

<p>I. “Over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above” (Ezek. 1:22):</p>	<p>A. Over the heads of the four living creatures, there is the firmament, the expanse, which we call the sky.</p> <p>B. The sky above the living creatures is like a great expanse of awesome crystal, indicating that above them is a clear, open, and expanding heaven:</p> <p>C. The kind of sky we have as Christians depends on our conscience; our conscience is connected to our sky:</p>	<p>1. They have a thorough fellowship with the Lord vertically and also a clear fellowship among themselves horizontally; they have a wide and stable span of fellowship. 1 John 1:3 <i>That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.</i> 7 <i>But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another;</i></p> <p>2. When we reach the point of having a clear, open, stable, and expanding heaven, there will be nothing between us and God, and nothing between us and one another.</p> <p>1. We need to maintain a clear sky with the Lord, that is, have a clear fellowship with Him.</p> <p>2. If we would have a clear sky, we need to deal with any offense or condemnation in our conscience.</p> <p>3. When there is nothing between us and the Lord, our sky will be crystal clear, and we will have not only a good conscience but also a pure conscience. 1 Timothy 1:5 <i>But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;</i></p>
<p>II. “And under the expanse one pair of their wings went straight out, one toward the other; each had another pair covering their bodies on this side and on that side” (Ezek. 1:23):</p>	<p>A. The four living creatures stretch out two of their wings for coordination; this indicates that if we are under a clear, open, stable, and expanding sky, we can have a coordination that is altogether straight, with nothing crooked.</p> <p>B. The four living creatures use the other two wings to cover themselves; this indicates that in the coordination we should not display ourselves but should hide ourselves under the Lord’s grace.</p>	<p>1. The voice comes out of the wings that are joined together.</p> <p>2. The voice of the testimony of any local church should not be the voice of any individual believer; it must be the voice of a corporate, coordinated body, a voice that comes out of the proper coordination.</p>
<p>III. “And I heard the sound of their wings, like the sound of great waters, like the voice of the Almighty, as they went; it was the sound of a tumult, like the sound of an army” (Ezek. 1:24a):</p>	<p>A. The voice is not that of an individual but is strong, like the sound of great waters:</p> <p>B. The voice of a corporate body becomes the voice of the Almighty, the voice of God Himself.</p> <p>C. The voice is also the voice of an army fighting the battle for God’s economy.</p>	<p>1. The voice comes out of the wings that are joined together.</p> <p>2. The voice of the testimony of any local church should not be the voice of any individual believer; it must be the voice of a corporate, coordinated body, a voice that comes out of the proper coordination.</p>
<p>IV. “Whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings. And there was a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads. When they stood still, they dropped their wings” (Ezek. 1:24b-25):</p>	<p>A. When the living creatures hear a voice out of the clear sky above their heads, they stop and let down their wings:</p> <p>B. A clear and open heaven, speaking for the Lord, and listening to the Lord are all matters of fellowship: 1 John 1:7 <i>But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.</i></p>	<p>1. This indicates that they know not only how to speak and sound forth their voice but also how to listen to God’s voice. Revelation 2:7 <i>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.</i> 1:10 <i>I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, Isaiah 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me The tongue of the instructed, That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear To hear as an instructed one.</i></p> <p>2. Whenever they listen to God’s voice, they stop moving, stand still, and lower their wings.</p> <p>3. They know how to give the voice by moving, and they know how to listen to God’s voice by stopping.</p> <p>4. In spiritual things, seeing depends on hearing; hearing is deeper than seeing and more intimate than seeing.</p> <p>1. Genuine fellowship is related to genuine coordination.</p> <p>2. When we have fellowship with God and with one another, there will be genuine coordination among us; then we can speak for God and also listen quietly to His speaking.</p>
<p>V. We need to see a vision of the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe: Revelation 4:2 <i>Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting; 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.</i></p>	<p>A. The book of Revelation unveils God’s universal administration; this book reveals that the universe operates according to God’s administration.</p> <p>B. The throne in Revelation 4 and 5 is the throne of divine authority:</p>	<p>1. God’s throne is related to His administration, which is a matter of His economy.</p> <p>2. God on the throne is behind the scene, ruling over everyone and everything.</p> <p>3. Everything in the world situation is decided on the throne; nothing can happen outside the rule of God’s throne.</p>
<p>VI. The highest</p>	<p>A. The throne is</p>	<p>1. The Lord’s presence is always with the throne and can never be separated from the throne.</p>

<p>point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it : Ezekiel 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.</p>	<p>the center of the universe, and it is where God is:</p>	<p>2. The Lord's throne is not only in the third heaven but also in our spirit; therefore, the Lord's throne is always with us. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.</p>
	<p>B. If we have a clear sky, the throne will be present, and we will spontaneously be under the ruling and reigning of the throne.</p>	
	<p>C. For God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us.</p>	
	<p>D. To have the throne above a clear sky is to allow God to have the highest and most prominent position in our Christian life.</p>	
	<p>E. In our spiritual experience, to reach the point of having the throne above a clear sky means that in everything we are completely submissive to God's authority and administration.</p>	
	<p>F. The clearer our sky is, the more we are under the throne; the more we have clear fellowship with the Lord, the more we will be under His authority. Revelation 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.</p>	
	<p>G. If we have the throne above the clear sky, we are greatly blessed, and we should worship God for this blessing.</p>	
<p>H. Today there are not many believers who are living completely under the ruling of God:</p>	<p>1. The goal of dealing with the conscience is to recover us from human rule through self-rule to God's rule so that we may be directly under His control.</p>	
	<p>2. In His complete salvation God desires to recover us to divine rule so that we may live before God in simplicity and under His direct authority.</p>	
	<p>3. To be under God's rule means that we live by the intuition of the spirit.</p>	
	<p>4. The more we are ruled by God, the more weighty and noble we become.</p>	
<p>VII. The throne is not only for God to reign over us but also for Him to accomplish His eternal purpose: Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.</p>	<p>A. God is a God of purpose, having a will according to His good pleasure.</p>	
	<p>B. In His economy God administrates the universe to fulfill His purpose.</p>	
	<p>C. If we have a throne in our spiritual life, God will not only rule over us but will also fulfill His purpose in us, with us, and through us.</p>	
	<p>D. If we want God's purpose and plan to be carried out in us and with us, we must submit to the throne.</p>	
<p>VIII. The only authority in the church is the throne above the clear sky: Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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,</p>	<p>A. In the church there is no human authority.</p>	
	<p>B. Instead of trying to rule over others, we should humble ourselves and remain under the throne above the clear sky.</p>	
	<p>C. If we are under a clear sky with the throne above it, genuine authority will be with us. 2 Corinthians 13:10 Therefore I write these things while being absent in order that when present I would not have to use severity, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for building up and not for overthrowing.</p>	
	<p>D. Our weight before God depends on the degree of our subjection to God's authority; the more we submit to the throne, the weightier we will be.</p>	
<p>IX. In Ezekiel 1:26 "the likeness of a throne" is "like the appearance of a sapphire stone":</p>	<p>A. A sapphire stone is blue in color, and blue is a heavenly color indicating the situation and condition of God's presence. Exodus 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.</p>	
	<p>B. The throne being in the likeness of a sapphire stone indicates the presence of God in a heavenly situation.</p>	
	<p>C. If we have God's throne above the clear sky, we will be in a heavenly situation, having the appearance of a sapphire stone with the heavenly situation, atmosphere, and condition of the Lord's presence.</p>	
	<p>D. We should care only for the presence of the Lord, not for anything else; in other words, we care only for the clear sky with the throne above it.</p>	
<p>X. The throne in the heavens is transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures:</p>	<p>A. Wherever they are, the throne is there, and wherever they go, the throne follows them.</p>	
	<p>B. In this way the throne in the heavens becomes one with the earth, for the throne is transmitted to the earth.</p>	
	<p>C. This needs to be the situation among the local churches today, the situation among the overcomers, and the situation and condition of our daily Christian life.</p>	

Experience:

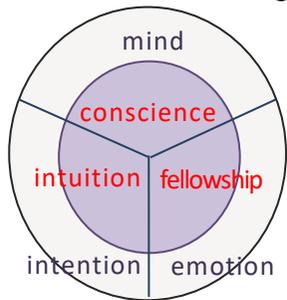
① Clear sky depends on the dealing with conscience:

Before we were saved, our sky was dark and cloudy, even foggy. It was also narrow, without any expanse. With us there was hardly any heaven, hardly any sky. But one day we repented, confessed our sins, and received the Lord Jesus as our Savior....After we made a thorough confession, we had the sense, for the first time, that the sky above us was clear... [and also] expanding. Later, however, some problems might have arisen with ourselves personally, with our relatives, with the church, or with some of the brothers and sisters. Immediately our sky became somewhat cloudy again. It was not as cloudy and dark as before we were saved, but still it was no longer clear. Clouds and fog reappeared. We all have had this kind of experience. Eventually, we confessed our failures, condemned such things as our attitudes, motives, intentions, and goals, and received God's forgiveness and the cleansing of the blood of Jesus. [1 John 1:9](#) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The sky above us became clear again, and once again we were under a clear sky. Then the sky began to open and expand above us. In our experience we should always have a clear, open, and expanding heaven. The kind of sky a Christian has depends upon his conscience. Your conscience is connected to your sky.

Junior high/High school student model:

The kind of sky you have depends on your conscience. Before dealing with the problem of conscience, see the figure below for the explanation of the three parts in the spirit.



Conscience is the major part of the spirit; you will feel the accusation when your relationship with God is wrong. And the conscience will be cloudy. With this kind of accusation from conscience, the cloudy conscience can be taken away by applying Jesus' blood. Fellowship is an organ that can have intimate fellowship with God, intuition is a sense of God that is directly coming from God. Both fellowship and intuition are major parts of the Spirit, when the conscience is cloudy, they

cannot function properly.

Read the following verses concerning conscience, please.

[1 Timothy 1:19](#) Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;

[1 Timothy 3:9](#) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

[2 Timothy 1:3](#) I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day,

[Matthew 5:8](#) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

[Proverbs 22:11](#) He who loves pureness of heart And whose speech is gracious will have the king as his friend.

[2 Timothy 2:22](#) But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

When you feel the accusation from your conscience, if you do not immediately apply Jesus' blood to wash and cleanse your cloudy conscience, a hole will be opened in the bottom of your ship; and your ship of Christian life will wreck and sink. For example, if you lie to your parents and keep things in secrecy, your conscience will immediately feel the accusation and become cloudy. You try to think up all kinds of excuses, but they will be useless and will not help you to justify your lies. Because even if you can cheat your parents temporarily, but you can never fool God. Even if you can come up with good excuses, they will not help you, just take Jesus' blood and confess your sins. Amen.

② In fellowship and coordination, speak to people, be a Christian to listen and follow God:

If we have a sky that is crystal clear, expanding, and stable, there will be a twofold result. On the one hand, having a clear sky enables us to speak; on the other hand, it enables us to listen. We speak to others, and we listen to God. This means that we should be a Christian who both speaks for God and listens to God's speaking. If our condition is like that of the living creatures in Ezekiel 1, our sky will be clear, and then we will be able to speak for God and also to hear God's speaking. The ability to speak and to hear depends upon having a clear sky.

A clear sky, speaking for the Lord, and listening to the Lord are all matters of fellowship. Genuine fellowship is related to genuine coordination. When we have fellowship with God and with one another, there will be a genuine coordination among us. Then as we move we can speak for God, and when God comes to speak to us, we can listen quietly to His speaking.

[1 John 1:3](#) That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

[5](#) And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

[6](#) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

[7](#) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

[8](#) If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[9](#) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Service model:

A crystal clear sky, speak for the Lord, listen to the Lord and follow Him are matters related to fellowship. The revelation concerning the sacred fellowship from Chapter one in 1 John, consists of both the fellowship of you and God horizontally and the fellowship between you and the believers vertically. You need to have the sacred fellowship correctly by exercising yourself to have horizontal and vertical fellowship. For example, you need to have the horizontal fellowship with God, when you are dissatisfied with one of the brothers or sisters. Because God is the light, your various sins from the darkness will be exposed. When your sins are being exposed, do not come up with excuses, but to confess your sins immediately. By doing this, your fellowship with the brothers and sisters that you are dissatisfied will be recovered.

By having normal fellowship, i) you will have a stable, wide spread and crystal clear sky, ii) you will speak for the Lord, iii) you will be able to listen to the Lord and follow Him.

③ Become a weighty person by submitting to God's authority:

I can assure you that if we are under a clear sky with the throne above it, the genuine authority will be with us. No opposition or persecution will be able to defeat us or shake us because heaven and the throne are with us. If the sky above us is clear and the throne is with us, we will have the authority and the weight. The weight of a person before God is equal to the degree of that person's subjection to God's authority... [A] brother is weighty because he has learned to subject himself to God's authority. The more we submit to the throne, the weightier we will be.

Business life model:

A normal human Christian should express prominent humanity in the human life. The working young saints should devote themselves to their superiors at work. Read the following verses, please.

[Colossians 3:22](#) Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord. [23](#) Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men, [24](#) Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ. [25](#) For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons.

You should not come up with excuses like, if the incapable superior stays unchanged, you will never be able to devote yourself to a capable superior at work. Of course, depends on the situation that the workplace could be sinful, and a need to quickly get away from it, which is to say you may have to change your job. However, in most cases, your excuse of not able to devote yourself to your superior came from your natural preference, your pride, and your individualism, you need to confess your sins, shortcomings and weakness and let

Jesus' blood cleanse your conscience and correctly devote yourself to your superior. All kinds of authorities are coming from God, actually devote to your superior is submitting to God. The more you submit to the authority, the weightier and authoritative you will become, which will enable you to be a person with authority.

The testimony of sister Chou Yi-Ka:

I am a foreign student from Henan, China and in my 1st year doctoral course at the Kobe University. I heard the gospel and got saved 4 years ago, when I was still a research student at the Kobe University. Before I was saved, I would try to ignore passive situations from the worldly sins, such as, murder, fornication, fallacy as much as possible. On the other hand, because of my own sins, I was not able to fight against the worldly flow and was troubled by my drifting in such flow. In such a time in November 2013, I heard the gospel, repented and baptized. Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord! After being saved, I was able to gradually grow up in the Lord through the church life; learn to know God's economy and decided to devote my entire life to the Lord.

The time in the college is an extremely important period. The young people in such period are at a crossroad of either gained by the Lord or became the captive of the world. Brother Nee and Brother Lee were called by the Lord in their early 20s, and they were greatly used by the Lord for the movement of God's economy on earth. The responsible brother of the Church in Kobe was also called by the Lord when he was a freshman in the college; the building up of the Church in Kobe is making progress. There is the need for many young people to rise up, and continue with the road preparation for the Lord's coming back.

I have the burden of becoming a college professor, in order to gain the young people, preach gospel to them and guide them into the truth. For that, I had made up my mind to progress into the doctoral course after I had finished my Master course. In addition, I hope the Lord will perfect me in the church life by utilizing this period of my doctoral course. In the church life, there is the head, the gifted joints, and the whole body. In order for me to be perfected, I follow the leading brothers and sisters. When graduating from the doctoral course and even after acquiring my Ph. D., I would like to stay in Kobe for one more year and get perfected. Hereafter, 2 years of doctoral course, 1 year after the graduation, I pray that I maybe equip with the truth, grow in life, train in personality, diligent in service, and bear much fruit in these 3 years. I consecrate these 3 years to the Christ and His church. After that, I have the burden to go to any college in China that is not yet fully opened, preach gospel, and plant the church tree. Brothers and sisters, please remember me in your prayers.