

OL Summary:

**I.** “Your words were found and I ate them” (Jeremiah 15:16a): **A.** In the Bible we first have God, and then we have God's speaking, the word that proceeds out of His mouth. **B.** All Scripture is God-breathed; hence, the words in the Scriptures are the words that proceed out through the mouth of God. **C.** The Bible as the Word of God is the embodiment of God, Christ, the Spirit and life. **D.** The Bible as the Word of God is composed of three elements—Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ. **E.** The words spoken by the Lord Jesus are spirit and life: The Lord's spoken words are the embodiment of the Spirit of life. /Christ is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the Spirit is embodied in His words. /When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we get the Spirit, who is life. **F.** God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us: The divine concept concerning God's word is that it is food by which we are nourished. /The Lord Jesus took the word of God in the Scriptures as His bread and lived by it. /Through the word as our food, God dispenses His riches into our inner being so that we may be constituted with His element. **G.** According to the entire revelation in the Holy Bible, God's words are good for us to eat, and we need to eat them: God desires that man eat, digest, and assimilate Him: To eat is to contact things outside of us and to receive them into us, with the result that they eventually become our constitution. /God's words as food eaten, digested, and assimilated by us actually become us; this is the word becoming our constitution. /Whenever we read the Bible, we must come to the Lord for life and eat the bread of life, which is Christ Himself. /To eat the Lord as the word is to take Him in as our life supply; He is the bread of life for us to eat. /The way to eat the Lord is to pray the Word; to pray-read the Word of God is to exercise our spirit to eat the word. /The more we eat God's words, the more we will be constituted and saturated with Christ. /As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have proper spiritual digestion. /If we have good digestion, there will be a thoroughfare for the food to get into every part of our inward being. /Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts. /We need to keep our whole being with all our inward parts open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent. /Because we are what we eat, if we eat God as our food, we will be one with God and even become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

**II.** “Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16b): **A.** Although Jeremiah suffered more than all the other prophets, he had gladness and joy in his heart whenever he found God's words and ate them. **B.** The word “became” in Jeremiah 15:16 indicates that gladness and joy are an issue of God's words being eaten, digested, assimilated, and constituted into our inner being, causing the Lord's joy to become our joy: After God's words are taken into us and are assimilated into our inward parts, these words become joy within and gladness without. **C.** God is a God of joy, and He wants us to enjoy Him: In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presented Himself to man as food; this shows that God's desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment. **D.** Romans 14:17 speaks of “joy in the Holy Spirit”: When we are in the Spirit, we are joyful, so joyful that we may sing and shout praises to the Lord. /We may “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”: /The joy full of glory is joy immersed in the Lord as glory; thus, it is full of the expression of God.

**III.** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossian's 3:16): **A.** The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ: In His New Testament economy God speaks in the Son. /The Son speaks not only by Himself in the gospel but also through His members, the apostles and prophets, in Acts, in the Epistles, and in Revelation; all these speakings can be considered His word. **B.** The word of Christ is actually the person of Christ: Paul almost personifies the word of Christ; he tells us to let this word dwell in us, as if it were a living person. /First, we have Christ as our life; then we have His living word personified as His person dwelling in us. **C.** We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly and have the first place in our being: The word let is important; the word of Christ is already present, but we need to allow it to operate within us. /The Greek word rendered “dwell” literally means “to be in a house,” “to indwell,” “to inhabit”. /This indicates that we should allow the word of Christ to dwell in us, to inhabit us, to make home in us. /The word of the Lord must have adequate room within us so that it may operate and minister the riches of Christ into us. **D.** We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us so that we may experience the functions of the word of God operating within us, ministering the riches of Christ into our being: The word of God enlightens, nourishes, and waters us to quench our thirst. /The word of God strengthens, washes, and builds us up. /The word of God completes, perfects, and edifies us by sanctifying us.

**CP1: Develop a lifestyle of reading the Bible every day and have portion of the killing elements of Christ's death and the nourishing elements of Christ's resurrection**

**Jer. 15:16** Your words were found and I ate them, and Your word became to me the gladness and joy of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

**OL1:** The Bible as the Word of God is composed of three elements—Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ. **Matt. 4:4** But He answered and said, It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.” John It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits. **John 6:57-58** 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. This is the bread which came down out of heaven...; he who eats this bread shall live forever.

The above few verses of the Gospel of John do not mention the death or resurrection of Christ, but if we eat the healthy word by pray-reading these verses, the result will be that the germs within us will be killed, and the weaknesses within us will be swallowed up. This is a killing produced by the killing element of Christ's death in the word. As we continue pray-reading, we will be supplied with life by the same word, which also contains the nourishing element of Christ's resurrection. This is the Christian life—a life of receiving killing and nourishing from our God through the Word.

The proper reading of the Bible always transmits a killing element into us. If we do not receive any killing when we read the Bible, our reading is in vain. Our physical eating... enables our body to kill the germs in us. If we do not eat properly every day, we will quickly become sick from many germs. As long as we eat well and regularly, we do not need to take antibiotics. Through our eating we will naturally have the killing element. **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation. **Heb. 5:13** For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant; **14** but solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

All these passages confirm that we need our concept renewed concerning the Word of God. The natural concept concerning the Word is that it is a certain kind of teaching or doctrine, but the divine concept is that the Word of God is food to nourish our spirit.

The food we eat eventually is mingled with our being. If the food taken in by us does not mingle with us, we must have poor digestion. The food that we eat and digest is assimilated into our being. The food becomes our tissue, bone, flesh, and skin. This means that the food eaten, digested, and assimilated by us actually becomes us.

**Application: Newcomers and Youth/College student**

Prayer is like breathing, and reading the Bible is like eating. Both are things that all believers have to do every day. In particular, newcomers and young person should

develop a new lifestyle of reading the Bible every day.

The Bible, as the Word of God, consists of three elements: Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ. You can have portion of these elements by reading the Bible. In the flesh of a fallen person, there are germs such as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, drunkenness, and carousings. (Galatians 5: 19-21). The power to kill them lies in the death of Christ. And if you read the Bible and pray, you can have portion of the killing elements of the Word and kill the work of the flesh. Hallelujah!

For example, in church life, some people explode their anger at their mistakes pointed out by brothers and sisters. Behind anger is pride. If your pride is injured, the germs of anger will suddenly multiply and you will be filled with anger. The natural antibiotic that has bactericidal power against anger is the death of Christ. In such a case, immediately call upon the name of Lord many times, and excise your spirit to pray and proclaim the Word powerfully. Then you can experience the effects of Christ's death in the spirit in the Word. The outburst of anger in your flesh will gradually disappear.

The elements of Christ's resurrection in the Word can nourish you. For example, you try to study, but you are not motivated. That is because your will is weak. The will of a fallen person is stubborn and firm, but weak. Your will needs to be lifted, strengthened, and enriched by death and resurrection. And you need to be soft and obedient to God, believing in the Word, and be strong in doing it.

The duty of a student is studying. However, this does not mean that all the children of the church must go to a national or public university or a well-known private university. The Bible says that each person works according to the measure he or she has. The economy of God is that Christ, the Spirit in the spirit, to spread to each part of the soul, to raise the understanding of thoughts, to love the Lord of emotions, to strengthen the ability to hate enemies, and to strengthen the power of decision making. According to your own measure, experience going up in the Lord gradually, by supplying the Word in your studies. Never reluctantly think that you are a useless person because you have poor grades. There are no unnecessary limbs in the limbs of Christ's body. You are useful and important to both humans and God. The important thing is to grow gradually in the life of church. **Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, the Word of God is holy food and nourishes us. Every morning, we have portion in the Word with our spiritual partner and have portion in the killing and nourishing elements of Christ. When flesh rage, jealousy, or pride comes out in our lives, we immediately call upon the name of the Lord and pray-read the word. Kill the germs in your soul. Also, the functions of the soul's thoughts, feelings, and will need to be raised in the resurrection of Christ. Make me a young person growing up in the Lord”.

**CP2: When we digest and assimilate the Word, Christ becomes our constituents and gladness and joy of our hearts**

**OL1:** Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts. We need to keep our whole being with all our inward parts open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent. **OL2:** “Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart”(Jer. 15:16b) **OL3:** Although Jeremiah suffered more than all the other prophets, he had gladness and joy in his heart whenever he found God’s words and ate them. **OL4:** After God’s words are taken into us and are assimilated into our inward parts, these words become joy within and gladness without. **OL5:** Romans 14:17 speaks of “joy in the Holy Spirit”. When we are in the Spirit, we are joyful, so joyful that we may sing and shout praises to the Lord.

Pray-reading is wonderful, but we also have to pray, “Lord, clear a way within me. O Lord, have a free course within me.” Pray-reading does not help us to obtain mere knowledge; rather, it brings many things of the Lord into us. Therefore, we need to give the things of the Lord a free course within us. This affords us the best spiritual digestion, assimilating what we have pray-read. Never say no to the Lord; learn always to say Amen.

Whether or not we understand what we pray-read, it always brings something of the Lord into us. When these things get into us, they need a free course. Thus, we always have to say Amen. The Lord, the Word, and the Spirit are one. The Lord is the Word, the Word is the Spirit, and the Spirit is the Lord. When we get the Word into us, we have the Spirit and we have the Lord. After pray-reading, we may have the intention to go fishing, but something within us indicates that we should not go. ...In Christianity many like to talk about the gentle, quiet voice, but that is something of the Old Testament. What is within us is not a voice or a clear word such as “don’t” or “do.” There is simply a sensation within us, indicating that we should not go. What should we do at that time? We have to say, “Amen, Lord. Amen.”

When Jeremiah found God’s words, he not only heard them, but he ate them as food. After he ate God’s words, he was immediately supplied within and felt glad and joyful. **1 Pet. 1:8** Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.

#### **Application to the serving ones**

The church in Kobe is pursuing “The Holy Word for the Morning Revival” for the daily revival and eating the same spiritual food as the churches in the whole world. In addition to that, we are reading the

recovery version of the Bible (scheduled to read through in two years) and the spiritual books of brother Nee and brother Lee (2 messages/week). The co-workers in front of us are encouraging to read books of the recovery with all our strength.

When we read the Bible or ministry books, sometimes we notice they are different from our concept or be enlightened. At such time, don’t leave it as it is. Otherwise it becomes the clogging and disables you to digest and assimilate the word of God. **Brother’s testimony:** When I got saved in the freshman year of college, whenever I read “God so loved the world (the sinners)”(John 3:16), I thought good people should be saved, but the evil people should not be saved. And when people get baptized, I had questioned “Is this person really saved?” Due to this old natural concept, I could not accept the Word and had indigestion so the first one year, I could not preach the gospel at all. But after that under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, I repented and confessed my sins and old concept and then became able to accept the divine concept “God so loved the world” into my heart. After that I started preaching the gospel aggressively and many got saved.

**Testimony of the enjoyment from reading the spiritual books:** “The Propagation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Church”(#3: Preaching the Gospel and Pursue the truth): **Phil. 1:5** For your fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now. We are like a boat that must be rowed against the current; if we are not going forward, we are going backward. The whole world are dragging us backward. Our way has been a way of struggle over the past sixty years. ...Nearly every time when I pray, I say, “O Lord, remember that we are on the battlefield.” ...”In order to experience Christ, there is a need for the active advancement of the gospel as the foundation”. “No matter how much people have opposed me, I have never changed my tone in the past thirty years. I speak the same truth from beginning to end. According to God’s economy, the Triune God dispenses Himself into His chosen and redeemed people to make them the Body of Christ to be His expression. I hope that all of us would grasp this central line.”

By reading this book, I got enlightenment and encouragement concerning the preaching the gospel.

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, in the matter of eating the Word of God, save me from indigestion. I confess my old concept and deal with it. Then I open my whole being to the Lord and let the Lord gain in me a free way. Let me digest and assimilate the Word of God properly. When I receive Christ into my inner parts, I will be constituted with Christ within and the Word of God will become the gladness and joy of my heart. Amen!”

**CP3: Let the Word dwell in us richly in order to make Christ as life and person**

**OL1:** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:16). **OL2:** First, we have Christ as our life; then we have His living word personified as His person dwelling in us. **OL3:** The word of the Lord must have adequate room within us so that it may operate and minister the riches of Christ into us. Eph. 3:16 Be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, 17 that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith... 5:18 ...be filled in spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord. 6:17 ...Receive...the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, 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.

A way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ is to eat the word spoken by Christ as spirit and as life... Christ speaks the word, the word is the Spirit, and the Spirit is life. Thus, the word, the Spirit, and life are three-in-one. The Speaker of the word is the processed Triune God, and His speaking transmits the processed Triune God into us in the form of the word. After entering into us, this word becomes the Spirit, and the Spirit is life. Then, when we utter this Spirit out to others, the Spirit becomes the word to them. When others receive the word into them, it becomes the Spirit again. Then, when they speak the Spirit out to others, He again becomes the word. Hence, when we receive the word into us, the word becomes the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes our very life. This is the transmission of the Triune God into us as our life supply, first in the form of the word, then in the form of the Spirit, and ultimately in the form of life. In this way the Triune God becomes our enjoyment.

In Colossians 3:16 we have Christ as our life, then we have His living word personified as His person dwelling in us. The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ. In His New Testament economy God speaks in the Son. In Ephesians 5:18-20, the infilling of spiritual life is related to the Spirit. This indicates that the Word and the Spirit are identical. A normal Christian life should be one that is filled with the Word so that the Spirit may bubble from within us in lauding melodies, melodies of praise.

We need the arbitrating peace of Christ to preserve us in oneness that the Lord may speak to us. Then we need to give first place to the word of God. If we do this, we shall experience the functions of the word of God: enlightening, nourishing, quenching our thirst, strengthening, washing, building, perfecting, and edifying. What benefit we receive from the word of God!

**Application to Businessperson/ Graduate student**

Many people consider that the church life in God's economy and business life are different. However, in reality, what you have learned in the church life can

be applied to the business life, and what you have learned in the business life can also be applied to the church life. Of course, in business life, there are great restrictions on praying freely and reading the Bible, comparing to the church life. However, both are the same in that they trust in the Lord and make the Lord as a person.

A testimony of a brother: In business, you have to decide not only big things but also small things every day. Since making Christ as my person is mainly by my decision, I trained myself to decide the Next Steps and Action Plan right away in meetings or personal meetings, making Christ as my person.

It happened in the company that I had just changed jobs. In a personal interview with a young employee of the company who was expected to play an active role in the future, he said, "I have a lover in the United States, could you allow me to move to the company in the United States? I've been talking about this with the company for years, but it's pending and there's no progress. Both she and I are greatly suffering. Please help me." I expected his future, so I was getting dark right after I heard it. But after about 10 minutes of conversation, I turned to the Lord, called on the Lord's name, prayed briefly, confirmed that he's going to marry her, and then accepted the move. I immediately sent an email to the US headquarters and the president informing him that they had accepted this matter. The person was surprised and very pleased with my quick decision. Even after he went to America, he contributed to Japan. Not only him, but the US headquarters was surprised and praised for my quick decision. In addition, his absence opened the way for another better young man to come out. All environments are incarnations of grace, so if you appreciate, praise, and accept the Lord, you will be guided and blessed by the Lord.

Rom.8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God. 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.

The important thing is that (1) Training to make Christ as person in business decisions, (2) Read the Bible every day and can testify that the word of Christ dwell in me richly.

Prayer: “Oh Lord Jesus, I will learn to make Christ as a person in both my church life and business life. The way to experience and enjoy Christ subjectively is to eat the Word spoken by Christ as spirit and life. Also, in order for the Word to dwell in me richly, I will empty the inside and give enough room for the Lord to come in. Let the Word of the Lord work to illuminate, nourish, heal, strengthen, build, complete and fulfill me. Amen!”