LIVING AND SERVING IN THE DIVINE DISPENSING OF THE DIVINE TRINITY

Message Three

The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Believers' Enjoyment of Christ and Growth in Life

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:3-23; Col. 2:19; Rom. 10:12-13; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2:2

Eph. 1:3-23 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved; **7** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ. **13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory. **15** Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints, **16** Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention *of you* in my prayers, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **21** Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Rom. 10:12-13 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him; **13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Heb. 5:12-14 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food. **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.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.

I. We need to see the vision of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in Ephesians 1 so that we may live and serve in the realm of this vision:

Eph. 1:1-23 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved; **7** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ. **13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory. **15** Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints, **16** Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention *of you* in my prayers, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **21** Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

A. Ephesians 1:3-22 reveals that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ; in the entire universe the unique blessing is the Triune God, and His blessing us is His dispensing of His Divine Being into us in His Divine Trinity —in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Num. 6:22-27.

Eph. 1:3-22 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved; **7** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ. **13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory. **15** Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints, **16** Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention *of you* in my prayers, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **21** Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Num. 6:22-27 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, **23** Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them, **24** Jehovah bless you and keep you; **25** Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; **26** Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. **27** So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.

B. The Father dispenses His divine life and nature into us:
1. The Father's dispensing in His choosing and predestinating us issues in His sonship through His sanctifying of His chosen people, making them as holy as He is in His life and nature but without His unique Godhead—Eph. 1:3-6; cf. Heb. 2:10-11.

Eph. 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

Heb. 2:10-11 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

2. The phrase to be holy indicates that God has dispensed His holy nature into us, and the word sonship indicates that God has dispensed His divine life into us—Eph. 1:4-5.

Eph. 1:4-5 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

C. The Son dispenses His divine element into us:
1. The Son's dispensing in His redemption and transformation of the believers issues in a heritage of worth, a private

possession, transforming God's chosen people, with Christ as the element of life, into a treasure to be God's inheritance as His personal possession—vv. 7-12.

> **Eph. 1:7-12** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ.

2. This is to bring the redeemed universe from the collapse into a good order, to head up all things (collapsed in death and corruption) in Christ through the church built up as the Body of Christ.
3. In Christ means that Christ is the sphere, the realm, and the element in which and with which we have been redeemed; within the element is the essence of Christ—v. 10:

> **Eph. 1:10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

   a. In our organic union with Christ, our identification with Him, all our weaknesses, defects, and faults are taken on by Him, and all His virtues become ours—Lev. 1:4; Rom. 6:3-4.

> **Lev. 1:4** And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him.
>
> **Rom. 6:3-4** Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

   b. This requires us to exercise our spirit through the proper prayer so that we may be one with Him and experience the reality of being in Christ in an experiential way—Eph. 1:17-18a; 3:16-19; 6:17-18.

> **Eph. 1:17-18** 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,
>
> **Eph. 3:16-19** That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, **17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith,
> that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are **19** And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ,
> that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
>
> **Eph. 6:17-18** And receive the helmet of salvation and 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,

D. The Spirit dispenses His divine essence into us:
1. The Spirit seals us with Himself as the sealing ink to saturate us vertically through our fellowship with God and permeate us horizontally through our fellowship with one another—1:13; 1 John 1:3.

> **Eph. 1:13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
>
> **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.

2. The Spirit's dispensing in His sealing with His pledging is the divine dispensing of the divine life into our tripartite being, and this divine dispensing continues unto the day of the redemption of our body—Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11, 23; Phil. 3:21.

Eph. 1:13-14 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Rom. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom. 8:23 And not only *so,* but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

3. The sealing Spirit as the seal is sealing everything of the all-inclusive Christ, all that He has attained and obtained, into us (Eph. 1:13-14, 19-22a); the result is that we all become one as the church, the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all (vv. 22b-23).

Eph. 1:13-14 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph. 1:19-22 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **21** Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

E. By the dispensing of the Divine Trinity revealed in Ephesians 1, we have the divine nature, the divine life, the divine element, and the divine essence—this is the intrinsic constitution of the Body of Christ, and this is our stewardship, the stewardship of the grace of God given to us for the Body—3:2.

Eph. 1:1-23 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved; **7** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **10** Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him; **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ. **13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory. **15** Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints, **16** Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention *of you* in my prayers, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **21** Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

II. The believers' growth in life is the increase of the element of God in the believers—1 Cor. 12:4-11; Col. 2:19b:

1 Cor. 12:4-11 But there are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** And there are distinctions of ministries, yet the same Lord; **6** And there are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all. **7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable. **8** For to one through the Spirit a word of wisdom is given, and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit; **9** To a different one faith in the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing in the one Spirit, **10** And to another operations of works of power, and to another prophecy, and to another discerning of spirits; to a different one *various* kinds of tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. **11** But the one and the same Spirit operates all these things, distributing to each one respectively even as He purposes.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

A. The Lord as the Head is the Spirit with our spirit; when we enjoy Him in the spirit, we are holding the Head, out from whom we receive His rich supply for the growth of God in us—v. 19; Rom. 8:16; Eph. 4:16.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

B. We are plants on God's farm, and for us to grow, we need Christ as the good land; we also need Him as the light, the air, the water of life, and the nutrients of life—1 Cor. 3:9; Col. 2:6-7; John 8:12; 20:22; 7:37-39; 6:27, 33.

1 Cor. 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

Col. 2:6-7 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, **7** Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into *them* and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. **39** But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 6:27 Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for Him has the Father, *even* God, sealed.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.

III. The Bible reveals that we grow in life through eating, drinking, and enjoying God—Gen. 2:9; Exo. 12:21-28; 16:4, 14-15, 35; 17:6; Psa. 34:8; 68:19; Luke 14:17; John 4:14; 6:35, 51, 57; 7:37-39; Rev. 2:7, 17; 22:14, 17:

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Exo. 12:21-28 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, Draw out and take lambs according to your families, and slaughter the passover. **22** And you shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip *it* in the blood that is in the basin, and you shall apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and to the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the entrance of his house until the morning. **23** For Jehovah will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and on the two doorposts, Jehovah will pass over the entrance and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to smite *you*. **24** And you shall observe this matter as a statute for you and for your sons in perpetuity. **25** And when you come to the land which Jehovah will give you, as He has

promised, you shall observe this service. **26** And when your children say to you, What do you mean by this service? **27** You shall say, It is the passover sacrifice to Jehovah, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians and delivered our houses. And the people bowed and worshipped. **28** And the children of Israel went and did *so;* just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

Exo. 16:4 Then Jehovah said to Moses, I will now rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My law.

Exo. 16:14-15 And when the layer of dew lifted, there upon the surface of the wilderness were fine round flakes, fine as the frost on the earth. **15** And when the children of Israel saw *it,* they said to one another, What is it? For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, It is the bread which Jehovah has given you to eat.

Exo. 16:35 And the children of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to inhabitable land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

Exo. 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

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

Psa. 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who day by day loads us *with good;* / God is our salvation. Selah

Luke 14:17 And he sent his slave at the dinner hour to say to those who had been invited, Come, for all things are now ready.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;
And the bread which I will give is My flesh, *given* for the life of the world.

John 6:57 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.

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. **39** But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Rev. 2:7 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.

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

A. We can eat, drink, and enjoy God by loving His priceless presence—1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 2:10; 4:5-7; Exo. 33:11, 14; Psa. 27:4:

1 Cor. 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."

2 Cor. 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive;* for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *it is* for your sake in the person of Christ;

2 Cor. 4:5-7 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. **6** Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

Exo. 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

Exo. 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go *with you,* and I will give you rest.

Psa. 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

1. Nothing but love can keep us in a proper relationship with the Lord; loving the Lord, enjoying the Lord, and being the testimony of the Lord go together—Rev. 2:4-5, 7.

Rev. 2:4-5 But I have *one thing* against you, that you have left your first love. **5** Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

Rev. 2:7 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.

2. We need to love Christ, keep Christ, teach Christ, and wear Christ—Deut. 6:5-9; 10:12; 30:19-20; Matt. 22:37; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; Rom. 13:14.

Deut. 6:5-9 And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words, which I command you today, shall be upon your heart; **7** And you shall repeat them to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you journey on the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up; **8** And you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes; **9** And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deut. 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;

Deut. 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live, **20** In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Matt. 22:37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

1 Cor. 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."

2 Cor. 11:2-3 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Rom. 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to *fulfill its* lusts.

B. We can eat, drink, and enjoy God by calling on His precious name:

1. In Romans 10 Paul speaks of calling on the name of the Lord and applies the word spoken by Moses in Deuteronomy 30:11-14 to Christ, indicating that the commandment, which is the word of God, is Christ as the Word, who, as the breath that proceeds out of God's mouth, is in our heart and in our mouth—Rom. 10:6-8; cf. Deut. 30:11-20.

Rom. 10:1-21 Brothers, the good pleasure of my heart and my petition to God for them is for *their* salvation. **2** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to full knowledge; **3** For because they were ignorant of God's righteousness and sought to establish their own righteousness, they were not subject to the righteousness of God. **4** For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes. **5** For Moses writes *concerning* the righteousness which is out of the law: "The man who does them shall live by them." **6** But the righteousness which is out of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down; **7** Or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of the faith which we proclaim, **9** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him; **13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **14** How then shall they call upon *Him* into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe *into Him* of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims *Him?* **15** And how shall they proclaim *Him* unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the news of good things!" **16** But not

all have obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" **17** So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. **18** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes surely: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the inhabited earth." **19** But I say, Did Israel not know *this?* First, Moses says, "I will provoke you to jealousy by *them who are* not a nation; by a nation without understanding I will anger you." **20** And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me." **21** But with regard to Israel he says, "All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a people who disobey and contradict."

Deut. 30:11-14 For this commandment which I am commanding you today, it is not too difficult for you, nor is it distant. **12** It is not in heaven that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **13** Nor is it across the sea that you should say, Who will go across the sea for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **14** But the word is very near to you, *even* in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Rom. 10:6-8 But the righteousness which is out of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down; **7** Or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of the faith which we proclaim,

Deut. 30:11-20 For this commandment which I am commanding you today, it is not too difficult for you, nor is it distant. **12** It is not in heaven that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **13** Nor is it across the sea that you should say, Who will go across the sea for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **14** But the word is very near to you, *even* in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. **15** See, I have put before you today life and good, and death and evil. **16** *If you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God,* which I am commanding you today, to love Jehovah your God and walk in His ways and keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you will live and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess. **17** But if your heart turns and you do not listen, but rather you are drawn away in worship to other gods and serve them, **18** I declare to you today that you shall surely perish; your days will not be extended upon the land into which you are crossing over the Jordan to go and possess. **19** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live, **20** In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

2. As the Word of God, the incarnated, crucified, and resurrected Christ Himself, who has become the life-giving Spirit as the breath breathed out by the speaking God, is the word of the law rehearsed by Moses in Deuteronomy; thus, every word in this book is the very Christ, who is now the word of God for us to receive as our life and life supply by calling on Him—Rom. 10:12-13; Deut. 8:3; Psa. 119:9; Deut. 30:11-14.

Rom. 10:12-13 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him; **13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Deut. 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had *never* known nor your fathers had *ever* known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.

Psa. 119:9 With what should a young man keep his way pure? / By guarding *it* according to Your word.

Deut. 30:11-14 For this commandment which I am commanding you today, it is not too difficult for you, nor is it distant. **12** It is not in heaven that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **13** Nor is it across the sea that you should say, Who will go across the sea for us and bring it to us to make us hear it and do it? **14** But the word is very near to you, *even* in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

C. We can eat, drink, and enjoy God by loving His pure word—Psa. 119:140; Heb. 5:12-14:

Psa. 119:140 Your word is very pure, / And Your servant loves it.

Heb. 5:12-14 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food. **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.

1. The words in the Bible are God's breathing, and they all refer to Christ, who is the totality of God's word to be the life and life supply to God's people—2 Tim. 3:16; John 1:1; Rev. 19:13.

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

righteousness,

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Rev. 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

2. To live by every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God is to live by Christ, the embodiment of the divine breath —Matt. 4:4; John 6:57, 63.

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 6:57 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.

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.

3. By inhaling the word of the Scriptures, we receive the Spirit and enjoy the riches of Christ and are thus enabled to fulfill its requirements—Eph. 6:17-18a; Gal. 3:5; Matt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3.

Eph. 6:17-18 And receive the helmet of salvation and 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,

Gal. 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, *does He do it* out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

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."

Deut. 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had *never* known nor your fathers had *ever* known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.

4. Our reading of the word of the Bible should be our inhaling of God, and our teaching should be our exhaling of God into others—Ezek. 37:4-5, 7-10.

Ezek. 37:4-5 Then He said to me, Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. **5** Thus says the Lord Jehovah to these bones: I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

Ezek. 37:7-10 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh came back, and skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. **9** Then He said to me, Prophesy to the wind; prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live. **10** So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them; and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

5. In order to eat God, drink God, and enjoy God, we need to enjoy the living words of God, the words of spirit and life, the words of God that dispense the immeasurable Spirit of God—John 6:63; 3:34.

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.

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure.

6. Christ is our daily manna, our spiritual food; the most important time to receive Christ as our spiritual food in the Word is the time of morning revival—Psa. 119:147-148; 143:8; Lam. 3:22-26.

Psa. 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.

Psa. 143:8 Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, / For in You I trust. / Make known to me the way on which I should walk, / For to You I lift up my soul.

Lam. 3:22-26 *It is* Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail; **23** They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness. **24** Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; / Therefore I hope in Him. **25** Jehovah is good to those who wait on Him, / To the soul that seeks Him. **26** It is good for one to hope, and *to do so* in silence, / For the salvation of Jehovah.

7. When we pray-read God's word, we also receive the word's enlightening and reproving with the killing function of the Spirit in His word—Eph. 5:13-14; 6:17-18.

Eph. 5:13-14 But all things which are reproved are made manifest by the light; for everything that makes manifest is light. **14** Therefore He says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Eph. 6:17-18 And receive the helmet of salvation and 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,

8. We all need to be God's living channels—men of God with the breath of God—with the words of God proceeding out through us into others for teaching, for conviction, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness to equip and train the faithful ones so that they may be one with the Lord to carry out His economy—2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2:2.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.