to give our material possessions in secret for the sowing and spreading of the seed of life, giving our material supply to the church of God, to the needy saints of God, to the full-time servants of God, and to the poor people in the love of God and with the kindness of God for the gospel of God—v. 38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; Acts 11:29; Rom. 15:26; Phil. 4:16-17.
7. We need to sow the seed of life as the word of God by preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God to the whole inhabited earth, both to the unbelievers for their conversion to Christ and to the believers for their growth in Christ; this is the sowing, planting, and watering of the seed of life by announcing the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel and by prophesying for the building up of the church as the house of God and the kingdom of God—Matt. 24:14; Rom. 1:1; Eph. 3:8; 1 Cor. 3:6; 14:4b, 31.

III. John 17 reveals that we are built into one in the Triune God by being mingled with Him so that we may be one even as the Triune God is one for His one testimony (one expression), His one Body (one organism), and His one city (one expression)—vv. 11, 21; Rev. 1:11-12; Eph. 4:4; Rev. 21:2, 11:

- A. We are built into one in the Triune God by His blending and uniting life (the element of our oneness), delivering us from the natural man—John 17:2-3, 6.
- B. We are built into one in the Triune God by His washing and sanctifying word (the means of our oneness), delivering us from the satanic world—vv. 14-19.
- C. We are built into one in the Triune God by His radiant and effulgent glory (the expression of our oneness), delivering us from our divisive self—vv. 21-24.

IV. The organic building up of the Body is the growth of the Body, and the work of the ministry to build up the Body is carried out directly by the perfected saints in the growth in life—Eph. 4:11-16:

- A. The growth of the Body in life is “into” the Head, and the function of the Body in service is “out from” the Head—vv. 15-16:
 1. When we allow Christ to be the Head in everything, staying intimately connected to Him and growing up into Him in all things, we will be supplied with the riches of His life to minister God as life into other members of the Body—Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 14:4b; John 7:37-39; Phil. 1:25.
 2. By prayer we grow up into the Head, and by the ministry of God’s word we function out from the Head; this is to be one with Christ in His heavenly ministry to build up the church—Acts 6:4; cf. Heb. 7:26; 8:1; 1 Cor. 14:4b.
 3. To build up the Body of Christ is to be filled with the Spirit to minister the Spirit into the saints for their growth in life—2 Cor. 3:2-3, 6, 8; 5:18-20.
- B. Out from Christ the Head, all the Body (the supplying joints and operating parts) causes the growth of the Body of Christ unto the building up of itself in love; love is the most excellent way for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 12:31b—13:13; John 13:34-35.