

*Life's Washing in Love to Maintain Fellowship***Monday 2/6***Related Verses***John 13:1, 3-5, 8**

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,

4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;

5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

8 Peter said to Him, You shall by no means wash my feet forever. Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.

1 Pet. 5:5

5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Rom. 12:10

10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

1 John 4:11-12

11 Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Related Reading

John 13:1 says that the Lord “loved His own who were in the world” and that “He loved them to the uttermost.” Because of this love the Lord washed the disciples’ feet. Hence, the foot-washing is a matter of love, a love to the uttermost...This shows the importance of foot-washing. This is our uttermost need...Therefore, the Lord has to take care of this by showing us His love to the uttermost.

When the Lord Jesus was about to wash His disciples’ feet, He laid aside His garments (v. 4). Garments here, in figure, signify the Lord’s virtues and attributes in His expression. Hence, the laying aside of His garments signifies the putting off of what He is in His expression.

The Lord washed the disciples’ feet with water (v. 5). Here water signifies the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), the word (Eph. 5:26; John 15:3), and the life (John 19:34)...The Lord washes us spiritually by the working of the Holy Spirit, by the enlightening of the word, and by the operating of the inner law of life. In the Scriptures each of these three items is symbolized by water. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 327-329)

The Lord came through incarnation to bring God into us and He went through death and resurrection to bring us into God...As far as our spirit is concerned, God has been brought into us by the Lord’s coming, and we have been brought into God by the Lord’s going. Yet, as far as our physical body is concerned, we are still here on this earth. In our spirit we have been joined to something heavenly, spiritual, and eternal, but in our body we are still on the earth. In our spirit the Lord has brought God into us and us into God, in our spirit we are one with God, and in our spirit we are in the heavenlies because we are in God. But in our body we are still on earth. As far as our regenerated spirit is concerned, we are no longer the old creation; we are the new creation. However, as far as our body is concerned, we are still in the old creation and on the earth.

Although we have the divine life and have become the church, we are still living in this fallen flesh on the earth. Through the earthly touch we are often dirtied...In the ancient days of Judea, the people went almost everywhere by walking, by contacting the earth with their feet...Consequently, foot-washing was a necessity for them. Spiritually speaking, it is the same for us.

To be sinful is one thing and to be dirty is another. You may be absolutely sinless

*Life's Washing in Love to Maintain Fellowship***Tuesday 2/7****Related Verses****Titus 3:5**

5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

John 15:3

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Ezek. 36:25

25 And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

Heb. 10:22

22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Psa. 51:10

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Eph. 5:26

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Related Reading

Since the Gospel of John is a book of signs, what is recorded in chapter 13 concerning foot-washing must also be considered a sign having a spiritual significance. We should not take foot-washing merely in a physical sense but rather in a spiritual sense. Since this is a sign, the significance of foot-washing is that it is for fellowship with the Lord and with one another...While we are in this world, we touch the earth day by day...Foot-washing means that while we are still on this earth, the Lord as the life-giving Spirit washes our feet; that is, the Lord always keeps our walk clean from every kind of dirt due to the earthly touch.

In chapter 13 the Lord established an example by washing the disciples' feet that they might have a pleasant time of fellowship, enjoying the Lord and one another. We need such foot-washing today...Today the world is dirty, and we, the saints, are easily contaminated. For us to maintain pleasant fellowship with the Lord and with one another we need spiritual foot-washing. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 331-332)

Many times you are not sinful, but you are dirty. Dust is everywhere. How easy it is to get dirty...Even as you are driving down the street on the way to the meeting, your eyes may accidentally see something that causes you to become dirty. Before you

and yet be very dirty. Perhaps nothing is wrong, but you are dirty simply because of the earthly touch...We constantly touch the earth, and this makes us dirty. As a result, much of the time we are not clean. Therefore, we need foot-washing.

[The Jews] washed their feet especially when they came to a feast. A feast is a center for fellowship. At that time the Jews wore sandals, and since their roads were dusty, their feet easily became dirty. If, when they came to a feast, they would have sat at the table with dirty, outstretched feet, the dirt and smell would have frustrated the fellowship. Therefore, for a pleasant feast they needed foot-washing. When the guests were invited to a feast where they fellowshiped with one another, they had to wash their feet before the fellowship. Without the washing the fellowship would have been hindered. Before they could come together to feast and fellowship at the table, they had to be washed. Otherwise, they simply could not have had pleasant fellowship. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 329-331)

Further Reading: *Life-study of John*, msgs. 27-28

Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): Learning Our Spiritual Experiences...; The Dispensing of the Triune God Versus...

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got into the car, your spirit was living and uplifted but...simply by seeing certain things on the way to the meeting place you were dirtied and your spirit went down. Sometimes, even in our fellowship we can become dirty.

For things that are sinful we need the cleansing of the blood, but for things that are dirty and not sinful we need the spiritual washing. We need a washing by the Holy Spirit, the living word, and the inner life. (*Life-study of John*, p. 332)

There are many things which separate us from God. These things may not be sin, but there may be worldly elements that are produced through our contact with the world.

When you read the Bible and prayed in the morning, you felt that heaven was very close. But as a businessman who spends three to six hours in your office doing many seemingly “proper” things (you may not have lied or sinned at all), are you still as close to God in the evening as you were in the morning?

Students busy themselves in schoolwork at the schools, and housewives engage themselves in their household chores at home. Once a person occupies himself in these affairs, he feels as if heaven has moved away...He may still be able to set aside some time to pray, but he has nothing to say. He can only touch the superficial letter of the Word; he can no longer touch

the inward reality. When the prayer meeting comes, he may want to pray, but he is short of words. Even when he does manage to think of some words to say, his conscience bothers him. He may still shout Hallelujah, and the words and sounds may still be the same, but the meaning and taste are different. He feels that something has separated him from God, but he cannot pinpoint any sin...If he was separated from God through sin, he should deal with it through the application of the blood shed on the cross. But this does not seem to be a question of sin. He only feels somewhat dimmed and has lost the former brightness...This is different from ordinary sins. What is needed is the foot-washing. What is foot-washing? It is dealing with everything apart from sin that separates us from God.

This happens to us all the time...It is understandable when a person is separated from God through sin. But we do not know what to do when we have not sinned, yet cannot touch God. Thank the Lord that He has not only washed us of our sins, but washed our feet as well. (*CWWN*, vol. 42, pp. 233-234)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 42, chs. 31, 36

Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): Our

Spiritual Experiences not being According to the Flesh but According to the Spirit

Wednesday 2/8

Related Verses

John 13:14-15, 34-35

14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Matt. 6:6

6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

2 Cor. 3:6

6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Rom. 12:16

16 Be of the same mind toward one another, not setting your mind on the high things but going along with the lowly; do not be wise in yourselves.

*Life's Washing in Love to Maintain Fellowship***Gal. 6:2**

2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ completely.

1 Thes. 3:12

12 And the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we also to you,

Related Reading

You need to spend time in the Lord's presence. Remain in the Lord's presence, and the Lord will come to you and wash you, not with the blood but with the Spirit, the living word, and the inner life...Sometimes it takes only a few minutes to wash the dirt away; at other times it may take half a day. Whenever you are in need of such a washing, just open yourself up to the Lord as you spend time in His presence, and allow the inner life to flow within you. Spontaneously, something living will flow, water, and wash you, and you will become clean again. Your spirit will be uplifted, and your whole being will be so pleasant in the Lord's presence. (*Life-study of John*, p. 333)

We need not only the foot-washing that is exercised directly by the Lord Himself but also the mutual foot-washing of one another. The Lord told us to wash one another's feet...We must wash one another's feet by ministering the work of

the Holy Spirit, by ministering the enlightenment of the Word, and by ministering the operation of the inner life. In this way, I help you, you help me, and we help one another to be washed in the work of the Holy Spirit, in the light of the Word, or in the operation of the inner life. Whenever we brothers come together for fellowship and prayer, we need to minister the spiritual foot-washing to one another.

When the Lord washed the disciples' feet, He laid aside His garments...In figure, garments here signify the Lord's virtues and attributes in His expression, and...the laying aside of His garments signifies the putting off of what He is in His expression...Likewise, whenever you are about to wash others' feet, you need to lay aside your attainments, virtues, and attributes. This is real humility, the genuine humbling of yourself. We need to humble ourselves to such a degree that we can wash others' feet.

Many [believers] are so spiritual, but they are also proud...When they come together, they look down on others, thinking that the others have never seen a heavenly vision or known anything spiritual...If we take this attitude, it will be impossible for us to minister foot-washing to others. Whenever we come together with the saints, on the contrary, we must take off our garments and forget our attainments...We all have been guilty of this

attitude...If we take this proud attitude, we can never help others...We must lay aside all degrees of spirituality and become simple and general, saying to ourselves, "I am nothing, and nothing within me is special. I have only a towel, a piece of cloth, to gird me."...Sometimes people come threateningly with the attitude of a policeman wearing a uniform. Some come wearing a uniform of spirituality, while others wear the uniform of the deeper life, and still others are clad with the uniform of the so-called gifts. They all must lay aside their uniforms before they can minister any kind of foot-washing to others. We should not say this to others; we must say it to ourselves.

Whenever we have the sensation that someone has offended us, we always consider ourselves higher than that person, thinking that he is lower, that he owes us something, and that we have a claim upon him...You need to put aside your garments, lower your standard, and come down from your throne. In a sense, laying aside your garments means to dethrone yourself. Do not sit on the throne judging your brother, saying, "You offended me." (*Life-study of John*, pp. 337-340)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1982, vol. 2, "The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John," chs. 33-34

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Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): Our Spiritual Experiences Needing to be in the Dispensing of the Triune God

Thursday 2/9

*Related Verses***Psa. 23:2-3**

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside waters of rest.

3 He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Acts 3:20

20 So that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send the Christ, who has been previously appointed for you, Jesus,

Ezek. 34:14

14 I will feed them with good pasture, and their dwelling place will be upon the mountains of the heights of Israel; there they will lie down in a good dwelling place, and on rich pasture they will feed upon the mountains of Israel.

Psa. 110:3

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly In the day of Your warfare, In the splendor of their consecration. Your young men will be to You Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

Deut. 34:7

7 And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor had his freshness left him.

Psa. 92:12-14

12 The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Planted in the house of Jehovah, They will flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They will still bring forth fruit in old age; They will be full of sap and green;

Related Reading

Not only do we need to lay aside the garments of our attainments, but we also need to be girded with a towel. This means that we must be bound, that we must lose our liberty. The feet were washed with water and also wiped with the towel with which the Lord was girded. In other words, the more we are willing to be bound for the sake of others, the more we shall be able to minister to others and wipe their feet. Otherwise, the more we are free, the more we shall damage others...We simply give up our liberty for the purpose of ministering something to our dear brothers and sisters. (*Life-study of John*, p. 340)

Each of us must learn how to love the brothers and sisters by ministering the spiritual foot-washing to them. Sometimes when I come to visit you, you can minister

some sort of foot-washing to me by showing your love toward me, and I have to show the same love toward you so that some foot-washing will be ministered to you to cleanse you from the earthly touch. We must do this, otherwise the fellowship between us could not be maintained. Fellowship can be maintained between one another only when love ministers such a foot-washing...More than twenty-five years ago when I was working with the leading co-workers such as Brother Watchman Nee and others, I received much help by this kind of foot-washing from them. Every time I contacted them, I sensed some sort of foot-washing to keep me clean from the earthly touch. They loved me and showed their love to me by ministering the spiritual foot-washing to cleanse me from the earthly touch. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 342-343)

We can summarize defiled feet with a few words—staleness in fellowship with the Lord. Clean feet, however, denote fresh fellowship with the Lord.

How many can say today that they treasure the Lord and love the Lord as much as they did five or ten years ago? Many people have to say that they do not have the same feeling that they had a year ago. Their feet are defiled, and they have become weary. This is spiritual weariness; it is the loss of spiritual freshness and vitality...[Foot-washing] means recovering our former feelings, bringing us back to the

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freshness of life, and giving us fresh strength to treasure what we previously treasured...Thank the Lord that He washes our feet all the time.

Today many believers in Christ have become stagnant in their spiritual growth. They sing, praise, and pray reluctantly. Sometimes this is the result of sin, but many times this is not the result of any sin. They simply have defiled feet, and they have become spiritually enervated. We have to realize that the Lord wants us to be fresh all the time. This is why He says that He leads us to the green pastures (Psa. 23:2)...The Lord wants us to be fresh...every day. We may have been yellow yesterday, but we can be green again today. We may have been yellow this morning, but we can be green this afternoon. The Lord is fresh running water; He does not flow for five minutes and then stop. He flows continuously, daily, monthly, and yearly. There is not a minute in which He is short. He is always fresh, and He is constantly refreshing us. This is the life that the Lord is leading us to live. Here is power, joy, peace, and holiness. Only by living this way can we express the Lord's life. After the victory at Jericho, there is still the victory at Ai. After great victories, there are still small, daily victories. This should be our daily experience before the Lord. (CWWN, vol. 42, pp. 235-237)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1964, vol. 1, "A Young Man in God's Plan," ch. 1

Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): The Learning and Exercise Needed by Those Who Work for the Lord

Friday 2/10

Related Verses

2 Cor. 4:16

16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Rom. 6:4

4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

Titus 3:4-5

4 But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared,
5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Psa. 27:1, 4

1 Jehovah is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? Jehovah is the strength of my life; Whom shall I dread?

4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

John 14:26

26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.

Phil. 1:19, 21a

19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
21a For to me, to live is Christ

Related Reading

I have a word specifically for the co-workers...[God] has put us in the world so that our presence would create a hunger and thirst for righteousness in sinners, believers, and the world...There must be an enigmatic freshness, power, nourishment, and supply within us that will drive others to seek after God by our presence. Others should have a desire to seek after God as a result of meeting us and speaking to us...If our reading of the Bible, prayer, service, and gospel preaching do not produce such a powerful hunger within man, our work has failed. (CWWN, vol. 42, p. 238)

Many who knew Miss Barber can testify that she was very different from others.

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Whenever someone went to her and sat in front of her, spontaneously he would realize how much he was off. He would realize that he did not have what she had and would aspire for what she had. Fifteen years ago (1921) when I first became a Christian, I was very proud. I thought highly of myself because I was able to read one or two chapters of the Bible a day with some understanding. (Very few people are proud outwardly; most people are proud inwardly.) I went to her to tell her about this. After I prayed a few words with her, I saw my pride before she even opened her mouth to rebuke me. I knew that I did not have what she had. This is foot-washing. My feet were washed by her presence. I met God. Prior to that I was living outside of God, and I was old and dark. But once I came to her, I was refreshed and enlightened...We often have the same sensation—we feel that we are washed after talking to certain brothers. Our spiritual energy is revived; we can touch and feel God once more. This is foot-washing.

A few days ago, I felt that my feet were defiled. At first I thought that I had sinned, and I proceeded to deal with my sins. But God was still very far from me. I felt that there was a separation between myself and God...Later, I saw a sister who had been saved for only two or three months. She told me of her salvation experience and told me how she was persecuted by her family. She hoped that I would give her some help.

When I heard this, I said, “Thank the Lord. When I came, my feet were defiled. But when I leave, my feet will be clean because your testimony has washed away the oldness in my experiences.” The book of Titus mentions the renewing of the Spirit (3:5). This is a very precious expression. We need the renewing of the Spirit so that we can always be spiritually fresh and invigorated.

We have to aspire to wash others' feet. However, we cannot wash others' feet unless we have the overcoming life and the Spirit's help to live out such a life...We have to be fresh all the time before we can wash others' feet.

The Lord said, “You also ought to wash one another's feet” (John 13:14)...Those who were spiritually fresh but who have lost their freshness need the washing. Every one of us needs our feet washed, and every one of us needs to be prepared to wash others' feet. The Lord said, “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.” Among all the services that Christians minister to one another, nothing is more crucial or more precious than foot-washing. “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (v. 17). I love what Brother Yu has said many times: “The Bible today is more precious than the Bible yesterday.” May we have fresh spiritual experiences every day. Romans 15:32 says, “I may

refresh myself and rest with you.” This is the result of foot-washing. (*CWWN*, vol. 42, pp. 238-240)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 37, ch. 18

Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): The Exercise of Faith

Saturday 2/11

Related Verses

Eph. 5:18

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

Rom. 15:32

32 So that coming to you in joy through the will of God, I may refresh myself and rest with you.

2 Cor. 3:16-18

16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 8:4, 6, 16

4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

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6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor. 6:17

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Related Reading

How can we wash one another's feet? Suppose you have completed your day's work and feel tired. You cannot utter any praises from your mouth. In the evening when you come to the meeting, someone asks you to pray. Halfway through your prayer, you cannot go on, and you stop. You feel as if your prayer is nothing more than a composition. However, perhaps one brother in the meeting has a fresh spirit, and his prayer refreshes your spirit. Your spiritual energy is renewed. This is washing one another's feet. Many times when we come to the meeting, we find the saints' spirit weak and downtrodden. We pray and read the Word, but nothing seems to work. The reason for this is that everyone's feet are defiled, and there is no basin to wash the feet. It is as if something is quenching our spirits. If someone would stand up at this point and wash everyone's feet by offering a prayer or saying a few words, the whole meeting will be refreshed...The same is true in our family life. A brother or sister may unexpectedly drop by your home and fellowship a short while or give a testimony,

and everyone in the family is brought into the presence of God. Before that time there was a separation between them and God, but after such a simple conversation, all the separation is gone. This is washing one another's feet. Those who do this are precious in the Lord's eyes. (CWWN, vol. 42, p. 281)

We should have an ambition before the Lord to wash others' feet. In order to wash others' feet, we must have the water; that is, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and be in constant fellowship with the Lord. For this cause we must live in the Holy Spirit daily. Only then will we have the living water to wash others' feet. Every time we come to the meeting, we must have the living water to wash others' feet. We should never try to wash others' feet without water; that will only defile their feet even more. Those who cannot wash others' feet may still fellowship and communicate with God, but their spirits are definitely cold. Today the Lord does not wash anyone's feet directly. Instead, He charges us to wash one another's feet. We must all learn to be those who can wash one another's feet. (CWWN, vol. 42, pp. 281-282)

We need the spiritual foot-washing to cleanse us from the earthly touch and to keep our spiritual fellowship in a good condition. Then it is possible to realize the church life. If the church life is to be kept

fresh, new, pleasant, and living, we continually need this foot-washing...Every church needs to pray for this. Then the church will be preserved in newness and freshness.

The Lord came to bring God into us, and He went to bring us into God. Now there is the real mingling of the divine Spirit with our human spirit. Humanity is mingled with divinity, and divinity is mingled with humanity. This is the church, the Body of Christ. In their spirit the Christians are heavenly, eternal, and spiritual, but in their physical body they are still on this earth and in the old creation. Hence, there is the need for them to be kept clean from all the earthly touch in order that the fellowship of the Body and the fellowship with the Lord might be maintained. This fellowship is maintained by foot-washing. Foot-washing is very, very important because the fellowship with the Lord and with one another can never be maintained without it. Without it, the church life cannot be realized. In fact, the reality of the church life would be gone. Therefore, the daily foot-washing definitely needs to be exercised by the Lord Himself on the one hand and by all the saints on the other. Then we shall be able to maintain an excellent fellowship with which we shall have the real church life. (*Life-study of John*, pp. 343-344)

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Further Reading: *CWWL, 1994-1997*, vol. 5, “The Vital Groups,” ch. 8

Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 9, section(s): The Exercise and Learning Needed for Enduring Sufferings

Lord's Day 2/12

*Related Verses***1 Pet. 5:2-10**

2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly;

3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

7 Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you.

8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

9 Him withstand, being firm in your faith,

knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished among your brotherhood in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

Further Reading:

CWWN, vol. 42, chs. 31, 36

Hymns, #16

- 1** Our Father, as the evergreen,
Thou art forever new;
Thou art the ever living Lord,
Thy freshness as the dew.

Chorus

- O Father, Thou art unchanging,
Thou never hast grown old;
Thru countless ages, ever fresh,
Thy newness doth unfold.
- 2** O Thou art God, and Thou art “new”;
Without Thee all is worn,
But all with Thee is ever fresh,
Though many years have gone.
- 3** Each blessing Thou hast given us
Thy newness doth contain;
Thy covenant, Thy ways are new,
And ever thus remain.

- 4** Now we Thy new creation are-
New spirit and new heart;
We're daily from the old renewed,
New life Thou dost impart.
- 5** The earth and heavens will be new
And Thy new city share;
New fruits each month will be supplied,
For all is newness there.
- 6** O Father, Thou art ever new,
And all is new in Thee;
We sing the new eternal song,
New praise we give to Thee.