

Experiencing Christ in the Book of Hebrews (Part 1 - Hebrews 1-6)

Meeting 2

Everything God does is by the word of His power. Nothing God does is without His word. The Scriptures prove this. We need His living word and speaking. We heard the word, the word worked in us, and we believed and received the word; thus we were born again. We were *“born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”* (1 Pet. 1:23). The seed – the living word of God – was sown into us. The word of God is not just the word, but God Himself. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Christ, the Word] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made”* (John 1:1-3). Nothing would exist without the Word. We have to appreciate God’s speaking and His word, not the doctrine. His speaking is the word of His power; it is life. God made the whole world just by speaking: *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”* (Heb. 11:3). The word of God is amazing. No one can explain this wonderful, great power in the word of God that created everything. The whole world is held together by His word, sustained by His word (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17). Today, the church is held together by His word – without His word, it would fall apart.

If we want to have spiritual substance, we need the living word. The Lord must speak the living word to us. Even the written word must be made alive through our faith in the Spirit. We have spoken a lot in the past, but nothing happened. Even when we have quoted the Bible or tried to explain the Bible to people, nothing happened. It must be God

who speaks. Paul said that when it is Christ speaking in him, then it works mightily in those who hear him (2 Cor. 13:3). If it is you and me speaking, it is powerless and nothing will happen to those who hear us. We must realize that this is a big problem. This is why we need to open our hearts and say, “Lord speak to me.” The only way for us to have the spiritual reality is by having the living, powerful word of God spoken into being in our life.

Another point we must realize is that the word is not invisible, it must be visible – we must see the expression and glory of God and the working of the living God! If we see nothing, what is the point of speaking the word? Abraham believed in a God who calls things not being into being (Rom. 4:17). In whatever we need spiritually that God has promised to us in His word, we must tell Him, “Lord, I don’t have it. You must speak it into being in me.” It is all done by the word of God. The Lord Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3: *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matt. 4:4). The word must be the breathing out of God. Paul said that all Scripture is the breath of God (2 Tim. 3:16). This Word, Jesus Christ, expresses the glory of God. He is the substance of the wonderful person of God. The Word is God Himself. We have to tell Him, “I want this word to be seen and expressed through me.” If you have the reality, it must shine out. This is why John said, *“and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14b). It is all through this living word of God. If there is no breath, there is no life. The word of God is very important! We need the living word – not just the doctrine or the printed letter. We must desire substance, the glory and the power in the word – not just the understanding, the interpretation and the knowledge of it. May the Lord take away the veil and change our concept.

When Jesus Christ was incarnated, this wonderful Word became flesh firstly to purge and to purify us from our sins. Praise the Lord for that! The more we have this wonderful word wrought into us, the more we will be set free from the dominion of sin and death. Sin is terrible. We must be purified, cleansed thoroughly, and sanctified completely. All the defilement must go – we must be purged. It is a continual process.

This is why we must be saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25). Don't you desire this? Don't you hate sin in the flesh? Tell the Lord, "Lord, purify me completely! Sanctify me! Set me free from the law of sin and death!" In the book of Hebrews, Christ is the sin offering who removed sin once and for all. We need to realize how wonderful and complete His work is. We Christians have many problems because we have not dealt with sin seriously. If we really hated sin, we would resist and strive against sin to bloodshed (Heb. 12:4). The Lord accomplished eternal salvation on the cross, and today, He is working and interceding for us to save us to the uttermost and to sanctify us completely.

After He accomplished the purification of our sins, He ascended as the firstborn Son of God and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3). This is even more glorious! Especially in our situation today, we need to not only see Him on the throne, but to experience sitting with Him in the heavenlies because there is so much trouble in the whole world today. Many Christians are so afraid and worried about so many different things. This world is in chaos! But the Lord is on the throne. He does not want to sit there by Himself; He wants to bring us up to sit with Him in the heavenlies. Do you have the reality of being with Him in the heavenlies, or are you afraid? The Lord who is on the throne is in control! He has the book with the seven seals in His hand today. He is on the throne and is the ruler over the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:5). If you see the reality, you will not be afraid and be able to sleep soundly. When the Lord died on the cross, resurrected and ascended to the throne, He did this for you and me. He was not alone when the Lord died on the cross – He took you with Him! We were crucified with Him on the cross. When God raised Him from the dead, was He by Himself? No, He took you with Him! He also took you with Him when He ascended to the throne. Paul really saw the vision that God made us to be seated with Him in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:4-6).

Today, we need the reality and the subjective experience of this ascended Christ on the throne. It is not just a matter of us believing in His ascension, but believing that He took us with Him – in the spirit we are with Him in the heavenlies. I guarantee that if you see this, your prayers will be very different. If you remain down here on this earth, you will be nervous and trembling; but if you are up there with Him, you

will be rejoicing and praising God because you are in a different position. With everything that is happening in this world today, if you are not up there with Him, you will be in trouble. We must be always reminded that we are up there with Him. It all depends on where you are! Do you believe that His throne is forever and ever? Who is higher – the governments of the earth or our Lord Jesus who is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high? Who has the real power and is really in control? Who is the ruler over the kings of the earth? Who owns this whole world? Who created it? Who is holding it together? Our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the only One who is righteous! He loves righteousness and hates lawlessness (Heb. 1:9). The world is full of lawlessness everywhere. If you are in spirit and have eyes to see, you will hate all the terrible lawlessness going on in this world today. You won't be concerned or afraid if you are looking at the One who is on the throne. Just wait a little more, and this lawlessness will come to an end. God will make all of His enemies His footstool (Heb. 1:13). We believe in Him. He is the righteous God. He knows what is going on. He is not just our Savior who died for us and rose again, but He is sitting on the throne for us!

In Hebrews 6, Christ is the forerunner, the first to enter the heavenly tabernacle into the Holy of Holies before the throne of God. Did He enter for Himself? No, He entered **for us** (Heb. 6:20)! We do many things for ourselves, but Christ did everything for us! Don't think that He ascended on high for Himself – no, it was for us. The Lord has accomplished all these wonderful things for us so that we might become partakers of everything He has accomplished. This is why we are enjoying the feasts of the Lord at His Table every Sunday. Doctrinally, you may know the feasts, but are you enjoying them in reality? At the feast, we are not just praising Christ for what He has done, but we must be partaking and experiencing the reality of what He has done. If we are not partaking of them, and we praise the Lord for dying for us, He will ask us, "Then why are you still alive?" If we say, "Hallelujah, Christ is risen!" He will ask us, "Why are you still in the grave?" If we praise Him that He ascended, He will ask us, "Why are you still down there and not up here with Me?" We eat the unleavened bread and praise Him as the bread sent down from heaven, but why do we still have so much leaven in us and are not purging it out? We praise Him as the Passover lamb

but still remain in Egypt. How can the Lord be happy with our praises if we are not partaking of Him and experiencing Him in our daily living? Just the objective praise does not constitute keeping the feasts. To have real enjoyment and feasting, all the feasts must be transferred as substance and reality in our life.

The chaotic situation of this world today will help us believers to exercise our spirit to be one with the Lord on the throne. I have never enjoyed and experienced sitting with the Lord on the throne as much as I have in the last couple of years. Until Christ's return, the culmination of His accomplishment to date is that He is now sitting on the throne as a Man. And we are sitting there with Him! This is our destiny: to be kings and priests to our God. This is why we are practicing to be the kingdom of priests. This is what He wants to do with us. All the wonderful things Christ accomplished in Hebrews 1 is for us! What a wonderful Christ! This is not doctrine. It must be our reality!

Jesus Christ – Made Much More Superior to the Angels

The writer then compares this wonderful Christ with the angels. Who is higher, greater, and superior – we or the angels? We are! Hallelujah! The master is superior to the servants. The end of chapter 1 says that the angels are *“ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation”* (Heb. 1:14). Who are the heirs of salvation? We are! *“For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You’? And again: ‘I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son’?”* (Heb. 1:5). Praise God, we are sons of God, just like our Lord Jesus Christ. As God, Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father. But after His incarnation, and going through death and resurrection, Jesus Christ, the Man, became firstborn Son of God in His humanity, and we were made His many brethren. As such, we are superior to the angels!

“For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels” (Heb. 2:5). The “world to come” refers to the coming kingdom. God is not giving the world to come in subjection to angels to inherit and to rule over. No, He is giving it to you! The writer of Hebrews

mentions this because God had given the pre-Adamic world to the angels to rule. (The creation described in Genesis 1 when Adam was created was actually a renovation, not the original creation of the world, the previous world given to the angels to rule.) Lucifer was the prince, the head, and the archangel at that time. But he became proud and sinned against God. He wanted to be God and even higher than God, so he fell and became Satan, a fallen angel (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17). So this world is in the hands of the evil one (1 John 5:19) and he is usurping the world today. Actually, we are supposed to rule and have dominion, but Satan deceived man and caused man to fall. But our destiny is to rule in the coming world with Christ and to inherit the world. This is the wonderful destiny of man created by God – to rule and to have dominion.

The writer mentioned the angels because we have the concept that the angels, the powers and principalities and Satan are much stronger than we are. But we should tell Satan, “Satan, you are inferior to us! You have been defeated by the Lord Jesus! He already destroyed you!” *“That through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”* (Heb. 2:14). The devil is finished! Are you afraid of him? After reading Hebrews 1 you know that we are superior to the angels. Who is superior and stronger, the devil or you? We are! This is why the Scripture says, *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (Jam. 4:7b). He will not just go away but flee from you! He will run away like a scared dog with its tail between its legs. We have to see and understand the history of God’s creation: the pre-adamic age, the adamic age today, and the coming age. Then we will appreciate that the coming age belongs to us. “Satan, you are finished. You’ve lost. You’re done. Get away from me! We are here to crush your head once again.” That is why Paul said to the church in Rome, *“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly”* (Rom. 16:20). What a wonderful comparison!

Hebrews 2 tells us why God created man and cares for us human beings. He cares so much that He even became one of us! God will not put the world to come in subjection to angels because His plan is for us to rule over it! If this is only a doctrine to you, and you are not looking forward to this and are not prepared to rule, what more is there to say? This is

why the writer quotes Psalm 8: *“What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him?”* (Heb. 2:6b). The problem is that we Christians look down on ourselves and belittle ourselves. We don’t realize the glory that God has prepared for us. We always say, “I am a poor man, a sinner. I am so weak,” and complain, “What is man? What am I doing here?” But the revelation is that God has put everything under man’s feet. In the very beginning, God already created us (not the angels) in a very special way: in the image of God, in His likeness (Gen. 1:26). *“You have made him a little lower than the angels”* (Heb. 2:7a). The translated word “angels” is actually the word “Elohim,” which is the Hebrew word for God. We are predestined to be sons of God, and the sons of God are a little lower than God. After His life comes into us we are born again and become the sons of God, the brethren of the firstborn – this is glorious! But God, through the Spirit, still has to do so much to transform us and to finish His work in us; so *“we do **not yet** see all things put under him [man]”* (Heb. 2:8b). Not yet. *“But we see Jesus”* (Heb. 2:9a). He did everything for our sake. Even His accomplishment of being crowned and sitting on the throne at the right hand of the Majesty on high is also for us! God is bringing all of us into glory through Jesus Christ. He became the pioneer, the author of our salvation, made perfect through suffering, to accomplish this wonderful, eternal salvation to lead us into glory. This is God’s doing and the wisdom of God: *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings”* (Heb. 2:10). It was fitting for Him – God had already planned this in eternity past so that we would be led into glory. And believe me, He is going to make it! He is God!

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one” (Heb. 2:11a). One what? Some translations say that it is one family. But the verse did not say that. The next phrase of the verse provides the explanation: *“For which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren”* (Heb. 2:11b). That means we are one with whatever He is and whatever He has done. His work is complete – from His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, to His ascension to the throne and being crowned with honor and glory, and when He returns to inherit everything. We have a part in it; we are one with everything He is and

has done! We are His brethren, of the same source – everything is the same as He. He is the firstborn, we are the many brethren, the many sons. You need to realize this and be conscious of this. If you don't see this, you will not appreciate it and experience it. Satan tries to blind us so that we don't see. But the word in this verse is telling us who and what we are and what our destiny is – it is really wonderful that we have a part in whatever He has done. The Lord is not ashamed to call us brethren; are you ashamed to call the Lord your big brother? Are you ashamed to confess His name? We have a part in whatever He has done!

“I will declare Your name to My brethren” (Heb. 2:12a). To declare the Father's name does not mean to just call on the Father, but to reveal the Father to us. The Lord is continually revealing to us whatever the Father has planned and accomplished. We have a wonderful Father, a wonderful God! *“In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You”* (Heb 2:12b). Praise the Lord! The more revelation and experience we have, the richer our praises to Him will be – because we realize more and more through Jesus Christ, everything that God has planned for us. The result will be: *“I will put My trust in Him”* (Heb. 2:13a). Do you have such a trust in the Father as the Lord Jesus had such trust in God? How can you not trust in God to provide and to do everything to fulfill His plan with us? You must trust in Him! If you see what God has accomplished in and through the Lord Jesus Christ from the beginning to the end and that everything was done according to God's will, how can you not trust God that He will also do it in you? Stop complaining and put your trust in Him. Even though we are going through trials and difficult things, and the situation is so terrible, trust God. He is God. He is not only God, He is your Father! If your Father is God, you won't have much trouble. Everything will be taken care of by Him.

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me” (Heb. 2:13b). We have the Firstborn, our big Brother, who will take care of all our needs. He is with us all the time. This is wonderful.

“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham” (Heb. 2:16). The Lord Jesus did not come to help

angels or to accomplish salvation for them. They don't need help, especially from death, because angels do not die. He gives help to the seed of Abraham, to us. The Lord went through all kinds of problems, trials and suffering. He was tempted by Satan and the power of darkness not just three times in the wilderness, but many more times than that. The word says that Satan, after having tempted the Lord three times, left Jesus for a little while until an opportune time (Luke 4:13) – and then he would be back. The Lord had all kinds of enemies – in religion, in politics, even His own brethren who did not believe in Him; and finally, He was put to death. He needed to go through all the suffering so that He could help us in any kind of suffering. The Lord is well-equipped to be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God – not only to make propitiation for our sins and the sins of the people, but to help us in every situation (Heb. 2:17). So at the end of Hebrews 2, the writer is paving the way to show us the great, merciful and faithful High Priest. In the coming chapters we will see why we need the High Priest. Even today, our Lord is very busy. He is very merciful and faithful to help us to accomplish God's will and purpose. What a wonderful Christ who shows us God's plan with us!

A Serious Warning (Hebrews 2:1-4)

We conclude with the warning: *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard [in the Book of Hebrews], lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels [the prophets] proved steadfast...”* (Heb. 2:1-2a). The Greek and Hebrew word should not be translated as “angels” but as “messengers, prophets” (as in Malachi) because God did not speak too many things through angels but through the prophets. Moses, the psalmists and the prophets were all messengers of the Lord sent by God to speak to His people, to us. We need to take heed to the word of God spoken by these messengers. And, today, you should also be a messenger to speak the word of God faithfully to other people! All the words spoken concerning the Lord by Moses, in the Psalms, by the major and minor prophets, even in a small book like Malachi, have proven to be true and steadfast! Don't take the words for granted. It is proven and steadfast.

“For if the word spoken through prophets proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...” (Heb. 2:2-3a). Unfortunately, Israel did not listen; they transgressed and received a terrible judgment. They received a just reward – God’s judgment for them was very serious. If that is what happened to the people of Israel, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ? Salvation is not just to have our sins forgiven – that is just the beginning. Salvation has to continue until we reach the throne, until we are crowned with honor and glory, inherit the coming kingdom and rule over the coming world. That is the great salvation *“which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”* (Heb. 2:3b), by the apostles and His disciples. God even bore witness *“both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will”* (Heb. 2:4). How shall we escape if we neglect this and don’t pay attention to this? There will be judgment. Don’t think there won’t be judgment. At His second coming, the judgment will be very, very serious. You will not be able to escape if you neglect so great a salvation. This is a very serious warning! Warnings are necessary because without them we have no fear, and we do whatever we want.

Question: In Hebrews 2:11-12, we are called His brethren. Why are we called His children in verse 13?

Answer: It’s very simple. Christ is the firstborn Son of God, and we became His brethren. So He said, *“I will declare Your name to My brethren”* (Heb. 2:12). He is going to declare the name of His Father to His brethren. *“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me”* (Heb. 2:13). “Children” refers to the children of the Father, it is their status before the God the Father. The Father has given us, the children, to Him as brethren. So it does not mean that the Lord Jesus has many children. But God has many children; and God has given them to the Lord. Hebrews 1 says that God is a Father to Him (the Lord Jesus), and the Lord is His Son (Heb. 1:5). Through the Lord’s death and resurrection, God has begotten us to be His children, and we are also

the brethren of Jesus Christ. But in relation to God, we are His children and have been given to the Lord Jesus. On the day of His resurrection, the Lord told Mary, *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’*” (John 20:17). The Father has begotten us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3). When Jesus Christ died and resurrected, He took us with Him! So we are the brethren of the Lord Jesus Christ but the children of the Father.

One thing we all have to realize is that we are not for the knowledge but for the experience and the reality. To know is good. But just to know and not have the reality is not good. So we need to read the word and have the consciousness of our destiny. Then we need to work for it through our daily experience. So the word is there to help us realize what our wonderful destiny is and to remind us of it all the time because we often forget.

We Christians appreciate the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ because we are conscious of our sins, our problems, our flesh, and our self – we need a Savior. All Christians know that Christ died for them; but what is missing in the concept of many is that **we died with Him** (because we are alive and not dead and have so many problems). Few Christians have the concept: *“I have been crucified with Christ”* (Gal. 2:20). Like Paul, we need to realize that we have been crucified with Christ. A dead man no longer has any problems. This is a deeper realization of the death of Christ on the cross.

But when it comes to Christ’s ascension, most of us Christians do not know how to experience sitting on the throne with Him. It is not in our natural concept because we are physically here on this earth. It is very hard for us to imagine sitting with Him on the throne unless we learn and practice to walk in the Spirit. Because in the Spirit we are sitting with Him in the heavenlies. Physically I am in California, you are in Korea. But when we live in the Spirit, we are with Him, sitting in the heavenlies. So, it all depends on your walk on this earth – that is,

whether you are walking according to the Spirit or walking according to the human flesh, whether you are setting your mind on the flesh or on the Spirit (Rom. 8:5). No wonder Paul says that we should no longer walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:1, 4). This is a real, wonderful mystery that is difficult to explain: through the resurrection of the Lord, we are made one spirit with Him. The Lord said, *“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you”* (John 14:20) and, *“where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:3b). So where is He – in you or up there? If He lives in you, He is with you here. But if you are in Him, you are with Him up there. So you are both here and there; and He is both there and here. Nobody can explain that. It’s only possible because we are one spirit with Him. This is too mysterious.

We are in Christ and Christ is in the Father. That is why Paul said, *“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”* (Col. 3:3). This is also hard for us to explain according to our mentality. It is just as when the Lord Jesus was on this earth, He said, *“that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him”* (John 10:38b; see also John 14:10-11). Who is where? The Father sent the Son, came with the Son and is in the Son! And the Son came to the earth but says that He is in the Father. You can only explain this through experience of living and walking according to the Spirit. That is why Paul wrote, *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him”* (1 Cor. 6:17). Before His death, resurrection and ascension, the Lord was only able to be with the disciples; He was not in them. But after His death and resurrection, the Lord breathed the breath of life into them and said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit”* (John 20:22). Actually, the Lord Himself is the Spirit that entered into them.

This is also why baptism is very important. Through faith we receive Him into us, and through baptism we are baptized into Him. *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”* (Rom. 6:3). Through baptism we are joined together with Him in His death and resurrection. *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”* (Gal. 3:27). So we are now in Christ, fully joined with Him. This is why baptism is not just a matter

of being baptized into water. *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit”* (1 Cor. 12:13).

Note: The above content has not been reviewed by the speaker.