Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes #6: Gaining God to Be Transformed by God for the Purpose of God 3/8-14 OLSummary:

I. God's intention with Job was for him to become a person who lived in the heavenly vision and the reality of God's economy: A. Job's experience was a step taken by God in His divine economy to carry out the consuming and stripping of the contented Job in order to tear Job down that God might have a way to rebuild him with God Himself and to usher him into a deeper seeking after God so that he might gain God instead of His blessings and his attainments in his perfection and integrity. **B**. The one who does not care for God may gain many things and may seem to prosper; however, the one who cares for God will be restricted by God and even stripped by God of many things; God's intention with His seekers is that they may find everything in Him and not be distracted from the absolute enjoyment of Himself. C. God's purpose in dealing with His holy people is that they would be emptied of everything and receive only God as their gain; the desire of God's heart is that we would gain Him in full as life, as the life supply, and as everything to our being. D. In order to live in the reality of God's economy with His divine dispensing, we need God to build Himself into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. E. In Christ God was constituted in man, man was constituted into God, and God and man were mingled together to be one entity, the God-man; this implies that God's intention in His economy is to make Himself man in order to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

II. <u>God's economy is God becoming a man in the flesh</u> through incarnation that man might become God in the Spirit through transformation for the building of God into man and man into God to gain a corporate God-man:

A. The most marvelous, excellent, mysterious, and all-inclusive transformations of the eternal and Triune God in His becoming a man are God's move in man for the accomplishment of His eternal economy. /These transformations are the processes through which the Triune God passed in His becoming a God-man, bringing divinity into humanity and mingling divinity with humanity as a prototype for the mass reproduction of many God-men; He became the embodiment of the Triune God, bringing God to man and making God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable. God speaks of these transformations in Hosea 11:4 by saying, "I drew them with cords of a man, / With bands of love"; the phrase with cords of a man, with bands of love indicates that God loves us with His divine love not on the level of divinity but on the level of humanity; God's love is divine, but it reaches us in the cords of a man, that is, through Christ's humanity. /The cords (the transformations, the processes) through which God draws us include Christ's incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; it is by all these steps of Christ in His humanity that God's love in His salvation reaches us.

B. The transformation of the tripartite man is God's move to deify man, to constitute man with the processed and consummated Triune God; in God's appearing to him, Job saw God in order to gain God to be transformed by God for the purpose of God. /We can open our heart to the Lord simply by telling the Lord, "O Lord, I love You; I want to please You." form, the form of the old man, to another form, the form of the new man; the Lord accomplishes this transformation work by the killing of Christ's death. /The death of Christ is in the compound Spirit; the Spirit is the application of the death of Christ and its effectiveness. /All persons, all matters, and all things related to us are the means of the Holy Spirit to work good for us so that we can be loaded with good, with the Triune God Himself. D. Transformation is carried out in us as we experience the discipline of the Holy Spirit. /We should cooperate with the inner operating Spirit and accept the environment that God has arranged for us.

III. Ministry is the issue of revelation plus suffering—what we see is wrought into us through suffering; hence, what we minister is what we are: A. Although the ministers are many, they have only one ministry-the ministry of the new covenant for the accomplishing of God's New Testament economy; our working together with Christ is to carry out this unique ministry, the ministering of Christ to people for the building up of His Body. B. As a whole, the Body has one, unique corporate ministry, but because this ministry is the service of the Body of Christ and because the Body has many members, all the members have their own ministry for the carrying out of the unique ministry. C. The ministry is for ministering the Christ whom we have experienced, and it is constituted with, and produced and formed by, the experience of the riches of Christ gained through sufferings, consuming pressures, and the killing work of the cross. /The ministry of the Spirit is for us to arrive at the high peak of the divine revelation by our ministering Christ as the Spirit, who gives life. /The ministry of righteousness is for us to enter into the God-man living by our ministering Christ not only as our objective righteousness but also as our subjective and lived-out righteousness for the genuine expression of Christ. /The ministry of reconciliation is for us to shepherd people according to God (in oneness with Christ in His heavenly ministry of shepherding) by our ministering Christ as the word of reconciliation so that we can bring God's people into their spirit as the Holy of Holies for them to become persons in the spirit. D. Tribulation is the sweet visitation and incarnation of grace with all the riches of Christ; grace visits us mainly in the form of tribulation.

God poured out Himself as love in our hearts with the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us, as the motivating power within us, that we may more than conquer in all our tribulations; therefore, when we endure any kind of tribulation, we are not put to shame but live Christ for His magnification.

CP1: Exercise spirit while still young and be filled with the Spirit and practice the God-man living which expresses God

<u>OL1</u>: God's intention with Job was for him to become a person who lived in the heavenly vision and the reality of God's economy.

<u>OL2</u>: The one who does not care for God may gain many things and may seem to prosper; however, the one who cares for God will be restricted by God and even stripped by God of many things; God's intention with His seekers is that they may find everything in Him and not be distracted from the absolute enjoyment of Himself.

<u>Phil. 3:13-14</u> Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

OL3: God's economy is God becoming a man in the flesh through incarnation that man might become God in the Spirit through transformation for the building of God into man and man into God to gain a corporate God-man. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us... 1 Cor. 15:45 ...The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. He lived a human life, yet He lived not by His human life but by His divine life to express the divine attributes in His human virtues. Such a living is the model of the human living of His mass reproduction of the many God-men.

His death was not merely the all-inclusive death. It...was the all-problems-solving death. To accomplish such a death, He became the flesh of sin (but only in its likeness). He had the likeness of the flesh of sin, but within Him there is no sin. It was by this that He was made sin and condemned sin in the flesh.... We need to pay our full attention to this. He was God. First, He became a man. Second, He became the embodiment of God, which was the real tabernacle. Then He became the Lamb.

In His becoming a man, He also became a serpent (only in its likeness as the bronze serpent).... By becoming a serpent, He destroyed the devil, the ancient serpent, who has the might of death, and He judged the world, which is the system (invented by the satanic systematization), the cosmos, of the devil, its ruler.

As the last Adam, He ended the old man. As the end of the old man, He crucified the old man and terminated the old creation. The old man is the representative, the center, of the old creation, so by destroying the old man He terminated the old creation.

In His all-conquering resurrection He accomplished three main things. First, He uplifted His humanity for Him to be begotten of God as God's firstborn Son. Second, (we) became...the many sons of God as His many brothers....Third, Christ, as the last Adam, became the life-giving Spirit, the pneumatic Christ, the all-inclusive compounded Spirit, as the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God.

Application: Newly saved, Youth and College Students

Young people, college students, and newly saved

ones should begin learning to exercise the spirit and touch the Lord from a young age.

<u>2 Chronicles 34:3</u> And in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young (at the age of 16), he began to seek after the God of David his father (from a recent Bible reading). FN "<u>while still young</u>": This shows that when one is young, one has the ability to touch God.

May you exercise your spirit to recognize and carry out God's economy while you are young! The Triune God went through the processes of incarnation, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension. It is not for you to be a good man, but for you to receive God's dispensation and become a God-man. God became man, for man to become a God-man in God's life and nature but not in the Godhead. In order for man to become a God-man, it is necessary to have the discipline of the Holy Spirit for the tribulations outside and the renewing of the Holy Spirit inside. In your tribulations, open your heart to the Lord and only care for the Lord.

For example, when studying for an exam, you should first proactively and positively engage yourself in the exam. Whether you are a naturally proactive person or not, be strengthened in your inner man and your regenerated spirit, open each part of your heart to the Lord, so that Christ may spread from your spirit to the mind, will and emotion of your soul. If you do so, Christ can make home in your heart. This is the right way for you to study for your exam in a proactive and positive way in the new man. Do not engage the study of your exam reluctantly with an obligue attitude (an attitude of not tackling things head-on). Rather, you should face it head-on squarely. If you do so, you can engage your study of the exam in the divine dispensation. Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, <u>17</u> That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Moreover, accept the restrictions and tribulations of the exam. Recall that God has gone through a long process and is now a life-giving Spirit. In order to engage you in the study of exam straight forwardly, God went through the processes to strengthen your spirit through the life-giving Spirit, and for Christ, the life-giving Spirit to spread in your heart. When Christ spreads in your mind, you can experience him as your needed ability such as understanding, wisdom. good memory, and concentration. In fact, all your needs can be found in the compounded life-giving Spirit. The God-man living is a life that is filled by the Spirit and expresses God. In addition, God and man are mingled together corporately to build up the Body of Christ. May your life be blessed under the divine dispensation in God's economy! Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, God desires me to have a God-man living. The environment which I have to study now, is a restriction for God to build Himself in me. I want to gain the Lord by exercising my spirit and engage in my studies head-on and not with an oblique attitude. Experience Christ as my needed ability such as wisdom, understanding, good memory and concentration. Exercise my spirit and learn to touch the Lord while I am still young!

CP2: Not losing heart in the sufferings but be strengthened in the cherishing of the Lord's humanity and the nourishing of His divinity, accept the environment and break through

OL1: God speaks of these transformations in Hosea 11:4 by saying, "I drew them with cords of a man, / With bands of love"; the phrase with cords of a man, with bands of love indicates that God loves us with His divine love not on the level of divinity but on the level of humanity; God's love is divine, but it reaches us in the cords of a man, that is, through Christ's humanity: OL2: The cords (the transformations, the processes) through which God draws us include Christ's incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; it is by all these steps of Christ in His humanity that God's love in His salvation reaches us. Rom. 8:37...In all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us. 38 Neither death nor life...nor things present nor things to come nor powers 39 nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The love of God is the source of His eternal salvation. This love is in Christ and has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Nothing can separate us from this love of God. In God's salvation this love to us has become the love of Christ, which does many marvelous things for us through the grace of Christ until God's complete salvation is accomplished in us. These marvelous things provoke God's enemy to attack us with all kinds of sufferings and calamities. However, because of our response to the love of God in Christ, these attacks have become benefits to us.

<u>OL3</u>:Transformation is carried out in us as we experience the discipline of the Holy Spirit. <u>OL4</u>:We should cooperate with the inner operating Spirit and accept the environment that God has arranged for us.

<u>2 Cor. 3:16-17</u> ...Whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

How do we open our heart to the Lord? Whenever we have to make a determination or decision, we should first say to the Lord, "O Lord, I love You. I am willing to please You." This kind of prayer opens our will to the Lord, and once our will is opened, the Lord will enter into it. In addition, whenever we love or desire something, we should stop for a moment and say to the Lord, "O Lord, I love You. I want to please You." This opens our emotion to the Lord. When we do this, the Lord will surely enter into our emotion. Similarly, whenever we begin to think about something, we should stop our thinking for a moment and say to the Lord, "O Lord, I love You. I want to please You." This kind of statement opens our mind to the Lord, and through this opening, the Lord will be able to enter into our mind.

Application to business person / serving ones

God drew you with cords of a man, with bands of love. God's love reaches you on the level of humanity of Christ. In another words, God's love reaches you and draws you in Christ in your life of graduate school and business life. In your business life, you may experience organizational changes, promotions, demotions, restructuring due to sudden business changes, job transfers, job changes, company mergers, bankruptcies, and so on. But please realize that the Lord is with you in this very real situation. The Lord will cherish, be compassionate, and encourage you in His humanity. In addition, He can strengthen your spirit in His nourishment of divinity. In this way, in the Lord's cherishing of humanity and nourishing of divinity, do not be discouraged by hardships, but be strengthened, accept the environment, and break through. For example, a supervisor whom you cannot get along with has been assigned over you. You need to experience Christ and carry out your duties faithfully in accordance with your boss's policies. Eph. 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ; 6 Not with eye-service as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul; 7 With good will serving as slaves, as serving the Lord and not men; 8 Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or a free man.

As an exception, if there is clear wrongdoing or immorality existing, you should express your opposition to your supervisor. If your boss continues to be illegal, you should leave your job with the Lord to stay out of the illegal situation. In such an environment, it is easy to not know what to do and to fall into unbelief that the Lord is not with us. May the Lord strengthen your spirit and your faith. This kind of hardship is never pleasant, but you will be perfected in your hardship. We should not think, "This environment is a little unique, so we can't rely on the Lord". In fact, all environments are environments under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, and not by chance. At the same time, the same Holy Spirit is working in you, strengthening, moistening, renewing, and transforming you. Therefore, you should exercise your spirit, open your heart to the Lord, and accept His environmental arrangements and inner transforming work.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberation; without the Spirit of the Lord, there is no liberation from bondage. As the Spirit of the Lord spreads to our mind, it is freed from the bondage of stubbornness, complexity, pride, blindness, and corruption. Open your mind, put your mind to your spirit, and allow the Spirit of the Lord to spread in your mind. Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, God's love reaches me through the cords of man, that is the humanity of Christ. I thank the Lord that He is with me in practical situations, cherishing, sympathizing, and encouraging me in the humanity of Christ, even when I encounter serious hardships due to various environmental changes in my business life. Even in difficult circumstances where I don't know what to do, I set my mind to the spirit so that I don't fall into unbelief, and open to the transforming Spirit under the discipline of the Holy Spirit.

CP3: Tribulation is the sweet visitation and incarnation of grace with all the riches of Christ. Grace visits us mainly in the form of tribulation.

OL1: All persons, all matters, and all things related to us are the means of the Holy Spirit to work good for us so that we can be loaded with good, with the Triune God Himself.

<u>2 Cor. 4:10</u> Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <u>16</u> Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. Everything related to us is under the Lord's sovereign arrangement. What kind of job we have and whom we marry are altogether not up to us. A brother may choose a sister to be his wife, but later this brother may think that he made a mistake. This is why the Lord charges the husbands to love their wives. Under the Lord's sovereign arrangement, we are like lambs brought to the slaughter every day.... Every day we are under the killing of Christ's death that His life may be manifested in our body in the renewing of our inner man.

Our natural strength, natural wisdom, natural cleverness, natural disposition, natural shortcomings, natural virtues, and natural attributes, plus our character and habits, must all be torn down in order that the Holy Spirit may form in us a new disposition, new character, new habits, new virtues, and new attributes. In order to accomplish this work of reconstitution, the Holy Spirit of God moves within us to enlighten, inspire, lead, and saturate us with the divine life. He also works in our environment to arrange every detail, person, matter, and thing in our situation to tear down what we are naturally.

OL2: Tribulation is the sweet visitation and incarnation of grace with all the riches of Christ; grace visits us mainly in the form of tribulation. 2 Cor. 4:1 Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart. Rom. 5:3-4 And not only so, but we also boast in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance; and endurance, approvedness; and approvedness, hope. If we say that we appreciate grace but not tribulation, it is like saying that we love God but not Jesus. However, to reject Jesus is to reject God. Likewise, to reject tribulation is to reject grace....The incarnation of God was His gracious visitation.... If we love His visit, we must love His incarnation. It is the same with grace and tribulation. Tribulation is the incarnation of grace visiting us. Endurance produces approvedness. Approvedness is an approved quality resulting from the endurance of tribulation and testing. Thus, approvedness is a quality or attribute that can be approved. At times, it is difficult for young brothers to have the approval of others. They need the endurance which produces a quality that is easily approved by others.

Application to business person / serving ones Brother's Testimony: I used to underestimate the Lord, thinking that in a normal environment He would help me, but in a special environment He would not be able to help me. "Lord, I repent. Forgive my sins of unbelief."

The company I worked for from age 35 to 43 was a

successful and extremely profitable company in the area of oral care. Suddenly, however, the US headquarters decided to sell itself to the world's largest pharmaceutical company at the time. Once it was decided that the company would be absorbed, the management of the acquiring company came in and we could not make any decisions on our own. At that time, I was working with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the US headquarters to develop excellent new products with high novelty. However, the supervisors sent by the new parent company had no understanding of the new product we were developing, and halted the development midway. As a project manager, I did my best to explain the situation, but they didn't understand anything. I was really disappointed and had no idea what the Lord was doing. I came to the extremely unbelieving conclusion at that time that the Lord would help me in a normal environment, but in a special environment, such as an absorption and merger of companies, He could not help me either.

I didn't really understand what the Lord was doing, but I decided to be patient and stay until His guidance became clear. Many of my colleagues left the company early because they heard various rumors and felt anxious. However, the company has prepared a special retirement package a year later. I was able to use it to leave my job. And because I had experience in both pharmaceuticals and medical devices at a pharmaceutical company, I was able to change job to the largest medical device company in the world. Six months later, I was promoted from Manager to Executive Officer. It was then that I first understood the wonderful guidance of the Lord. I was full of grievances and unbelief, but because of God's mercy, I managed to endure a year of hardship. Without this painful merger, I would not have been able to enjoy the benefits of being an executive at one of the largest medical device companies. Moreover, I retired with a special package. When I thought about all of this, I just bowed down, worshipped God, and confessed my sins of unbelief. In addition, I was able to hire about 15 brothers and sisters for their church life.

I renewed my consecration and prayed, "Even though I almost fell in this unbelief, I was able to endure because of God's mercy. In the end, under God's guidance, I was able to achieve my current position miraculously in the eyes of man. I consecrate this occupation back to the Lord. I must also use this occupation to build up church with the saints." I changed jobs in April 2003, and the Church was able to purchase Uozaki Meeting Hall in November 2004.

<u>Prayer</u>: Oh Lord Jesus, all things that concern me are under Your sovereignty. This is because my natural emotions, character, and habits are all torn down and the Holy Spirit builds new emotions, new character, new habits, new virtues, and new qualities in me. I renew my consecration, recognizing that tribulation is an incarnation of the grace that visits me. May I exercise my spirit, set my mind on the spirit, trust in the Lord, endure with the Lord, and follow His guidance no matter how difficult the circumstances. Amen!