

CHRISTIAN ON CAMPUS
Friday Night Fellowship

Session 5: God's Purpose Fulfilled by the Growth of the Tree of Life within Us

I. Christ, the seed of life, is the seed of the kingdom, the church, the Christian living, and the Christian ministry.

Matt. 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

Matt. 13:8 But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 17:21 Nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

II. Christ, the seed of life, is the seed of everything related to God's purpose.

Psa. 34:8 Taste and see that Jehovah is good; / Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

1 Pet. 2:2-3 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, **3** If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Pet. 1:3-4 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue, **4** Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rom. 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Reading

In Matthew 13 there are seven parables related to the kingdom. In those seven parables the seed is Christ sown into us to grow in us, and the enemy, Satan, comes in to do whatever he can to frustrate and to damage the growth of this seed. Satan's aim is to frustrate the growth of this seed because the growth of this seed will bring forth the kingdom. In Matthew 13 the seed is sown, and then it grows in the good earth to produce fruit. Also, in those seven parables a treasure hidden in the field (v. 44) and pearls are mentioned (vv. 45-46). These items signify the transformation of life. Thus, the kingdom is something of life and of the enjoyment of God as the tree of life for the transformation of life.

The seed of the kingdom is the very Triune God as the tree of life planted into us. The kingdom is the growth of the tree of life which has been planted into us. In Luke 17 the Lord Jesus told the Pharisees, "The kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (v. 21). The Lord Jesus revealed that the kingdom of God is the Savior Himself, who was among the Pharisees when He was questioned by them. The kingdom is the Lord among us and within us.

Now we need to consider what the Christian walk, the Christian living, is. Galatians 5:22 refers to the fruit of the Spirit, which is the outcome of the tree of life within us. This outcome of the tree of life within us is the Christian's daily walk or living. With the Christian walk, with the Christian living, with the Christian behavior, it is not merely a matter of proper conduct but even more a matter of life. As Christians, we are not just to love people, but we are to live Christ out as love. We are not just to be humble, but we are to live Christ out as humility. Polished brass may shine more than a piece of gold, but their natures are entirely different. We are not just outwardly loving others, showing humility to others, or being patient with others. We are living out Christ. Our behavior, our living, our conduct, our walk, must be the outcoming of Christ, the fruit of the Holy Spirit from within us. When the Holy Spirit lives in us and we live by Him, then some fruit will come forth, the fruit of the Spirit.

We need to look at a number of verses which show that Christ as the seed of life is the seed of everything related to God's purpose. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that Jehovah is good." We have to taste the Lord, not only know Him. Second Peter 1:3-4 says, "His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue, through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature." Life is the seed; godliness is the fruit. Life is something within; godliness is something without. To be partakers of the divine nature is to be eaters of the tree of life.

In Acts 5:20 an angel of the Lord told Peter, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." What does *this life* mean? This was the life that Peter was enjoying. The angel told Peter to minister this life that he was enjoying to the people. This life is the divine life preached, ministered, and lived by Peter that overcame the Jewish leaders' persecution, threatening, and imprisonment. This word indicates that Peter's life and work made the divine life so real and present in his situation that even the angel saw it and pointed it out. The words of this life are not logos but rhema, the present, living, practical word. What Peter was charged to speak was not a doctrinal teaching but the present, living, and practical word concerning the life that he was enjoying.

In Romans 5—8 what is stressed is the tree of life. Romans 8:2 says, "The law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death." The Spirit of life is the Triune God as the tree of life. When we enjoy Him, we will realize the full salvation, the full deliverance. This tree of life, this Spirit of life, this life-giving Spirit, is the root, is the seed, is the reality, and is the central point of all the spiritual things, of all the things related to God's purpose. Thus, we all have to learn how to feed on this tree of life.