The Economy of God

Discerning the Spirit from the Soul

- 1 Cor. 2:14-15 – But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know [them] because they are discerned spiritually. But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.

Reviewing God's Economy

- God's economy is to dispense Himself into us.
    - He does this by the Father being embodied in the Son and the Son being realized in the Spirit.
        - The Holy Spirit includes God the Father, God the Son, the divine and human natures, the human life of Christ with the enduring power of earthly sufferings, the effectiveness of Christ's death, the resurrection power, the ascension, and the enthronement.
        - This all-inclusive Spirit is now in our human spirit and is mingled as one spirit.
- Christ in our spirit is the mark of God's economy.
    - Whenever we turn to our spirit, there we will meet Christ.

Denying the Soul

- Although the Lord is in our spirit, our spirit is very much stuck to our soul.
    - It is for this reason that the Lord told us many times that we need to lose our soul and deny our self.
    - The soul must be denied because it has covered up the spirit.
    - The Lord is in our spirit, and His grace is in our spirit, but the way to Him is by crushing the soul day by day.
- What is the soul?
    - The soul is simply the self.
    - The self is the very centre of the human being and is the human being, and it is the self which must be crossed out.
    - The Christian life is "no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."
        - By having the "I" crucified, there is no more I.

- If any man would follow Christ, he must deny the I, take up the cross daily, and follow Christ.
    - To deny the soul means that we turn from ourselves to the spirit.
    - In the spirit we will meet Christ.

Abiding in the Spirit

- After we were saved, we were given too much religious and ethical teachings.
    - For example, that we must try our best to do good, and that we have to do something to glorify His name.
    - We must not lose our temper and honour our parents.
- But the Lord told us this: Abide in Me and I in you. I am the vine; you are the branches.
    - If we are going to abide in Christ, we must know that Christ is in the spirit.
    - In order to abide in Christ, we must discern our spirit.
    - When we abide in Him in the spirit, He will have the opportunity to take possession of us.
- When we discern the spirit, then we can abide in Him and find that He is the all-inclusive Triune God.
    - He is the wonderful, all-inclusive, all-sufficient Spirit indwelling our spirit.

(The Economy of God – Chapter 11)