

**HWMR: NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB—PATTERNS OF LIVING AN
OVERCOMING LIFE ON THE LINE OF LIFE TO FULFILL THE
ECONOMY OF GOD (Week 5)**

God's Intention with Job—That a Good Man Become a God-man

Scripture Reading: *Job 1:1, 8; 2:3, 9; 27:5; 31:6; 42:5-6*

- Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.
- Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.
- Job 2:3 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.
- Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.
- Job 27:5 Far be it from me to declare you righteous! / Until I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.
- Job 31:6 Let Him weigh me in a righteous balance, / And let God know my integrity -
- Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
- Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.

Day 1

Job 10:13 - But You have hidden these things in Your heart; I know that this is with You.

Eph. 3:9 - And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things.

Eph. 3:17 - That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith...

I. The Bible of sixty-six books is for only one thing—for God in Christ as the Spirit to dispense Himself into us to be our life, our nature, and our everything that we may live Christ and express Christ—Eph. 3:16-17a; Phil. 1:21a:

- A. This should be the **principle** that governs our life—John 6:57.
- B. In a practical way, this should be **today's tree of life for our enjoyment**—Rev. 22:14.

Now He is flowing in resurrection, and the way to receive Him is to drink Him in spirit by calling on His name —"O Lord Jesus, O Lord Jesus." The more you say, "Lord Jesus," the more you drink of Him. **The more you say, "Lord Jesus," the more He flows in.** He flows into us, through us, and out of us to water the whole earth, to quench the thirst of all the needy ones. In the flow the tree of life grows, indicating that when you have this flow, you have the supply of life. The tree of life produces twelve fruits and yields its fruit each month (Rev. 22:2). The fruit is always new and fresh to meet every need.

The key point to receiving Him and containing Him is our **human spirit**. Romans 8:6 says that the mind set on the spirit is life. If you want to receive the flowing Triune God as your life, you have to open from the depths of your being to say, "O Lord Jesus." If you want to enjoy Him as life all day long, you need to **call upon His name continually**. The more you say, "O Lord Jesus," the more you will enjoy Him. Do not try to be humble or good. That does not work. Simply call upon the name of the Lord.

How can you control your temper? When you feel like you are going to lose your temper, simply say, "O Lord Jesus." Then you will not lose your temper, but your temper will be lost; in other words, it will go away. It will be lost by your saying, "O Lord Jesus." Do not try to be humble or to love others. The more you try to love someone, the more you will not love him. Just call upon the Lord continually. Then everyone will be so lovable to you. **This is the way to enjoy the flowing of the Triune God as life.**

Without the real experience of life, there is no practicality or actuality of the church life. Without the real experience of life, we will be divided. We do not need to talk about life in a doctrinal way. **We need the real experience of life through the exercise of our spirit.** We need to enjoy Christ by drinking Him and giving Him the free way to flow in us, through us, and out of us. Then we have the Father in the Son as the Spirit as our life. Daily and hourly we need to enjoy Him as our life. When we enjoy Him as life, we are humble and love others unconsciously. **This life is nothing less than Christ Himself realized as the Spirit, who is flowing in our spirit.** We need to exercise our spirit to say, "O Lord Jesus." Then we will enjoy the flowing of the living water in us, through us, and out of us. This is the way that we enjoy all the riches of Christ as the tree of life with the full, abundant, rich supply for the actuality of the church life. (The Experience of Christ as Life for the Building Up of the Church, Chapter 1, by Witness Lee)

Day 2

Job 2:3 - ...Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity...

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

II. Job was a **good man, expressing himself in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity**— **Job 27:5; 31:6; 32:1:**

- A. Being **perfect** is related to the **inner man**, and being **upright** is related to the **outer man**—1:1.
- B. Job was a **man of integrity**; integrity is the totality of being perfect and upright—2:3, 9;

27:5; 31:6:

1. With respect to Job, **integrity is the total expression** of what he was.
 2. In character, Job was perfect and upright, and in his ethics, he had a **high standard of integrity**.
- C. Job **feared God positively** and **turned away from evil negatively**—1:1:
1. God did not create man merely to fear Him and not do anything wrong; rather, God created man in His own image and according to His likeness that **man may express God**—Gen. 1:26.
 2. To **express** God is **higher** than **fearing** God and **turning away** from evil.
 3. What Job had attained in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity was altogether **vanity**; it neither fulfilled God's purpose nor satisfied His desire, and thus He was lovingly concerned for Job—Job 1:6-8; 2:1-3.
- D. Only God knew that Job had a need—he did not have **God within him**; therefore, God wanted Job to **gain Him** in order to **express Him** for the fulfillment of His purpose—42:5-6.

Our **disposition** and **character hinder us** from practicing the proper Christian meeting; therefore, we must learn to deny our disposition and character. According to the teaching of the New Testament, we must deny ourselves (Matt. 16:24), our soul-life (16:26; Luke 9:24). **To deny ourselves is to deny our disposition**, since the self is in our disposition. The soul-life is the person, and the being of the person is the disposition. The expression of the person, the self, is the character. We sometimes say that someone is “a real character.” This means that a **certain person expresses himself in a particular way** which distinguishes him from everyone else.

One time I asked one of the sisters whether or not she functioned in the meetings she attended. She responded by saying, “Oh, Brother Lee, you know that by birth I am not a person who can speak anything in a meeting. I was born quiet, and I am not an outspoken person.” When I received such a response, I said, “This is just your disposition.” To use the word disposition is pleasant, but to use the word self is not so pleasant. Actually, the disposition and the self are very close. To say that we are a certain way by birth seems to be a good excuse, but the Bible tells us that whenever we come together, we should have something, such as a psalm or song for speaking as well as for singing. The Lord is not happy for us to sit in a meeting according to the way we were born. Sometimes the older sisters have said to me, “Brother Lee, we are over seventy years of age. For the young ones to shout is okay, but we older ones find it difficult to do the same thing.” Their disposition became their argument against functioning as well as a vindication of themselves. We must be against our disposition. **A good practice to help overcome our silent disposition in the meetings is to praise the Lord by ourselves many times throughout the day but not in a way that would disturb or threaten others.** If we live a life of praising the Lord, when we come to the meetings, we will be beside ourselves with the enjoyment of the Lord. This enjoyment of Christ will encourage us to praise the Lord and shout, “Amen,” when we come together with the saints in the meetings. (*The Exercise and Practice of the God-Ordained Way*, Chapter 27, by Witness Lee)

Day 3

Job 42:5-6 - I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen You; therefore I abhor myself, and I repent in dust and ashes.

III. God's intention was that Job would become a **God-man, expressing God in His attributes—22:24-25; 38:1-3:**

- A. God ushered Job into another realm, the **realm of God**, that Job might **gain God** instead of his attainments in his perfection, righteousness, and integrity—42:5-6.
- B. God's intention with Job was to **consume him** and to **strip him** of his attainments, his achievements, in the highest standard of ethics in perfection and uprightness—31:6.

I used to tell people that I wanted to be a good man, but I could not make it. But today I can testify that I am not a good man. Do not be a good man, but **be a God-man**. If you want to be a good man, be sure that you will be a bad man. Do not try in yourself to love others. The more you try to love others, the more you will eventually hate others. If you try to be humble, you will be proud. You may even have the inward attitude—"Don't you know that I am so humble?" This is pride. You are proud of your humility. You have to forget about being a good man.

Then I was taught by many Christian teachers that I should be patient, humble, and kind. I was taught that I should be very virtuous. Eventually I discovered that I could not love, I could not be humble, nor could I be patient, kind, holy, or righteous. I became very disappointed and struggled for a long time. One day I saw that man can never be holy. Only God can be holy. There is no possibility for a piece of black iron to be gold. I saw that **what God wanted was to enter into me to be my contents, to be my holiness, to be my "gold."** When I saw and realized this I became greatly excited. I wanted to tell everyone that I had God in me, that God was my contents. God is my life, my holiness, my love, my slowness, and my everything. I am a vessel, a container, to **contain God and to be filled with God**.

In the garden of Eden there were two trees—the **tree of life** and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** (Gen. 2:9). Evil always goes with good. Hatred goes with love. Pride goes with humility. This is not what God wants. **God wants life**. God does not want you to be a good man, but **God wants you to be a God-man**. You may be a "good man," but you can never be an expression of God if you are merely a good man. God made man in His own image for the purpose of expressing God. When we become a God-man who is filled with God, we express God. **A God-man is an expression of God**.

Such a God-man, **expressing God**, is God's **representative**. He represents God and he has God's authority over all things. God created man in His own image to express Him, and God gave His dominion to man that man may reign for Him (Gen. 1:26). It is not a good man but a God-man who expresses God and represents God. God's image is for us to express God, and God's dominion is for us to represent God. **We have God Himself in our spirit, and we can be filled with God and full of God to express Him and represent Him as a God-man**. This is the dispensing of God Himself into us according to the divine economy. (The Divine Economy, Chapter 2)

- C. God's intention was to **tear down the natural Job** in his perfection and uprightness that He might build up a renewed Job in God's nature and attributes—1:6-8; 2:3-6.

Day 4

1 Tim. 6:11 - But you, O man of God, ...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

2 Tim. 3:17 - That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

- D. God's intention was to make Job a **man of God, filled with Christ**, the embodiment of God, to be the fullness of God for the expression of God in Christ—1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17.
- E. God's stripping and consuming were exercised over Job to tear him down that **God might have a base and a way to rebuild him with God Himself** so that he might become a God-man, the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead, in order to express God—Eph. 3:16-21.

Day 5

John 12:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Rom. 8:29 - Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

IV. In Christ God has been constituted into man, man has been constituted into God, and **God and man have been mingled together to be one entity**, which is called the **God-man**—Matt. 1:21, 23; Luke 1:35; Titus 2:13; 1 Tim.

2:5:

- A. The **many God-men**, the **many sons** of God, are the **increase, reproduction, duplication**, and **continuation** of Christ, the first God-man—John 12:24; Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:29.
- B. A God-man is **one who partakes of God's life and nature**, thus becoming one with God in His life and nature and thereby expressing Him—John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- C. A God-man has been **born of God** to be a child of God, having the **life and nature of God**—John 1:12-13; 3:6:
 - 1. A God-man has **two lives**, the human and the divine, and **two natures**, humanity and divinity.
 - 2. A God-man is a **life-man**—1 John 5:11-13; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
 - 3. A God-man is a **gold-man**—Exo. 25:11; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18; 21:18b.
- D. A God-man is **constituted with God**, having God as his life, life supply, and everything; thus, a God-man is man yet God and God yet man—Eph. 3:16-17a.
- E. A God-man is a **new creation** and the **righteousness of God in Christ**—2 Cor. 5:17, 21.

Day 6

2 Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

- F. A God-man **loves the Lord with his whole being**, that is, from his **heart, soul, mind**, and **strength**—Mark 12:30.
- G. A God-man has **no confidence in the flesh, denies the self**, and exercises the spirit to live Christ—Phil. 3:3; Matt. 16:24; 1 Tim. 4:7; Phil. 1:21a.
- H. A God-man is a **man of God with the word of God**, inhaling the breath of God—1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- I. A God-man realizes that he is not an independent individual but **part of the corporate God-man**—the Body of Christ, the one new man—1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:16; Col. 3:10-11.