

# CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

## Friday Night Fellowship

### Session 7: How to Feast on the Tree of Life Through Prayer

#### I. Prayer and the Word of God

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**Psalms 119:147-148** I anticipated the dawn and cried out; / I hoped in Your words. **148** My eyes anticipated the night watches, / That I might muse upon Your word.

**John 15:7** If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

#### II. The Basis and Meaning of Prayer

**Hebrews 10:19** Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus.

**Lamentations 3:55-56** I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit. You have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.

**Ephesians 6:18** 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,

#### III. Praying in the Spirit with the Prayer of Christ

**James 5:17** Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

**Ezekiel 1:16b** ...And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.

**Romans 8:26** Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

### Today's Reading

Before we go on to see how to feed on the Lord and how to drink of the Lord by prayer, we need to see some more passages showing us what our concept should be regarding the Word of God. Our concept concerning the Word of God is that the Word is merely composed of teachings and instructions, but the divine concept concerning the Word of God is that the word from the Lord is food for us to feed on for our nourishment. Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God." The divine concept concerning God's Word is that it is food by which we are not only taught but also nourished. Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Your words were found and I ate them." Jeremiah took the word as food to eat. The Word is nourishment as milk for the young ones and as solid food for the mature ones. First Peter 2:2 says, "As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation." 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.

Whenever we come to contact the Word, to deal with the Word, we have to realize that the Word is the expression of Christ, and we need to contact Christ in the spirit as the reality of the Word. Then the Word will not be divorced from the Lord or isolated from Christ. Then we will have the reality of the Word, which is Christ Himself. But we cannot do this by merely exercising our soul. The more we exercise our soul to contact the Word, the more we will isolate the Word from Christ. The problem with many Bible students is that they have isolated the Word from Christ by reading it merely in the mind or with the mind. When we read the Word, we will spontaneously understand something with our mind, but then we have to turn what we understand in our mind into the spirit by praying, by taking Christ as the reality of the Word. This is the proper way to take the Word. Then this Word will become our nourishment.

We have to learn how to exercise our spirit to contact Christ as the life-giving Spirit by prayer. James 5:17 says, "Elijah was a man of like feeling with us, and he earnestly prayed that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months." In this verse earnestly prayed literally means "prayed in prayer." Many times we pray, but we do not pray in prayer or with prayer. There must be a prayer in our prayer just like the wheel within the wheel in Ezekiel 1:16. When we are going to preach the gospel, we should be moving in the Lord's move. When we are ministering the Word, we should be ministering in the Lord's ministry. When we are praying, we should be praying in prayer. This means that when we pray, the Holy Spirit must be praying within our prayer.

Some may ask how they could know that Christ is praying within them while they are praying. When one is eating some fruit, he may exclaim that it is delicious. If someone were to ask him how he knows it is delicious, he could only respond that what he is eating tastes delicious. We know that Christ is praying within us while we are praying because of the taste within. The more we pray with Christ's prayer, the more we are refreshed, the more we are watered, the more we are anointed, and the more we are strengthened. But sometimes when we pray, it is another story. When we do not pray with Christ's prayer, the more we pray, the more we are empty and dried up. When we pray without the prayer of Christ within us, we are like a machine without oil. There is no smoothness in the machine's operation, and it will burn up due to the lack of oil. When we pray apart from Christ, we are exhausted. Prayer then becomes a real labor to us. This is because we are praying by ourselves and moving with an empty wheel. We may pray according to our mentality, our own inclination, our own emotions, and our own desires and not care for the Spirit in our spirit. Thus, the more we pray in this way, the more we are dried up with no watering, no anointing, no oiling, no refreshing, and no strengthening.

By praying in the Lord we will be watered, refreshed, and strengthened. We will drink of the Lord, and our spirit will be open to Him by our prayer. By this kind of prayer, He has a way to flow out from within us. First, we will be watered, and then this water will flow out to others.