

#9 The Divine Commission according to the Heavenly Vision for the Continuation of the Book of Acts in the Unique Flow of the Divine Stream

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I. In the Scriptures the concept of the divine stream, the unique flow, is crucial:

A. The Bible reveals the flowing Triune God—the Father as the fountain of life, the Son as the spring of life, and the Spirit as the river of life.

B. The source of the flow is the throne of God and of the Lamb.

C. In the Scriptures there is only one flow, one divine stream; since there is only one divine stream and since the flow is uniquely one, we need to keep ourselves in this one flow.

D. The divine stream, the unique flow, is the stream of the Lord's work:

① There is a stream, which we may call the stream, the current, of the work; where the stream flows, there is the work of God.

② The book of Acts reveals that in the move of the Lord there is only one stream, and we need to keep ourselves in this one stream.

③ The flowing of the divine life, which started on the day of Pentecost and has been flowing throughout all generations to this day, is just one stream.

④ The history of the church shows that throughout the generations there has been one stream of the Spirit flowing all the time; many have been working for the Lord, but not all have been in the flowing of that one stream. [Mon]

II. The Lord appeared to Paul to bring him into the stream of the Lord's work, making him a minister and a witness both of the things in which Paul had seen Him and of the things in which He would appear to Paul:

A. Paul was not disobedient to the heavenly vision of man as a vessel to contain, be filled with, and express the processed and consummated Triune God, of Christ as the mystery of God, and of the church as the Body of Christ, the mystery of Christ.

B. Once you have seen a vision of God's plan and have been converted from everything to Christ Himself, there will be something within you energizing you to carry out God's plan; this vision will become your burden as you live and labor in the continuation of the book of Acts. [Tue]

III. Acts 26:18 reveals the work that we must do today for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ in the continuation of the book of Acts; this verse unveils the all-inclusive contents of our divine commission:

A. This is to carry out the fulfillment of God's jubilee, the acceptable year of the Lord, proclaimed by the Lord Jesus in Luke 4:18-21 according to God's New Testament economy.

B. We need to pray over the contents of our divine commission in Acts 26:18, asking the Lord to make them our experience and reality so that we can bring others into this experience and reality:

① "To open their eyes": **a.** We need to continually pray for a spirit of wisdom and revelation to understand and to see more and more of Christ, the Body of Christ, and the divine dispensing for the divine economy. **b.** We cannot go on without new knowledge of the Lord and a new vision of Him. **c.** Being a minister and a witness is not a matter of teaching and knowledge but of appearing and vision; the things in which we have seen the Lord and the things in which the Lord will appear to us are the things that we must minister to others. **d.** Our commission is to "enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is".

② "To turn them from darkness to light": **a.** Light is the presence of God. **b.** We need to be people who are full of light. **c.** The enjoyment of Christ as our God-given portion is "in the light". **d.** We need to be luminaries in the world, holding forth the word of life. **e.** We need to tell out the virtues of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. [Wed]

③ "To turn them...from the authority of Satan to God":

a. The highest point in our spiritual experience is to have a clear sky with the throne above it: ① To have the throne above a clear sky is to give the Lord the preeminence in our being and the highest and most prominent position in our life. ② The clearer our sky is, the more we are under the throne, under God's Authority. ③ For God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us. ④ If we are under a clear sky with the throne above it, genuine authority will be with us to bring others under God's authority. **b.** Our uttermost love for the Lord qualifies, perfects, and equips us to speak for the Lord with His authority. [Thu]

④ "That they may receive forgiveness of sins": **a.** We need to go to the Lord to receive a thorough forgiveness of all our sins. **b.** David begged God to blot out his transgressions, wash him thoroughly from his iniquity, cleanse him from his sin, and purge his sin with hyssop: ① Hyssop typifies Christ in His humble and humiliated human nature, implying Christ as our Mediator and sacrifice. ② Like David, we need to stay in the presence of God to have a thorough and genuine repentance and confession to receive a full forgiveness from God. ③ If we confess our sins to receive God's forgiveness, we will have the gladness of God's salvation and be sustained with a willing spirit; then we can teach transgressors His ways, and sinners will turn back to Him.

⑤ "That they may receive...an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me": **a.** This inheritance is the Triune God Himself with all He has, all He has done, and all He will do for His redeemed people. **b.** The Triune God is embodied in the all-inclusive Christ, who is the portion allotted to the saints as their inheritance. **c.** We enjoy the pneumatic Christ as the pledge of our inheritance "among those," that is, in the church life. **d.** We need to bring people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ in the church life so that they may enjoy Christ as we do and be sanctified dispositionally with the holy nature of God through the exercise of their spirit. [Fri]

IV. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to continue to live in the divine history by having an upper-room consecration:

A. At the seashore Peter gave up his job to follow the Lord Jesus, but in the upper room he gave up much more:

① He stood with the heavenly vision to give up the religion of his forefathers.

② He gave up his country, his relationship with his neighbors and friends, and his relatives, and he was willing to risk his life.

B. The kind of consecration that we need today is an upper-room consecration, a consecration in which we pay the price to have our whole being "married" to the heavenly vision.

C. If we pay the price for the heavenly vision, we will "burn the bridges behind us" and will have no way to go backward.

D. Whether we have seen the heavenly vision or not depends on whether we are willing to pay the price to buy the anointing Spirit as the eyesalve.

E. To take the way of the Lord's recovery is not cheap; this way is expensive and requires a costly consecration.

F. We are not here for a movement but for the Lord's recovery, and the recovery can be carried out only by the specific and extraordinary consecration in the upper room.

G. The one hundred twenty in the upper room all became a burnt offering; they were burning for the Lord in spirit, and they burned others with the divine fire of the divine life.

H. When the Lord Jesus was on the earth, great crowds followed Him, but they did not afford Him anything for His move; His move was with those in the upper room, with those whose eyes had been opened and whose hearts had been touched.

I. It is a small number who will turn the world and change the age; if we would be in the upper room, we need to pray in a specific way and say, "Lord, I am willing to be in the upper room for the recovery of Your testimony." [Sat]

Crucial Point ①: Clearly see concerning the blessing of the divine economy and divine dispensing by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, and treasure Christ and the church

OL1: Acts 26:18 reveals the work that we must do today for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ in the continuation of the book of Acts; this verse unveils the all-inclusive contents of our divine commission:

OL2: “To open their eyes”: We need to continually pray for a spirit of wisdom and revelation to understand and to see more and more of Christ, the Body of Christ, and the divine dispensing for the divine economy.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

The first thing we must do is to help others to see. In order to do this, we ourselves must have the vision and see the heavenly things. We must see the things concerning Christ, not by being taught but by having Christ appear to us. After you have seen the vision, you need to contact people, telling them that Jesus has appeared to you and that you have seen Him. Do not preach the low, traditional gospel. Many who have received this poor gospel are still blind and in darkness. Do not teach people religion—open their eyes that they may turn from darkness and Satan to light and God. By turning in this way, they will be released from the evil power of darkness, which is the authority of Satan, to God. As a result, they will receive forgiveness of sins and a portion among those who are sanctified. All the saved and forgiven ones are saints, and all the saints have a portion.

According to Colossians, the portion of the saints is simply Christ Himself. Christ has been allotted to us, and we all share a portion in Him....Our portion—Christ—will consummate in the New Jerusalem. Those who turn from Satan to God will not have a portion individually but corporately and collectively with all the saints. This means that they will have a portion among those who are members of the church life.

In Acts 26:18 the full gospel is presented. In this one verse there are seven points:

- i. to open people’s eyes
- ii. to turn them from darkness to light
- iii. to turn them from the authority of Satan to God
- iv. to help them receive forgiveness of sins
- v. to help them to be sanctified by faith
- vi. that they may have a common portion among the saints
- vii. be in the church life.

Application for Young Working Saints/Graduate Students/Marriage Life

Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, **18** The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **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,

The first item of the blessings of Paul’s complete gospel is “to open the eyes”. The Lord opens the eyes of your heart and let you see what God’s plan, God’s economy is. God’s economy has been hidden in God, who created all things throughout the ages. But now, it is opened to the new testament believers. Hallelujah! Thank and praise the Lord.

1Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

You should not remain in the concepts that are from your past experiences. The blessing and expectation toward you in God’s economy are wonderful and surpassing. Thus if you remain in your concepts, you can not understand God’s blessing and think God’s economy as an usual blessing and make Holy Spirit to grieve.

God’s eternal blessing is not material but it is spiritual and it is the processed Triune God Himself. Because you are living in the material realm, it is possible for you to value the material realm highly and disregard the spiritual blessings. But when the millennium kingdom appears in the next age, no one would regard the blessings in the material realm highly than the blessings in the spiritual realm.

Now there is a challenge from God toward you. That is “to know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Eph 1:18)” by “the eyes of your heart having been enlightened” and treasure Christ and the church in this present age before everything is manifested. If your eyes are enlightened and could see God Himself and His economy, you would treasure it and put your priority on Christ and the church. Of course, God will take care of your need in the material realm.

Moreover, because you treasure Christ and the church, you need to confess the name of the Lord Jesus before men and testify concerning Christ and the church. Never think “I believe the Lord in my heart, so no need to tell people that I believe in Him.” The Bible doesn’t tell you so.

Mat. 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And not one of them will fall to the earth apart from your Father.

30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 Every one therefore who will confess in Me before men, I also will confess in him before My Father who is in the heavens;

33 But whoever will deny Me before men, I also will deny him before My Father who is in the heavens.

Those who do not testify the Lord before men are those whose eyes are not enlightened and not treasuring Christ and the church.

Prayer: “Oh Lord Jesus, please open my eyes in this present age. Let me know how great and wonderful the blessings of the Triune God Himself. It is for me to testify before men without fear. Let me be a wise person who invest the whole life in the stock of Christ and the church before the appearing of Your kingdom (before the stock goes high up to purchase). Amen!”

Crucial Point ②: Confess our sins and

exercise ourselves to have a conscience without offense

OL1: We need to go to the Lord to receive a thorough forgiveness of all our sins.

Psalm 51:1 ...According to the greatness of Your compassions blot out my transgression. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, / And from my sin cleanse me. 7 Purge my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean; / Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Like David, we need to stay in the presence of God, confessing that we were born in sin and pleading with Him to wash us and cleanse us, to blot out our transgressions, and to purge our sin. To pray in this way indicates that we have no trust in ourselves. Realizing that we are sinful and that God is holy, we trust only in Him. Also, we realize that we need Christ to be our Mediator and our sacrifice.

In **verse 7a** David prayed, **“Purge my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.”** Hyssop typifies Christ in His humble and humiliated human nature. In Psalm 51:7a hyssop implies Christ as the Mediator and the sacrifice.

In **verse 10** David prayed, **“Create in me a clean heart, O God, / And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”** The Hebrew word for clean here may also be translated “pure.” David begged God not only to forgive him and purge him but also to renew him. By sinning we become old, but after we are forgiven by God we may be renewed. Thus, after we enjoy God’s forgiveness, we need to ask Him for His renewing.

In **verse 11** David continued, **“Do not cast me from Your presence, / And do not take the Spirit of Your holiness away from me.”** We need a new heart and a steadfast spirit, and we also need God’s presence...God’s presence is actually the Spirit. When the Spirit is away, God’s presence also is gone.

In **verse 8a** David prayed, **“Let me hear gladness and joy,”** and in **verse 12** he asked, **“Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation, / And sustain me with a willing spirit.”** Here we see a connection between gladness and willingness of spirit. When we are happy, we also have a willing spirit. This is the overcoming life. A defeated person, on the contrary, is unhappy and does not have a willing spirit. If such a defeated one confesses his sin and asks God for His forgiveness, he will have the gladness of God’s salvation and will also have a willing spirit. It is by the gladness of God’s salvation that a willing spirit is sustained within us.

If we are those who repent, confess our sins, and ask God for His purging, we will have the enjoyment of God in Christ in His house, the local church, and in His city, the universal church.

Application for New Believers, Junior/Senior High Students and College Students

1John 1:7 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.

David stayed before God and confessed thoroughly the sins enlightened and revealed by God. When you believed

the Lord, your sins you had prior to that time were forgiven, but sins you committed after believing need to be enlightened under the light of the Lord, and you should confess each one of them when enlightened. The crucial point here is, to confess thoroughly each one of the sins enlightened during the fellowship with the Lord. Fallen people have a strong tendency to hide their sins. However, as a believer, instead of hiding them, you need to confess your sins before the Lord. Because this is different from your previous custom of the fallen man, you should exercise yourself according to the word of God and at first you need to force yourself to confess your sins.

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, / And I did not cover my iniquity. / I said, I will confess my transgressions to Jehovah. / Then You forgave the iniquity of my sin. ...

Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, / But whoever confess and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

And when you confess your sins, you must not excuse yourself by telling other’s sins. Bible tells you to confess sins of yourself but not of others. Confessing other’s sins is to hide your sins.

The purpose of confessing of your sins is not to put you on shame. It is for you to be blessed and to grow up in the fellowship of life with the Lord.

Considering about health of your physical body, you have breakfast and then start daily activities, and have a lunch to continue the activities of the day, and then have a dinner and take a bath before going to bed. Unless you keep your body clean by taking a bath, you may be suffered by light illness such as athlete’s foot, skin irritation, bad odor. Important things to practice every day in our daily life, are eating, doing activity such as studying and working, washing your body to keep clean, and have a good rest. Washing your body here can be considered as applying the blood of Jesus by confessing your sins to cleanse your conscience in a spiritual life. Therefore, confessing sins should be done not occasionally but every day. Moreover, as washing your hands very often in a day, you also need to confess your sins as soon as you are enlightened.

Medical doctors instruct us that when we wash our body, we should wash a whole body not roughly but in very detail way, such as washing between toes and backside of ears. This shows when you confess your sins, you do not do in a general way, but you confess each one of your sins in detail and specifically.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, like taking a shower every day, I need to confess each one of my enlightened sins every day to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Lord, I come before you to repent and confess my sins, not other’s sins. Lord, help me to grow up day by day with my daily confessing of sins.”

Hymnal: J228/E280

1. Lord, may Thy blood now cleanse me, / Wash all my sins away,
That with Thy Holy Spirit / Thou may anoint, I pray.
My service, I confess, Lord, / Is failure-full and weak;
The filling of Thy Spirit / To live for Thee I seek.
Oh, from myself deliver, / From all its misery;
I’d henceforth be forever / Completely filled with Thee.

Series 1 : The High Gospel

Topic 4: The Bible (part 1)

2 Tim.3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

The Bible stands above all other books in the world. It is a unique book. The sixteenth President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln, once said that “the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.” It is the world’s most widely read book and has been translated into over one thousand languages, more than any other book in the world. Countless people have turned to the Bible for comfort, hope, and guidance during times of trouble and uncertainty.

The word Bible comes from the Greek word biblos, which means “the book.” This means that the Bible stands as the unique book among all other books in the world.

THE BIBLE BEING THE HIGHEST AMONG ALL THE CLASSICAL WRITINGS.

The Bible Being the Highest in Its Record

The first fact is that the Bible stands alone among all books in its record of authenticity. Many canons of other religions are filled with myths and legends. But within the pages of the Bible we find countless references to actual events, people, and places. The science of archaeology, along with secular historical records, confirms the precision of the references in the various biblical books.

The Bible tells of an all-powerful, eternal Creator who created the universe, including the heavens, the earth, and all created things, from nothing. The Genesis account of creation, while not a scientific narrative in itself, is completely harmonious with scientific evidence.

The Bible Being the Highest in Its Wisdom and Profoundness

Second, the Bible bears the super wisdom concerning man’s relationship with God and his relationship with his fellow man, his thought, his intention, his behavior, and his daily living. At the time of the Old Testament, most of the cultures on earth believed in polytheism, the belief in more than one God. The majority of the so-called gods were depicted as cruel, fierce, or at times even licentious. But the Bible reveals one unique God who is infinite and personal, who cares for human beings as a Father and

a Husband, and who personifies love, respect, justice, and mercy.

The Bible also covers all kinds of knowledge, such as theology, the humanities, astronomy, geology, science, philosophy, sociology, government, education, culture, and eschatology.

The Bible Being the Highest in Its Ethics and Morality

No other book contains as high a standard of ethics and morality as the Bible. It describes proper love as a human virtue, which suffers long, is kind, is not jealous, does not brag, and is not puffed up (1 Cor. 13:4). It defines love in the extending of forgiveness even to one’s enemy (Matt. 5:44). It exemplifies love in God’s own act of giving up His only Son for man (John 3:16). Christians are those who walk in love (Eph. 5:2), and the church is a community built up in love.

The Bible Being the Highest in Its Influence

Throughout history many famous people have been inspired to believe in Christ through reading the Bible. The French emperor Napoleon, after being defeated and exiled to the island of St. Helena, confessed that though he and other great leaders founded their empires upon force, Jesus Christ built His kingdom with love. He also confessed that though he could rally men to die for his cause, he had to do so by speaking to them face to face, whereas for eighteen centuries countless men and women had been willing to sacrifice their lives for Jesus Christ with joy without having seen Him once. The reason that so many have been willing to give up everything to follow Christ and to be martyred for Him is that they have seen the Christ revealed in the Bible.

Hymn 799

STUDY OF THE WORD-THE FUNCTION OF THE WORD

1. All Scripture is the very breath of God,
And by His Spirit into words was breathed;
By godly men the words were written down,
With all God’s fulness unto man bequeathed.
2. It is the breath of God as light to man,
With rays divine man to illuminate;
It shines in darkness and to man reveals
What is his truest need and actual state.
3. It is the breath of God as life to man,
Nature divine to man it doth impart;
The dead it quickens and regenerates,
Transforms the soul-life and renews the heart.