

Message Four

Migration Being the Practical Way to Spread and Carry Out God's Divine Economy

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 2:4; John 6:57; John 15:4-5, 16;
1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Gen. 1:28; Acts 1:8; 8:1, 4; Dan. 11:32

- I. Every believer should be fully engaged in four main realities for carrying out God's divine economy—gaining a full knowledge of the truth, growing in life, increasing the church in numbers locally by bearing remaining fruit, and spreading the churches as the testimony of Jesus universally from city to city, from state to state, from country to country, and from continent to continent until there are local churches everywhere globally; this should be a part of our culture, our way of life—1 Tim. 2:4; John 6:57; Phil. 1:21; John 15:16:**
 - A. The believers' knowledge of the truth and growth in life are for the increase and spread of the church, the Body of Christ.
 - B. The increase and spread of the church are the goal of our knowing the truth and growing in life, yet the first two have been neglected; thus, the Lord has been restricted, and we have not carried out the recovery in a balanced way.
 - C. We should pick up the burden to ensure not only that the churches in the Lord's recovery would increase in number but also that the recovery as a whole would spread; migration is God's heart's desire; it is God's call and our response.
 - D. It is wrong for a church to exist in an area for ten years without spreading to other cities.
- II. The first man, Adam, is a type of the second man, Christ; God created a man, who became old, and He also prepared a man who became new—1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Eph. 4:22, 24:**
 - A. Everything in the old creation is a type of the new creation—Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 10:6; 1 Pet. 3:21.
 - B. Just as the propagation of the first man, Adam, was to be fruitful and multiply (increase) and fill (spread over, Heb. "occupy to the full") the earth, so the propagation of the second man, Christ, should be—Gen. 1:28; Acts 17:26; John 15:4-5; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8.
- III. Propagation through scattering or migration is the Lord's move today in His Body in this age on the earth; migration is a divine principle in the Bible—Gen. 1:28; Heb. 11:8; Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; 8:1, 4:**
 - A. In the Bible migration is to "go from your land / And from your relatives / And from your father's house / To the land that I will show you"—Gen. 12:1; Acts 7:3.
 - B. Migration is not a movement; it is the move of the one new man, that is, the move of the all-inclusive Christ in His Body.
 - C. When the migrants went out from Jerusalem in Acts 8, they did not establish churches of their own; on the contrary, they spread the Body—vv. 14-17.
 - D. For many years in the Lord's recovery we have been practicing the matter of migration, first in China, then in Taiwan, and then in the United States:
 1. Migration is one of the revelations and practices recovered in the Lord's recovery since 1922 (see *The History of the Church and the Local Churches*, pp. 52-53).
 2. Spreading by migration is considered an item of practicality in the church life (see *The Speciality, Generality, and Practicality of the Church Life*, pp. 69-70).

IV. In the book of Acts the pattern of the spreading of the gospel had two lines—1:8 (see *Life-study of Acts*, pp. 177-182):

- A. The first line was the scattering, the migration, of all the believers; the sent ones, the apostles, stayed, and all the others went out—8:1, 4-5, 26; 11:19; 12:24.
- B. The second line is the sending forth of the apostles, the sent ones, in companies—13:1-4.
- C. Beginning in Jerusalem the gospel preaching was carried out mainly by the apostles; if this were the unique pattern, the preaching of the gospel would be limited; therefore, in Acts 8:4 we have another pattern of the preaching of the gospel—the preaching through the scattering, the migrating, of the saints:
 - 1. Before the persecution there must have been over ten thousand believers in Jerusalem (see 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1).
 - 2. Acts 8:1 clearly says that all the believers were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles; since the Bible says this, we need to believe it.
 - 3. It was sovereign of God that the scattering of the believers from Jerusalem to other localities through the persecution should carry out the spreading of the gospel for the fulfillment of the Lord's word in Acts 1:8 (see 11:19).
- D. After the scattering, the Lord's gospel continued to be powerful and prevailing in Jerusalem, and because the twelve apostles remained after the scattering of the saints, it did not take long before a great many others rose up to believe in the Lord Jesus:
 - 1. It seems that the more the believers left, the more others came to believe in Christ.
 - 2. This seems to be the only way, due to the great persecution, to understand this matter in Acts 8:3 in light of the book of Acts as a whole.
- E. All the churches should follow the pattern in Acts 8:1 and 4 concerning migration; the saints should not stay in a certain place too long; on the contrary, we all should be migrants; we should not be permanently settled:
 - 1. If we have an established dwelling place on earth and cannot migrate, we are not up to the Christian standard; we are not normal Christians; we have a problem; we are rooted on the earth; we must not become set, settled, and occupied.
 - 2. We must be pilgrims living on this earth, we must be sojourners, and we must be like nomads and must always be moving; we should not expect to remain in one place; even after migrating, we should not become settled; right away we should prepare to migrate again; when we move, the gospel goes with us.
 - 3. The foremost examples to us in this matter are Abraham in the Old Testament and Paul in the New Testament—Gal. 3:7; Gen. 12:1, 5-9; 13:18; Heb. 11:9; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thes. 1:6; 1 Cor. 4:16, 11; 1 Pet. 2:11:
 - a. Thus, for the carrying out of God's economy, His children must be a "moving" people.
 - b. God's children must not be a "staying" people.

V. The saints in all the churches should be encouraged to migrate; if the saints in a certain locality do not migrate, eventually that locality will become a "Dead Sea":

- A. If the church in a particular locality is to avoid becoming such a "Dead Sea," a "canal" must be dug to allow the "water" to flow out.

- B. Furthermore, if “water” is allowed to flow out, more “water” will flow in, just as the experience of the church in Jerusalem was in the book of Acts:
 - 1. Every church should be like a hose that is open at both ends; when a hose is opened in this way, water is able to flow in and out.
 - 2. However, if the water is not able to flow out of the hose, nothing more will be available to flow in.
- C. The more a church gives up for migration, the more it gets; the more it keeps, the more it loses:
 - 1. Do not try to keep people; do your best to give them for the Lord’s spread.
 - 2. Do not be narrow-sighted, thinking that you will lose something; you will never lose; even if you lose on the earth, surely you will gain in the heavens.
- D. Only when there is an outflow can the church in a certain locality be preserved from becoming a “Dead Sea.”
- E. However, the migration of the saints is not a legality; the point we are making is that the churches need to follow the pattern in Acts 8:4.

VI. Brother Witness Lee encouraged the churches to give up ten percent of the saints each year for migration to carry out the spread of the Lord’s recovery over the earth (see *The Holy Word for Morning Revival, Migration for God’s Move to Carry Out His Economy*, pp. 37-39, 46):

- A. He fellowshipped that according to the history of the past two or three hundred years, one out of every twenty believers can be sent out for the gospel, while the remaining nineteen are responsible for supplying their material needs.
- B. However, in the summer training of 1984 in the United States, he said that perhaps ten percent of the saints in a locality should migrate each year.
- C. Following this speaking, he spoke to the saints in the churches in Taiwan, encouraging this same percentage of the saints to go out, to migrate, to other places over the entire earth; he said that for Taiwan to produce five hundred thousand young people to go all over the world to be the Lord’s witnesses, they needed to have five million saints so that one out of ten could go out.
- D. He shared that if the condition of the church is very good, one out of every ten should be sent out, and he reported that some churches in California met and fellowshipped, and they considered that since there were fifteen hundred saints, one hundred fifty should migrate to other places.
- E. For further revelation concerning the matter of sending out ten percent, see Nehemiah 11:1-2 and footnote 2¹ and Malachi 3:10-12 and footnote 10¹ (Recovery Version).
- F. He also mentioned that those migrating would be divided into groups of at least thirty.

VII. We must be like those in Judges 5 who made “great resolutions in heart” and had “great searchings of heart” (vv. 15-16); we must achieve something for the Lord; Daniel 11:32 says, “The people who know their God will show strength and take action”; especially in these days in the Lord’s recovery, we need to be those who show strength and take action.

Compiled from the writings of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry. Used by permission.