GENERAL SUBJECT: THE NEED FOR A NEW REVIVAL

Message Three

Living the Life of a God-man

(1)

Being Discipled to Live the Life of a God-man to Be Today's Overcomers for a New Revival

RS, DK *Hymns:* 203, 403

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 14:19, 22-23; 24:45-51; John 10:30; 5:19, 30; 7:18; 14:30b

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

Matt 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

Matt 14:22 And immediately He compelled the disciples to step into the boat and to go before Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Matt 24:47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.

Matt 24:48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,

Matt 24:49 And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,

Matt 24:50 The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

Matt 24:51 And will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

John 10:30 I and the Father are one.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.

John 14:30b … for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

I. God needs a corporate people to be raised up by His grace through the high peak of the divine revelation to live a life according to this revelation:

A. A revival is the practice, the practicality, of the vision we have seen.

B. If we practice living the life of a God-man, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, spontaneously a corporate model will be built up, a model living in the economy of God; this model will be the greatest revival in the history of the church to bring the Lord back.

II. The disciples of Christ (Matt. 5:1; 28:19) were discipled through Christ's human living on the earth, as the model of a God-man, through His living God by denying Himself in humanity (John 5:19, 30); this revolutionized their concept concerning man (Phil. 3:10; 1:21a):

Matt 5:1 And when He saw the crowds, He went up to the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ …

A. Our life should be a copy, a reproduction, of the model of the life of Christ, the first God-man—1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 11:28-29; Eph. 4:20-21; John 10:30; 5:19, 30; 7:6, 8, 18.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;
Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
John 10:30 I and the Father are one.
John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
John 7:6 Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
John 7:8 You go up to the feast; I am not going up to this feast, because My time has not yet been fulfilled.
John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.

B. The Spirit of life and reality who was breathed into the disciples would guide them into the reality of what they had observed of the Lord when they were with Him for three and a half years—16:13; 20:22:

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

1. At the commencement of the first God-man's ministry, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, recognizing that according to His flesh (His humanity—1:14; Rom. 1:3; 8:3), He was good for nothing but death and burial—Matt. 3:15-17.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
Matt 3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it for now, for it is fitting for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness. Then he permitted Him.
Matt 3:16 And having been baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him.
Matt 3:17 And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.

2. He trained His disciples to learn from Him (11:29) in the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish:

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

a. His looking up to heaven to bless the five loaves and the two fish (14:19) indicates His realizing that the source of blessing was not Him, the sent One, but the Father, the sending One.

Matt 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

b. He did not remain in the issue of the miracle with the crowds but went away from them to be with the Father on the mountain in prayer—vv. 22-23; Luke 6:12; cf. S. S. 1:1-4.

Matt 14:22 And immediately He compelled the disciples to step into the boat and to go before Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

Luke 6:12 And in these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

S.S. 1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

S.S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine.

S.S. 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; / Your name is like ointment poured forth; / Therefore the virgins love you.

S.S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you - The king has brought me into his chambers - / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

3. He taught His disciples to pray to execute God's will for His economy, having faith in God without doubting—Matt. 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-24.

Matt 21:21 And Jesus answered and said to them, Truly I say to you, If you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, it will happen.

Matt 21:22 And all that you ask in prayer, if you believe, you will receive.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.

Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.

Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.

4. He lived a life of contacting God (1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:28; Heb. 7:25), living in the presence of God without ceasing (Acts 10:38c; John 8:29; 16:32), and of contacting people, ministering God into them to bring them into the jubilee of God's New Testament economy (Luke 4:18-19; Heb. 8:2; cf. Gen. 14:18; Acts 6:4).

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 But He Himself often withdrew in the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 And in these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:28 And about eight days after these words, He took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Acts 10:38c [Jesus],… who went about doing good and healing all those who were being oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

John 16:32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has come, that you will be scattered each to his own place and will leave Me alone; yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

Luke 4:19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."
Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High.
Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

5. He was a man in whom Satan, the ruler of the world, had nothing (no ground, no chance, no hope, no possibility in anything)—John 14:30b.

John 14:30b … for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

C. We are also discipled to live a God-man life by observing the intrinsic pattern of Christ's sent ones, His slaves, who are His duplication; ("I was in the recovery observing how Brother Watchman Nee acted for eighteen years. All that I observed in him became things discipling me"—*The Vital Groups*, p. 18)—1 Cor. 4:17; Heb. 13:7; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12.

1 Cor 4:17 Because of this I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.
Heb 13:7 Remember the ones leading you, who have spoken to you the word of God; and considering the issue of their manner of life, imitate their faith.
Phil 3:17 Be imitators together of me, brothers, and observe those who thus walk even as you have us as a pattern.
1 Tim 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

D. The only way to live the life of a God-man according to the Lord's model is to set our entire being on the mingled spirit, walking, living, and having our being according to the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:2, 4, 6, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 10:12; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Thes. 5:16-20; 2 Tim. 1:6.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:4 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.
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
Rom 10:12 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 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
Eph 6:18 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,
1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,
1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
1 Thes 5:20 Do not despise prophecies,
2 Tim 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

III. Matthew 24:45-51 reveals that to live the life of a God-man we must be faithful to give God as food to the members of His household so that we may win Christ as our reward in the coming kingdom:

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?
Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.
Matt 24:47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.
Matt 24:48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,
Matt 24:49 And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,
Matt 24:50 The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

Matt 24:51 And will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

A. God has set faithful and prudent slaves over His household as household administrators, stewards, channels of supply, to give His people food at the proper time—1 Tim. 1:4; Matt. 24:45; 1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 3:2; 1 Cor. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:10; Phil. 1:25.

1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

1 Cor 9:17 If I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a stewardship.

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,

B. To give them food refers to ministering the word of God and Christ as the life supply to the believers in the church; Christ as the life-giving Spirit is our food, embodied and realized in the word of life—Matt. 24:45; John 6:57, 63, 68; Acts 5:20:

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life,

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

1. In order to enjoy the Lord as our spiritual food so that we can feed others, we must pray over and muse on His word, tasting and enjoying it through careful considering—Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15; Ezek. 3:1-4.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 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,

Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

Ezek 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.

Ezek 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.

Ezek 3:3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.

Ezek 3:4 Then He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

2. We must devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word—Acts 6:4; 2 Cor. 3:6, 8; John 7:37-39; cf. Heb. 7:25; 8:2.

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

2 Cor 3:6 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.

2 Cor 3:8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory?

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

C. To say in our heart that our Master delays is to love the present evil age and not to love the Lord's appearing—Matt. 24:48; 2 Tim. 4:8, 10; cf. Acts 26:16:

Matt 24:48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

2 Tim 4:10 For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia.

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

1. We must beware of covetousness, not storing up treasure for ourselves but being rich toward God—Luke 12:16-20; 2 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 3:8.

Luke 12:16 And He told them a parable, saying, The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundantly.

Luke 12:17 And he reasoned in himself, saying, What shall I do, for I have no place where I may gather my crops?

Luke 12:18 And he said, I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will gather there all my wheat and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; rest, eat, drink, be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said to him, Foolish one, this night they are requiring your soul from you; and the things which you have prepared, whose will they be?

2 Cor 6:10 As made sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

2. "Remember Lot's wife" is a solemn warning to the world-loving believers—Luke 17:31-32; cf. Rom. 1:21, 25.

Luke 17:31 In that day, he who will be on the housetop and his goods in the house, let him not come down to take them away; and he who is in the field, likewise, let him not turn back to the things behind.

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

Rom 1:21 Because though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or thank Him, but rather became vain in their reasonings, and their heart, lacking understanding, was darkened.

Rom 1:25 Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

3. We must be watchful and beseeching so that the day of the Lord's coming would not come upon us suddenly as a snare—Luke 21:34-36; cf. Matt. 2:3.

Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.

Luke 21:35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.

Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

Matt 2:3 And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him.

D. To beat our fellow slaves is to mistreat fellow believers—24:49; Acts 9:4:

Matt 24:49 And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,

Acts 9:4 And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

1. We must not judge and condemn our fellow believers but be kind to them, tenderhearted, forgiving them, even as God in Christ forgave us—Luke 6:37; Eph. 4:31-32.

Luke 6:37 And do not judge, and you shall by no means be judged; and do not condemn, and you shall by no means be condemned; release, and you will be released;
Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice.
Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

2. We must not revile or criticize our brothers but consider them more excellent than ourselves—1 Cor. 6:10; Phil. 2:3, 29.

1 Cor 6:10 Nor thieves nor the covetous, not drunkards, not revilers, not the rapacious will inherit the kingdom of God.
Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
Phil 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all joy, and hold such in honor,

3. We must not lord it over our fellow believers but serve them as slaves to feed them with the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit—1 Pet. 5:3; Matt. 20:25-28; cf. Num. 17:8.

1 Pet 5:3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.
Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them.
Matt 20:26 It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,
Matt 20:27 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;
Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
Num 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

E. To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things—Matt. 24:49; cf. Eph. 5:18:

Matt 24:49 And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,
Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

1. Because of their divine nature and holy standing, the believers should not be yoked together with the unbelievers; this should be applied to all intimate relationships between believers and unbelievers, not only to marriage and business—2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 15:33; cf. Prov. 13:20.

2 Cor 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?
1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.
Prov 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, / But the companion of fools will be troubled.

2. In order to live the life of a God-man, we must flee youthful lusts and pursue the all-inclusive Christ with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart—2 Tim. 2:22.

2 Tim 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

IV. "We should all declare that we want to live the life of a God-man. Eventually, the God-men will be the victors, the overcomers, the Zion within Jerusalem. This will bring in a new revival which has never been seen in history, and this will end this age"*—Life-study of 1 and 2 Chronicles*, p. 28.