

Lighting the Fire of Vitality and Activity

Fellowship from Minoru Chen on October 3, 2021

Our Rich Inheritance

I am still looking to the Lord about what we should talk about this afternoon, so I think it will be good to see if you have some fellowship or even questions related to the burden and the things we've been talking about. We skipped last Lord's Day, but the transcripts of these afternoon times of fellowship are available to all of you. Maybe you have some questions related particularly to the practice of these things. My burden is mostly on the exercise and practice. The twofold burden we are speaking of is: 1) our vitality as a constant state of livingness and activity on our part, and 2) the matter of our practice and of our doing. I really consider today, brothers and sisters, that we really have been blessed with the word Paul speaks of in Ephesians, the "unsearchable riches of Christ," or you can say "untraceable" or the word "unfathomable." That means it is mysteriously rich, so you cannot even search it out and you cannot trace the riches of Christ. Also, the amount of those riches or the quantity of those riches that we have inherited, especially not just from the Lord, from God, but also from this ministry over the decades is astounding. It's too much. So, we have been blessed with these riches and we have all these things as our provisions, and we have all these riches for us to speak and to sound forth. So, this is not the problem.

Now of course, you and I need to get into these riches and enjoy these riches and be filled with these riches. The need today is really one of recovery, a recovery of a kind of zeal, fervor, or a burning eagerness, something fiery, something hot and burning within us. This is what we

need today. This is what we are short of. We are not short of the truth. We need to get more constituted; we need to study more, that's for sure. But we have all received a lot. How many Christians today would go to seven feasts a year in Christianity and each time listen to long messages - a minimum of five or six and then a maximum of 10 or 12 - seven times a year? Those are the main feasts we have, and in between we have regional conferences and retreats. We are absolutely sitting on top of a treasure store. We are with today's Joseph in a time of famine. The treasure house of Pharaoh in Egypt was just overflowing with stored food that the whole world had to come and buy and get. This is our condition, dear brothers and sisters. I hope you realize that. We may say we are poor in ourselves, but surely the recovery is not poor. I don't even know what to say. I daresay that there have been very few people in the age of the church (the last 2,000 years until now) who have been blessed as we have. Just think about it for a moment. I almost would say we have more than the early churches when the apostles were still there. You may say, "Whoa, you are really going out on a limb on this one." Well, we have not only Paul's epistles, the heart of the divine revelation, and all of that. We have on top of that, all of John's writings. Think about it, John's writings. And don't for a moment think John's writings are inferior. Paul and John are two apostles with two dispositions and who were given two different commissions in terms of what they wrote. Paul was very much the heart. Paul knew the counsel of God, and even in Ephesus he said that day and night for three years he was in the public place and went from house to house and never withheld the counsels of God from them. So no one saw God's counsel, God's economy, God's plan, like Paul, and he presented it in a very deep and high way. Even Peter, though he admitted he didn't quite understand, condemned people who twisted Paul's words. Much like today, people are twisting Witness Lee's words because of ignorance. They don't know what he's talking about, so they just twist his words, because they don't match their traditional and theological mentality. They can't handle it, so they twist what he says. That happened with Paul.

But only John wrote a gospel, three epistles, and finally Revelation, the last book of the New Testament as a conclusion of the entire divine revelation, the Word of God. He wrote all the way to the New Jerusalem. Then, of course, you have some others like Peter and others, and some of the Gospels. Who is able to put all these things together? Now, we don't have a systematic theology; that's just not the way we do things. But if we did, then I will tell you that the theology in the Lord's recovery would be the top. Believe me, it is the top. Brother Nee and Brother Lee stood upon the shoulders of the Brethren. The Brethren had reached the zenith, the height, of the divine revelation and we benefited from that. But today let's do a very objective comparison of what we have in these books in our library. Just open any book and compare that to what the Brethren have. I have read some Brethren writings and I've been to a Brethren bookstore. They have not just Darby or Mackintosh, but also Kelly. A lot of people have not read Kelly. Some said Kelly had the mind of an ocean. These brothers put out much regarding the typologies in the Old Testament and the whole matter of seeing the universe and the span of time by way of dispensations. This was a huge thing: that now we can read the Bible through the lens of dispensations. This is a huge help to understand the Bible even today. Of course, this affects certain parts of Christianity, and this is taught in certain Bible schools. But most Christians today in Protestant Christianity still don't see things through the lens of dispensations or ages. In every age God has a way to work out His purpose.

This morning, I gave a little mini conference to the churches in Oklahoma, and I spoke about the need for renewal. In the outline, we described what we have seen in the ministry, that through four dispensations of God's work He is able to produce His new creation. Just a view like that, you have the pre-Law (from Adam to Moses), you have the age of the Law (from Moses to the Lord's first coming), the age of Grace (from the Lord's first coming to His second coming), and then the age of the Kingdom (the 1,000 years, or what we call the millennium). Through these four dispensations or four ages God creates or produces a new creation, and that new creation is

ultimately manifested in the new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem, the final product. That's the consummation of all of God's work to bring forth His new creation. The new creation came forth from the redeemed old creation through a process, a work of renewal, which we basically call organic salvation. Through that process, He can bring forth such a new man and such a new creation in this universe. Just to say that little paragraph blows my mind, and I don't think the Brethren saw that to this degree. They have not seen this all the way through to the New Jerusalem.

To Whom Much Has Been Given Much Is Required

Today, at the end of this age, we of all people have been granted a small number of people outside that big country in the Far East in the Lord's recovery which has a lot of saints in it. Outside of that country we have on our phone list, if you will, several hundred thousand people. Not all these are active in the church life. That is a small number compared to the world's population, which now is over seven billion and growing. Of all those people with a long history of Christianity and with all the books that Christianity has produced, which is the most writings than any other institution on bookshelves, in the libraries and in the bookstores, we are blessed to see and enjoy all the riches. The divine revelation has been consummated, not only in the Bible itself, but in its interpretation. The interpreted word is in front of us. We know that this is the truth. These are the truths of God and these were intended for all men, because God's desire is that all men would and be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth. This is the truth, and we have it, brothers and sisters. I don't know what happened. I think we all would scratch our heads and say, "How did I get here? How did I end up in this place called the recovery and be exposed to all these riches?" Well, we don't know. Only the Lord knows. Maybe one day we will. But my point is, that's what we have. But on the other hand, with all that, to whom more is given more is required (Luke 12:48). That is the Lord's principle. What are we doing with this blessing? What did God have in His mind in giving us all these riches? Well, I would say, that is a question. Put in another way--What is the purpose of the recovery? What is the commission of the Lord's

recovery? Why are we here?

Living Out and Working Out What Has Been Given to Us

The recovery has been among us one hundred years (this year or next year, depending how you count). Let's look at our two ministers of this age – Brother Nee and Brother Lee. What did they do? Being channels of these riches, the recipients of these revelations, and the seers of these divine visions, what did they do? Well, what they were burdened to do is to put out these riches to meet the need of God, that men will not only be saved but come to know these riches. In fact, Paul says in Ephesians that he was the least of all, but grace was given to him to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel. Paul did his job, and so did these two brothers among us. Today, our commission is the same. We cannot be content just to possess these riches and sit on top of this pile of spiritual wealth. We have a work to do; we have a commission, which is to bring these riches to others and help them to know these things. We know that in the end, most of the world and most Christians will not receive these things. They don't have a taste or an appetite. They don't even have a concern or seeking for these things. Why? Because it is primarily a very degraded situation in Christendom. People don't know these things. You just go to YouTube and watch a few sermons, check out those who are famous talking about the Bible and the word, and you will see how impoverished the situation is. Going to heaven is still there, blessing, hope, etc. Most things that you hear are so rudimentary and so elementary. They are not wrong, they are Christian, they are Biblical, but they are at a beginning stage relative to what we have been shown, and we know that these things cannot fulfill God's intention and cannot work out what God wants to work out on the earth.

We have been given these riches. To use Brother Lee's word concerning the New Jerusalem, he said we need to live out and work out the reality of the New Jerusalem today. We all need to know the truth. Once someone said that even a person with a menial, or more lowly kind of work among the Brethren knew more than all the other Christian teachers. And that was true. As someone like us, even our

young people know so much more than the professors in the seminaries in terms of the divine revelation. But besides knowing the truth, our commission today is to live these things out as reality, to live a life that bears testimony of these things, so that there would not be a disconnect between what we know, what we see, and how we live and behave. The testimony of Jesus should be seen in our personal, individual living, as well as our church life. The church life of where you are must not be and cannot be old. It cannot be that there's a group of spiritual people over there down the street. It has to be more than that. As we live out Christ, we also have to work out the New Jerusalem. We need to build up our church life as a miniature New Jerusalem with all its intrinsic aspects. The calling and the commission are high, but sadly, too often we lose that view, and everything is dumbed down, and the standard of the Lord's testimony is diminished. As a result, the church life misses or loses the character and the reality of a lampstand in its essence of gold, of God, in its form of the Son, and in its shining expression of the lamps, the Spirit, an expression of the Triune God on the earth. And brothers and sisters, we must be this in our localities; whether we are small or large, we must be those golden lampstands, the testimony of Jesus today.

The Age of Overcomers

To do that, we have to overcome the whole degraded situation in the secular world, for sure, but also overcome the degraded situation in the religious world. The need, the call, today therefore is for overcomers. We can say that the last 2,000 years are the church age, or grace age. But what do you think, that actually these last 2,000 years may be already the age of the overcomers? Because degradation set in before the first century was over, and already, after the Lord ascended to the heavens and became the One who opened the scroll of God's economy, the seven-fold intensified Spirits were sent out to the whole earth to operate God's economy. This is in the first century. This is after Christ's ascension. Therefore these 2,000 years on the one hand, comprise the age of the church, which is basically an age of degradation, but on the other hand, it is also the age of God locating and finding His overcomers. In all these 2,000

years, there have always been a small group of believers who lived in an overcoming way in their particular age. Most are unknown. They may not be recorded, but many were, and together they constituted the Lord's recovery in their age and stood on behalf of the church which had lost its way and its testimony. They stood in her place, the place of the church, to have the reality of the church, to have the reality of the Body of Christ, to have the reality of the testimony of Jesus in every age. And today, we're living here in this age.

Brothers and sisters, I hope we can look at things in this way; it would greatly elevate the meaning of our existence. This all-inspiring situation would stir us to have a different purpose. It would affect the way we order our lives, the way we live, our human living, our choices, our plans, our decisions. It would make us a different group of people. Not that we are better, more perfect, or holier, it's just that we have received this unbelievable revelation, this blessing to see that God has a purpose, a heart's desire and intention, a plan, a design to build and work out. So our migrations, our planting new churches, our preaching of the gospel, our serving the Lord, all of these must be tied to this commission. I hope we are lifted up. I hope our view, our burden is greatly uplifted, that although we are small, we are not doing a small thing; although we are insignificant in size and in scale, what we are engaging in is not insignificant. With that kind of a heart, we will have an attitude of seriousness, an attitude of full consecration and an attitude of sacrifice. We will have a decision; talking about great resolutions of heart and great searchings of heart, we would have that kind of resolve within us to cooperate with the Lord today to do our part. I know we are talking about small groups, twos and threes, but I feel always to share with you and to remind us of who we are and what we are doing.

Recovery of the Oneness and of the Function of Every Member

I say again, in order to carry out this commission, besides the riches that we have, I would say the main need is for a group of loving overcomers of the Lord who are vital, who are living and active, to live out and work out these things. Because everything is against us from

the enemy to frustrate what God is doing. His masterstroke through the ages in destroying the church is simply to divide it and paralyze it. Once the enemy can do that, he has got it done, so Christianity is just a cut up dismembered body in millions of bits and pieces. Where is the testimony? Dividing is the first way that the enemy would destroy the church. The second way he would destroy is to paralyze the members to make them abnormal and laymen, that they would bury their gifts, their talents, and they would not fill their vessels with oil, rendering them basically useless Christians. They are saved, they have God's life, but for God's use today they are basically useless in this sense. And today, in order to be the recovery, to counter all of these, we need to be living and vital.

Therefore, the main burdens, as a practical matter of the recovery, are first, to recover the oneness, the testimony of the one Body of Christ, the one church. This is sacred. This is huge. We fought for this, and we were maligned. Second, we're here to recover the organic function of every brother and sister, that which has been given to them. This perfects the saints to directly build up the Body of Christ. The direct building of the Body is not by the gifts, but it is directly done by you and I, who have been perfected by the gifts.

Being Living and Active

And so here we are. The need is vitality – to be living and active. Our brothers' burden is that we would overcome the deadness of Sardis to be living and overcome the lukewarmness of Laodicea to be active. The provisions for us to be living and active are also here; they have been given to us. What we need to do is to enjoy these provisions, take these provisions, apply these provisions, exercise and practice these provisions. Then we will be those who are living and active.

Two weeks ago, I shared with you some of these matters. Number one was to have a continual, personal, absolute, and thorough fellowship with the Lord. A life of fellowship with the Lord is one of the necessary provisions. He is the living God and no one who appears before God for a duration can avoid being transfused and becoming utterly living.

After forty days and forty nights, Moses came down from the mountain shining and beaming. Forty days and forty nights, that's a long time. If you only spend one minute with the Lord, sparing just enough time to say hi and bye, you won't be living. If you spend even four hours, which is not as long as forty days, but after just four hours, you will see what can happen as a result of spending time with the Lord. You come out living. You come out charged. This busy world, with all its distractions, does not allow us to spend enough time with the Lord, but it starts here.

This concept seems so elementary, but in practice it's not elementary. I recently gave four messages over the span of a week to the working saints in the Bay Area to lead them into a personal life of fellowship, a fellowship with the Lord which is private, personal, secret, lengthy, and clear. I've talked about how we all have the issue of wasting our time, sapping our strength and our energy, numbing our senses, usurping our heart, corrupting our soul, weakening our faith and reducing our love. Nowadays, when we live like the worldly people all of these things, whether we like it or not, are peddled to us and they pervade us. The world bombards us through our eyes, our ears, and all our senses. And we end up spending more time on the screen than we spend with the living God. It's no wonder we're not living. In fact, it would be a miracle if we were living. Brothers, we need to spend time with the Lord to get transfused and infused. We need to spend time with the Lord to be living and active. Simply spending time with the Lord is the first thing.

The second thing is having absolute and thorough confession. When was the last time you spent a long time with the Lord to make a thorough confession? Again, it's no wonder that the sky is not clear and our conscience is not clean and pure. Our unconfessed sins create a barrier between us and the Lord, and maybe even between us and man. We cannot be living, and we cannot be clear without confession. The things I'm discussing today are not difficult to do, but they do require us to pay a price.

Next is absolute and thorough consecration. Much and thorough prayer is not just three to five minutes here and there. I'm talking about much and thorough prayer. We also need to be soaked with the infilling and outpouring of the Spirit for our life and power in our living. The two aspects of the Spirit are for us to be living and active. No matter where you are, whether it is Columbia, Pittsburgh, or Lexington, if this engine is working, the power of life will operate.

I'll tell you now, there are groups of saints that do all these things. These saints have come together with a purpose, with intense love for the Lord, with an overcoming spirit, and they spend time in God's presence. They pray and they're consecrated. They are just vital people. These are the overcomers.

A Fiery Zeal as Our Morale

I mentioned the word zeal earlier in this fellowship. We need this fiery zeal. Now, it's not good to burn strange fire, and I'm not advocating that. Using your natural strength as fuel in the things of God is just the flesh and we're not for that. But, on the other hand, there should be a holy fire burning within. That fire within should be burning in an unquenchable and unstoppable way. Psalms 69, a prophecy of the suffering Christ, is quoted in chapter two of John. The zeal of Your house (the Father's house) has eaten me up, has devoured me, has consumed me (John 2:17; Psalms 69:9). When the Lord Jesus was on the earth He looked at the mess that the physical temple was in and how defiled it had become. The Lord said the fire, the zeal, of the Father's house is just consuming Me. This is the Lord. He is the first overcomer.

Zeal has always been something burning and fiery. In Romans, Paul's word was "Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). We don't want to be slothful in zeal, meaning we don't want to be passive, cold, dormant, or inactive. Don't be lukewarm and tired. In your zeal, and that is to say in your serving the Lord as a bond slave, the key is this divine zeal, this divine fire. This zeal will be ours if we are with the Lord and if we deal with

the Lord in this kind of way. It is in fellowship with the Lord through these kinds of prayers and dealings with the Lord that He burns us as the seven Spirits with His eyes that are like burning fire. He looks at us not to be sweet, but He looks at us to burn us. If you're dead and lukewarm, His looking at you is a searching, an observing and then these flames of fire are to burn you and make you burning. This is the energizing God operating as the seven-fold intensified Spirit. We all have to spend the time in front of the seven-fold intensified Spirit to be burned this way. Brothers and sisters, whether it's shepherding, fruit-bearing, our small groups, the twos and threes, eventually all of this will become just a formula or method. It's easy for us to say let's just do this and that and employ our formula or method but there will be no fire underneath it, no energy and life power there. If the persons themselves are not zealous, hot, and ardent we cannot continue. The old English word, ardent, means something hot and fiery, not just warm, but hot and boiling. This fiery zeal is the morale of the church in the Lord's recovery. And I am just burdened to the uttermost in these days. I really believe that these migrations in these GTCA cities are something of the Lord's leading, but how they will come out and what will be the result really depends on whether we are a group of loving overcomers who are vital people. It's not the formula that makes things work. It's the zealous person that makes the formula work.

The Need for Exercise and Practice

Now the other thing is the matter of practice. We have a shortage of vitality these days, and the other shortage we have is activity. Vitality should bring out activity. We shouldn't be afraid of activity. To kill the church, Satan makes the members of the church passive and dormant. If the members suffer from lukewarmness and deadness, then they can't do anything. With this kind of fervency in spirit, this zeal in our heart, this burning condition, we will do a lot of things. These days, more than anything, we need to exercise and practice. These things are the God ordained way. Until we do things, we will not know what works and what does not. Right now, a fellowship like this is still a theory, just a message, to you. I would encourage all of us not to wait

but to start to thoroughly pray and fellowship and spend much time with the Lord to become vital. We need to become vital so we would take initiative to exercise and practice. We have read it all in the books. What I'm sharing with you is in these books, I didn't invent anything new. And honestly what we need right now is to just go to do it. When you talk about twos and threes, just go find another person, a brother or a sister, your spouse or whoever it may be, and you'll become alive, then you will find another one to make them alive. Just the two or three begin to blend together, to pray for the Lord's increase, to pray for the gospel, and to pray in this kind of desperate way. We don't want to just talk about it, we need to do it. You may say, "Well, not so many people are doing it." But don't worry about that, it starts with one. The overcomer starts with one. The Bible says, he who overcomes, not they. He who overcomes shows that it starts with that one.

So then, you must order your life, budget your week, schedule and prioritize these things so that you can have dedicated time for the Lord's interest and a time to spend with the Lord. Let's say I set aside the time to spend at least one hour like this with the Lord every week, but I better say exactly when that hour will be. You need to apportion that time, otherwise, it will be eaten up by locusts again. What you don't plan will not happen, as the saying goes "to fail to plan is to plan to fail." This saying is quite true. Even though this is for our spiritual life, we cannot think that it does not require practicality. We're here to build up habits. We want to be with the Lord, not just once in a while through miraculous touches, but we're here to habitually have that appointment with the Lord for that hour. We need to set aside time and tell your family you need to arrange things, because this is priority. When we pay that price, when we make those kinds of arrangements, I tell you, things will happen. Trust me, life changing things will happen in your life. We actually have the time; we just need to arrange it.

Then if the Lord leads, we would gather in small groups in fellowship, maybe according to geography. You just need four to six people and

that is a good start. You have to open your homes and make your house available for the small group meetings. But first of all, you need to pray with some others to begin this kind of practice. You might say, what if I'm wrong? And you let the worry stop you. But you just need to do it, and if it's the wrong thing you'll find out. But what you find out is not because the book tells you you're wrong, but it's your experience that tells you. This experience is very valuable. If you run into things that don't work, that's valuable because it's from these experiences that you learn you need to do something else.

Then you need to pray concerning people that you can contact, your neighbors, friends and relatives. There are many people in your universe, in your little Jerusalem, whom you can begin to contact. You set your heart, brothers and sisters, being energized this way, not for the short run but for the long run. You will not be deterred. You will not be disappointed. You will not be discouraged. Part of being an overcomer is to overcome those things and still continue with this labor of love, this work of faith, this endurance of hope. Results and success belong to people like this who would not give up because the goal and the purpose are so clear and so noble. Let us all live this way, shall we, brothers and sisters? Let us live in a different way even in the recovery. I think maybe it is time for us to have a new living, have a new lifestyle. Let us adjust the way we schedule our own lives. Let us adjust many things so that this can come forth.

RESPONSES

Response 1: *Brother Minoru, thank you for your sharing. I just want to sit here and listen to you for another hour if you had the time. This is such an infusion of life for God's testimony. You know, we are just trying. Although I fail, I want to learn how to be vital. I want to learn how to spend time with the Lord. I want to learn how to get into the books more and to really become a living member of the Body. Because, you know, without this vitality, what do we have? We do not have anything. But if we could become vital, wow, maybe the Lord can begin to move in us to spread this fire to others, not a strange fire but*

the fire that was burning in Brother Lee and Brother Nee, which we know was long term. So praise the Lord, we have all the riches on our bookshelves and we are learning to put them into practice. I realize that I need to spend more personal, private time with the Lord and let Him infuse His sevenfold intensified, 2000-year experience into my being for His recovery. He can have a testimony on the earth in the little space I occupy, for those around me and for the twos and threes that he puts me with.

Response 2: *Praise the Lord. I really appreciate this fellowship and this matter of vitality. I have been really touched with this in the last couple of weeks. I was fellowshiping with my wife that I feel even in my morning time, it has been a struggle. It is sweet but there is just a difficulty. I feel like the Lord really wants to break through. He really wants to break through in all of us. As one who has recently migrated, like many saints, and even for those that are in GTCA cities and have this spirit of migration, I just feel like the Lord really wants to go on and we realize what the Lord has given the recovery. But then I look at myself and I realize I could move to a new locality and just kind of settle in and just bring in whatever experiences I had to my new locality. This would not be gaining new and fresh experiences of Christ. I would like to share just a little experience I have been having is this matter of twos and threes and prayer. Deep in the pandemic, when things slowed down, I began to pray. But in the last four weeks, I have really been endeavoring to pray with saints here in Orlando and to build up this kind of personal prayer. I have even been making a journal three days a week with 15 minutes of personal prayer. You know, I can say I have had vital prayer, but not this kind of consistent prayer for the Lord to really have a breakthrough. It is not easy. It is an inconvenience to pray with a brother when I have other things going on. Anyway, I just feel like it is a fight saints, and I am just realizing more and more that the Lord needs to have a breakthrough that His recovery could be what it should be. I feel like it starts with me giving up my personal preferences to spend time to pray with another brother and to build that up and make it my habit. This fellowship has been really helpful to me these last couple of weeks.*

Response 3: *I was really encouraged by our brother's sharing today. It is not enough to just be motivated or to see the vision or to see something true. We need to practice these things. I really enjoyed that we need to have vitality. We need to be vital persons. This vitality comes out of our spending time with the Lord. Satan just robs our time, you know. Who is not busy here? Everybody is busy. We have kids, work going on and serving and other responsibilities. So it is not enough to just be motivated, we need to budget our time. And motivation sometimes does not work. I have tried to motivate myself many times. But we need to just set aside some time, maybe just 15 minutes to start. Spend very solid, quality 15 minutes with the Lord, maybe right before bed. By doing this, by budgeting and arranging our time, hallelujah, we can be vital persons and then we make other people vital. We do not need to worry about so many people, we ourselves just need to be vital. I was very encouraged.*

Response 4: *One of the things that touched me about the sharing today was concerning the matter of what we are doing in the Lord's recovery and what is happening in the Lord's recovery today is significant. It is a significant matter. I was just touched about how much time I waste, how dead I am. A few weeks ago, I was reading about the Lord being a man of sorrows. I read a footnote that said that all our illnesses, sorrows, and our disappointments are an issue of sin. We need to repent, even to repent for our being tired, repent for being ill, repent for being sad, repent for being disappointed. Because all of these are just things that Satan has brought to us. It is almost like we get comfortable feeling this way and feel justified feeling this way. Then that becomes an excuse for us to say, "Well, I cannot do this, or I cannot do that. It does not matter if I pray. It does not matter if I spend time with the saints." But all these are just feelings, thoughts, and concepts that we need to repent of. We need to confess these to the Lord and allow the Lord to clear these things away. We should be burning and on fire. We should be crazy lovers of Jesus. There is no reason not to be. We have heard all these things and read these things in the books. We have had so many messages, so much ministry, that*

we should just be, every day, crazy lovers of Jesus, serving the Lord with zeal. But for some reason we are not. The reason we are not is that we need to confess to the Lord, to allow the Lord to shine on all the excuses that we make for ourselves and all the justifications for our deadness. We need to open to the Lord and allow Him to renew us. Then we will have a wonderful, new church life ahead of us that we cannot even imagine. Praise the Lord, I believe it is there. I believe the Lord has such a desire to bring us into it.

Response 5: *Brother Minoru, I feel your encouragement to us is like an encouraging to start a fire. I just remember this one trip that we took with the church. It was a church retreat to a campground. It was hard to start a fire. But once we got that fire going, it was hard to be within seven feet of it. It was so strong and so prevailing that it would just burn any wood that you threw into it. I actually remember a message that you gave in Northern California, where you spoke about the need to recover the fire, the fervor, and the faith that was in the church life in the late '60s and early '70s. With Brother Lee's fellowship concerning the vital groups and also your passing on of this fellowship to us, which we desperately need, I feel it is a call for overcomers to be the fire starters. Fire initially is hard to start but once it is going, once it is burning, it just goes almost of itself. I feel your laboring among us is really an encouragement to us that there would be overcomers raised up among us here in the ten GTCA cities to go to the Lord to become vital, that is to become burning, so that we can burn ourselves, burn one another, and even burn new ones so that we can have the church life.*

Response 6: *Thank you, Brother Minoru. Thank you for your sharing. I think these times are so precious, brother. I agree with all the other saints that have responded. There is a call today, not to just continue living out the mundane church life. The church life is the most glorious place I have ever been in. I thank the Lord for calling me out. I am sure we all feel this way. Thank you, Lord, for calling us out of so many things. But at the same time, we can just be living out the church life in a routine way. Day by day, we can be in house to house, we can be*

seeing the saints, we can open up our homes, but there can be something missing. I really appreciate that, from this sharing, there is a burning that the Lord needs today. You hear so much about the burning from what the Lord raised up in the United States in the '60s. And yes, the Lord has moved on. In a sense, there is a maturation in the church, there is a constitution in the church. But sometimes we are just missing the economical Spirit burning upon us. I just appreciate now that we have to move. How do we move? 15 minutes, 30 minutes of time, we just break away. I am serving the Lord now full time. But it is so hard to just break away, because I am caught up in the routine church life. We need to just stop and spend time with the Lord. Open up, have absolute and thorough fellowship with Him. Because if He cannot get it with us, He is not going to get it in our twos and threes. And if He cannot get it in our twos and threes, our small group meeting is going to be the same as it was last month, last year, last decade. And the Lord is longing for us to move on with Him today.

Concluding Word of Fellowship

I must add two things before we go. Number one, go and read the footnote of Romans 12:11 about this matter of being burning in spirit. There Brother Lee talked about how the earlier verses in Romans 12 talk about being transformed by the renewing of the mind. He explicitly said that there is a possibility that, while we may be transformed and renewed in that way, we could also as a result, as a byproduct, become passive and even dormant. And for that, we need to light a fire. You know, I think what the Lord has done in the recovery is wonderful. We have all these riches, we are all growing in some way, we are experiencing Christ, and there is a kind of peace in the recovery now. Everything seems good. But what is short is the fire. What is short is what will propel the rocket to defy gravity and get into orbit. That kind of thrust is not something we can generate. It has to have a divine source. What each one of us need to do is to spend more time with that divine source and get charged, get fueled. So that together, we may be doing the same things, but the fire is present. Then these things will work.

The early years in the U.S. were not a different era. No, we are the same people. In fact, we knew a lot less truth than today, a lot less. But I will tell you, we were defying gravity. We brought forth a revival. That is the second thing that I want to mention. All of this is that there would be a revival – not a Pentecostal one, but a genuine revival. Still, that revival must have the Spirit. Vitality is simply the presence of the Spirit. When there is the Spirit presently operating in our being, we are vital. Vitality is simply the Spirit presently operating in our beings.