

THE WAY TO CONTACT THE LORD

MAN CREATED AS A VESSEL TO CONTAIN GOD

God's central thought and eternal intention is to work Himself into us to become life to us and even to become everything to us. To accomplish this intention, God created man as a vessel (Rom. 9:23). A vessel is made for the purpose of containing something. Thus, in order for the purpose of its creation to be fulfilled, a vessel must be filled with something. Since man was created as a vessel, we need to consider what man was made to contain. With what was man meant to be filled? Man was made to contain God. We are containers of God, and God must be our content. This is why human beings often have a sense of emptiness within. We feel empty because we were made to contain God, and if we do not have God within us, we are merely empty vessels. This is why we need to believe in the Lord Jesus. To believe in the Lord Jesus is not merely to believe that He is our Savior; to believe in the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into our spirit (John 1:12). When we believe in the Lord Jesus, God in Christ as the Spirit enters into our spirit and begins to dwell within us. We are containers, and the Triune God—the Father in the Son as the Spirit—is the content within us. As the content within us, the Triune God wants to fill us with Himself in order to become our life and everything. When we are completely filled with God in this way, God will be our content, and we will be satisfied.

BEING FILLED WITH GOD BY EATING AND DRINKING HIM

After we have believed in the Lord Jesus and received Him into us, we can be filled with Him by eating and drinking Him. The Gospel of John reveals that the Lord is the heavenly bread for us to feed upon and the living water for us to drink (6:51; 7:37-38). Also, Matthew 4:4 tells us that we should not live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God. God's word is the expression of God Himself. Thus, to take in God's word is to take in God Himself.

.THE WAY TO DEAL WITH, CONTACT, AND ENJOY THE TRIUNE GOD

It is wonderful that we have this divine person dwelling within us. The very Triune God of this universe is within us, and He will never leave us. The question now is how to deal with Him. How do we deal with, contact, and enjoy this wonderful One who is dwelling within us? How do we take Him as our life and everything in a practical way in our daily life? The Triune God being within us is not a matter of doctrine; it is very real and practical. Thus, we must consider how we should deal with, contact, and enjoy Him within us.

Loving Him

The first thing we must do is love the Lord. In the Gospel of John the Lord did not ask us to do many outward things. Rather, He asked us to do two things—to believe into Him and to love Him. After He had risen from the dead, the Lord asked Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" Then the Lord asked Peter two more times, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" (21:15-17). I believe that the Lord is asking us this question today. Do we love the Lord? It is a pity if we do not love Him. We all must love the Lord. I believe that within every believer there is a longing to love the Lord. Even backsliding believers have this longing and have some love for the Lord within them. We all have such a longing and such a love in our heart. Our love for the Lord may be very small, but even though we may have only a little love for Him in our heart, this is sufficient. This small amount of love is like a seed that will eventually grow. All of us must love the Lord. I have traveled to many places on this earth, and I have observed that every Christian has something within him that is calling and even demanding that he love the Lord. Each of us has such a sense within—something urging and demanding that we love the Lord. We must take care of this feeling and respond to this inner voice. We need to answer this call and tell the Lord, "Lord, I must love You, and I do love You, but my love for You is very small. Cause me to love You more." We all must pray to the Lord concerning our love for Him.

Consecrating Ourselves to Him

In addition to loving the Lord, we must consecrate ourselves to Him. At least once in our life we must consecrate ourselves to the Lord in a definite way. We all must pass through this crisis. If we have never consecrated ourselves to the Lord in a definite way, we must do so now. We must go to the Lord and tell Him, "Lord, I have been bought by You. You have purchased me with Your precious blood, and I have been ransomed and redeemed by You. Lord, I am Yours. I belong to You, so I hand myself over to You. Because I love You, I offer myself to You." Many of us may have done this before, but if some years have passed since the last time we consecrated ourselves to the Lord, then we must do it again; we must renew our consecration. After we have consecrated ourselves to the Lord, He will have the ground to operate in us. The Lord will have the ground within us, and He will begin to move and speak in us. In addition, we will have the ground to contact the Lord and to enter into fellowship with Him.

Reading and Praying the Word in Spirit

In addition to loving the Lord and consecrating ourselves to Him, we must spend time in His Word. Every morning we must open His Word. We do not need to read too much; we should simply open the Word and read it with our heart and our spirit. We may know how to read the Word with our mind, and we may even know how to read the Word with our heart, but do we know how to read the Word with our spirit? Second Corinthians 3:17 states that the Lord is the Spirit, and John 6:63 reveals that the Lord's words are spirit. To read the Word with our spirit means that when we come to the Word, we need to contact it with the innermost part of our being. We must contact the Word with the deepest part of our being, and we must not merely understand the Word but sense the Word. We must not only understand the Word with our mind and love it with our heart; we must also sense it with our spirit. There is a great difference between reading the Word and reading the newspaper. To read the newspaper, we only need to use our eyes to see the words and our mind to understand them. To properly read the Word, however, requires something more. To properly read the Word we also need to use our heart to love the Word and our spirit to contact and sense the Word.

Every believer should read through the whole Bible in a quick way at least once so as to get an overview. Then, after reading quickly, he should go back and digest every verse in a slow way, verse by verse. The first kind of reading can be likened to going to the supermarket, purchasing a great amount of food, and bringing this food home and storing it. The second kind of reading can be likened to cooking and eating the food little by little every day. Every day we should eat a little food at breakfast, a little at lunch, and a little at dinner. In like manner, every day we need to take a little of the Word into us. If possible, we should rise up every morning and spend some time to contact the Lord by reading His Word in a living way. Every day we should spend ten minutes to come to the Lord early in the morning. In those ten minutes we do not need to read too many verses, nor do we need to think too much about what we are reading. Instead, we should simply read a few verses and pray over them. By taking a little of the Word into us every day, the Word of God will be our food, and we will live by it.

By reading the Word and praying to the Lord in this way, we can contact the Lord and be contacted by Him. The Lord can speak many things to us, bring us into His presence, enlighten us, and show us all our weaknesses, faults, and defilements. When He shows us these things, we must confess to Him. Then He will cleanse us with His precious blood and purge our conscience, making it bright and pure. As a result, our conscience will be fully at peace, and our spirit will be living and prevailing. Consequently, we will have the living anointing within us all day long. We will be able to fellowship and converse with the Lord continually, and as we do this, gradually we will be filled with the Lord until our whole being is full of the Holy Spirit. This is truly wonderful.