# The Economy of God

## The Cross and the Soul-Life

### The Triune God Spreading Within Man

- God's economy is to dispense Himself into our spirit as His abode and to take His residence in our spirit as a base to spread Himself through our whole being.
    - Our spirit is His home, His dwelling place, His habitation, the very place from which He spreads Himself through our whole being.
- He comes into our spirit to start the mingling by regenerating our spirit.
- After regeneration, if we cooperate with Him, offering ourselves to Him and giving Him the opportunity, He will spread Himself from our spirit into our soul to renew all the parts of our soul.
    - This is His transforming work.
- Finally, the last step is to transfigure, or change, our body at the second coming of the Lord.

### The Two Parties Fighting for the Soul

- Before the glorious God came into the spirit, Satan, the enemy of God, came into us first.
    - The flesh is the corrupted, ruined, damaged body, with the evil one dwelling in it.
- As the human spirit becomes a base from which God can spread Himself, so the same principle is true with this corrupted body.
- The direction of all satanic work always begins from the outside and works toward the inside. But the divine work always starts from the centre and spreads toward the circumference.
- We are so complicated because we have become a battlefield.
    - We are the universal battlefield for the universal battle
    - We cannot be neutral; we have to take sides.
    - We must deny the self—put the soul to death on the cross. By crossing out the soul, we burn the bridge for the enemy.

### The Cross Dealing with the Soul

- After we have been regenerated, we should not live and walk and do things by our self.
- If we are not in the flesh or in the spirit, we are in the soul.

    - We have been delivered out of Egypt, but we have not yet entered into the good land of Canaan. We are still wandering in the wilderness of the soul.
- The taking up of the cross in Matt 10:37-39 refers to our human love for our dear ones.
    - Human love is something in our soul, and it must be dealt with by the cross.
    - Natural affection, love, and relationships have to be cut off by the cross.
    - We must love our enemies, but we must learn to hate our soul, our self.
- Luke 9:23-25 and 17:32-33 show that the soul is much involved in the love of the world.
    - If we love the things of the world, we will lose our soul in the bad sense. If we give up the love of the world, we will lose our soul in the good sense.
- We see in John 12:24-25 that the soul has much to do with the natural life and the natural strength.
    - Our natural life and strength have to be dealt with by losing the soul.
- The only way to determine whether we are in the soul or in the spirit is by checking whether we are now on the cross.
    - When we deny the self by taking up the cross, the Lord Christ will have the full ground in us, and it will be easy to go along with Him.
- We should not wait for God's chastisement. Day by day we must learn the lesson to deny the self, to take up the cross, and not to give any ground to the soul.

(The Economy of God – Chapter 13)