

everything seemed to be going in favor of the opposers, and now in Rome he knew even more clearly that his struggle was not in vain. He encouraged the saints with these words. "Those who oppose often have a way to convince others that they are right. Perhaps those from Jerusalem could say, 'You in Philippi only have a few meeting together. In Jerusalem there are tens of thousands! And we have James, the brother of Jesus, leading us. Whom do you have? Incarcerated Brother Little?' (Paul's name means 'small.') 'His gospel is deficient. It is far too simplistic. Yes, Jesus is the Messiah. But haven't you heard that you also must be circumcised? Let me show you in the Bible where the Lord told Moses....' Meanwhile, Paul was telling the believers in Philippi, 'Hold to the gospel of Christ that you have received and entered into. Do not be drawn away from it. Pursue Christ together in one spirit and with one soul in the church life. Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of citizens of this heavenly kingdom. I am still here for you, struggling in the same struggle.' "

(*ibid.*, pp. 25-27)

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

Suggested Supplementary Reading

The Holy Word for Morning Revival— Philippians: Week 2, Day 4

The Life-study of Philippians, Message 8

Prayer Burdens

1. Continue to pray for the ministering of the Word for the perfecting of the saints in the Hall 1 English-speaking meetings.
2. Pray for the Chinese-speaking District 3 and 7 gospel love feasts this coming Saturday, Oct. 28th at Hall 1.
3. Brothers Del martin (from Toronto) and Vern Yoder (from Pittsburgh) are presently visiting Kampala, Uganda. Pray as they help brother Keith Miller (resident co-worker) in raising up Ugandan students who can stand firmly for Christ and the church. Pray as they visit pastors in Kampala to share the vision of the church and the ground of the local church.
4. Bro. Dave Higgins, a co-worker in Southern California, passed away yesterday (see attached note from his family). Let us pray for his family at this time of their bereavement and be comforted by the fact that the Lord has cut short the sufferings of our brother in his fight against cancer.

Announcements:

General

1. **LastAdam site**
The saints are advised that the LastAdam web site no longer carries the morning revival material. This site belongs to an individual saint and is not sanctioned by the church in Toronto.
2. **Review Committee Submission deadline extended**
The date on which submissions should be made has been extended to Tuesday, October 31st, 2006 at 9:00pm. Those wishing to make oral presentations should let David Lio know or indicate by email to fellowship2006@churchintoronto.org by Lord's Day October 29th, 2006 at 1:00pm.

Book Room

1. **Simplified Chinese Recovery Version Edition**
The simplified Chinese Recovery Version of the Old Testament with footnotes (leather bound) is now available for pre-order at the pre-payment price of \$45.00 each.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 7

Oct 30 - Nov 4, 2006

Living Christ to Magnify Him (5) — Conducting Ourselves Worthy of the Gospel of Christ & Suffering on His Behalf

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 1:27-30

Hymns:

1295; 655; 656; 877

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:27

27 Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent, I may hear of the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,

Mark 8:35b-36

35 ...whoever will lose his soul-life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it.

36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul-life?

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Conduct Worthy of the Gospel

"Although the first chapter of Philippians is rather long, it may be outlined quite simply. This chapter is concerned with the fellowship in the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus without envy, strife, or rivalry. It is in this way that we experience Christ...In our gospel-preaching life there should be no envy, strife, or rivalry, not even with the opposers. Instead, we should simply preach the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus. But as long as there is the slightest bit of rivalry, we cannot be in the Spirit of Jesus. Moreover, if we are not in the Spirit of Jesus, we are not in the fellowship of the gospel, and we are through with the experience of Christ. To experience Christ we need the fellowship in the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus without envy, strife, or rivalry."

(*Witness Lee, The Experience of Christ, Chpt. 2, p. 16*)

Standing Firm and Striving Together

"In 1:27 Paul says, 'Only conduct yourselves worthily of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent I may hear the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together in the faith of the gospel.' We need not only to stand firm in one spirit for the experience of Christ, but also to strive together with one soul in the faith of the gospel. To be with one soul for the gospel work is more difficult than to be in one spirit for the experience of Christ. This requires that, after being regenerated in our spirit, we be transformed in our soul, especially in our mind, which is the main part, the leading part, of our soul.

"In 1:27 Paul charges the Philippians to stand firm in one spirit and to strive with one soul. Nowhere else in the Bible are the terms spirit and soul used together in this way. Concerning our standing, we need to be firm in one spirit; concerning striving together, we need to be with one soul. We need to exercise both our spirit and our soul. We exercise our spirit to

stand firm, and we exercise our soul to strive together in the faith of the gospel. To strive here is to struggle, to work by fighting.”

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 8, pp. 65-66)

Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:27

27 ...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,

Philippians 4:23

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Standing By Striving

“It is important to see that we stand in one spirit and strive with one soul. We need to differentiate between the prepositions in and with. In one spirit we stand; with one soul we strive. We stand before God, but we strive before man. Before God we must stand as a testimony, and before man we must strive together with one soul.

“Actually, according to the grammatical construction of verse 27, standing firm in one spirit and striving together with one soul are not two separate things. Paul does not charge the Philippians to stand firm in one spirit and then to strive together with one soul. Rather, he charges them to ‘stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together.’ Paul’s way of writing indicates that in order to stand firm, we need to strive. Striving is in fact part of standing. We stand firm in one spirit by striving together with one soul.

“What is the difference between ‘in one spirit’ and ‘with one soul’? Why does Paul not say ‘with one spirit’ and ‘in one soul’? And why does Paul say ‘stand firm...striving together’ instead of ‘stand firm and strive together’? Let me use a simple illustration. Suppose a father says to his son, ‘Eat quickly, using your fork properly.’ This is different from saying, ‘Eat quickly and use your fork properly.’ In the first command, using the fork properly is the way to eat quickly. In the second, eating quickly and using the fork properly are two distinct matters. Because of the background, Paul did not tell the Philippians to stand firm and strive, but to stand firm, striving together with one soul. Because the Judaizers were so active, it was necessary for the believers to stand firm and not be distracted, shaken, or moved. Such a firm standing was especially necessary during Paul’s absence. Paul, the one who could establish the believers, was away from them, but the Judaistic teachers, those who were preaching contrary to God’s economy, were at hand. This was the reason that toward the end of chapter one Paul charged the believers to stand firm. However, if they were to stand firm, they would have to strive together with one soul. Apart from striving, they would not be able to stand. Therefore, in this case striving is not a thing separate from standing. Rather, striving is the standing in actuality.

“If we today only stand but do not strive, eventually we shall be shaken by the opposition or moved by it. It is not adequate simply to encourage others to stand firm. I repeat, in order to stand firm, we must strive and fight. Striving is the way to stand. Actually, to strive is to stand. Another way of putting it is to say that in order to have a defense, we need to be on the offensive. If we do not know how to go on the offensive, we shall not have an adequate defense. If we would defend ourselves, we must take the offensive against Satan. The point here is that defense requires offense. This is the reason that in 1:27 Paul does not make standing firm a separate matter from striving together. Instead, he indicates that these two matters are one.

“In some places the churches are standing firm. However, they are not doing much striving. If these churches do not begin to strive and fight, eventually they will be shaken or moved. All

“Our suffering together with Christ indicates that we share an organic union with Christ. His sufferings were to produce the church, and today the church as His Bride still has not been produced in readiness for Him. This building up takes place in the local churches. Since the Bride is something produced out of Christ Himself, our focus in the churches must be upon Christ alone. We must pursue Christ, gain Christ, grow in Christ, and be built up in Christ. For this to occur there is no way but to suffer.

The Church Is Built Up through Sufferings

“Therefore let others have the benefits, the comforts, the recognition, the power, and the wealth. The disciples might have felt very hopeful when the Lord said, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’ (Matt. 28:18), but His work was to go to the cross. No church has been built up based upon prosperity. The Lord’s sufferings for the church must become ours. Since we are one with Him, we share in His work and in the sufferings that are necessary for the building up of the church. Our suffering with Him is a great honor that the Lord has graciously bestowed upon us. We are not only His believers; we are His co-sufferers, not for the accomplishment of redemption, which only He alone could do, but as His co-laborers for His present work of building up His Body.

“If you are determined to strive in one spirit with one soul after Christ in His economy, you must be prepared to suffer. Much of the suffering we experience in the churches comes about because of those who will seek to draw us off from the gospel of Christ. The dear ones who are affected by the ‘dogs’ become irresolute, lose their joy, and fall away from the church life. Others remain, but cannot trust the elders anymore. What a suffering! Yet you have to learn to trust all such things to the Lord. We should not seek to root out those who cause such suffering. Instead, we must continue to strive forward so that the Lord may gain what He is after. Let us leave everything else to the Lord. He has a way to deal with every situation. We need the Lord’s mercy that we ourselves would not oppose Him by promoting something other than Christ and His economy.

Having the Same Struggle as the Apostle

“Finally, even though the opposers have their operation, we thank the Lord for the operation of those who serve the Lord for His gospel and who share our struggle. We and the apostle share in the same struggle together. He wants to hear that we are standing firmly in Christ alone for His gospel’s sake and that our conduct matches this kingdom into which we have entered.

“We are not standing upon a certain teaching or practice. Our stand is for Christ with His economy. Paul was in this divine and mystical realm. We also have received this gospel. Now we need to stand firm in what we have received. This is how we must practice the church life. We must never deviate from this.

“When Paul said, ‘Having the same struggle which you saw in me’ (Phil. 1:30), he was referring to the days when he first arrived in Philippi to bring the gospel to that city (Acts 16). The Philippians witnessed his struggle at that time. He was put into prison, and he was released when an earthquake miraculously set the prisoners free. The jailer received the Lord and perhaps became one of the leading brothers in that city. I believe such saints would have had a lot of feeling when they heard this word. When Paul and Silas were in that jail, they could have had many reasons to think that they had made a big mistake. Paul could have wondered, ‘Why did I ever believe that dream of the Macedonian man? Now everything is finished.’ They could have looked at each other and wept. Instead, they joyfully sang hymns, even though they had no idea that the Lord would release them. How could they do that? It was because of this faith within them, causing them to struggle forward even as they were shackled in that discouraging cell. Now once again Paul was imprisoned, and he wanted them to know that his struggle still remained the same-to enjoy and magnify Christ. The opposers, even though they might have had a hand in his imprisonment, could not cause him to fall away from this stand. In Philippi he had continued steadfast, even though

"It would seem that Paul should say, 'Kick all such 'dogs' out of the church life. Excommunicate them!' But he never does this. Instead, he just tells us that in the church there will be dogs. It is inevitable that when the saints begin exercising in a healthy manner, such people will begin to operate, to raise questions, and to plant things in the minds of the saints. Often when a saint begins to lose his love to the Lord and to the church, it is just because of this. If you were to question him, you would find that his 'sickness' began right after he began fellowshiping with a certain brother or sister. It could have been a phone call. It is surprising how long the legs of dogs can become. They can even swim across oceans, as they did when they followed Paul to Europe. Perhaps they carried with them the Epistle of James, which was the earliest Epistle to be circulated among the churches. Paul realized that after the church life begins to function in a healthy manner, such dogs will certainly come. Paul calls such people 'opposers,' for they oppose the pure gospel of Christ and would substitute for it a mixture of Christ plus something else. In Paul's day, those from the headquarters in Jerusalem sought to bring the saints of all the churches into law-keeping, such as circumcision, the Sabbath, and dietary regulations.

"The gospel of Christ must become the faith that carries you in the church life. It must operate among all the saints to produce this striving together with one soul. In this way, God's goal can be accomplished. When the church life is like this, it is wonderful! But be assured that when this takes place, some will try to come in with the sole purpose of drawing you away from the experience of the faith of the gospel. However, Paul's word indicates that their works will come to nothing, for they will experience destruction. Indeed, that is what happened to those Judaizers: their headquarters and their work were destroyed in AD 70. We do not need to deal directly with those who oppose. The Lord will take care of that. The gospel that Paul and his co-workers preached eventually prevailed. Even to this day, the faith of the gospel of Christ still prevails to cause us to strive together in one spirit and with one soul towards the goal of God's economy. Hallelujah!"

(Titus Chu, *Fellowship Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 10, *The Experience of Christ in Philippians*, pp. 21-25)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:29-30

29 Because **to you it has been graciously granted** on behalf of Christ not only to believe into Him but also **to suffer on His behalf**,

30 Having the same struggle which you saw in me and now hear to be in me.

Luke 9:23

23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to **come after Me**, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

2 Timothy 1:8

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me His prisoner; but **suffer evil with the gospel according to the power of God;**

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Suffering on His Behalf

"Sometimes when we look at the situation, however, we are brought to tears. So many have been hurt and drawn away from this gospel to something else. As we are suffering from the operation of those who oppose, we should realize that Christ is the One who suffered the most, and our sufferings reveal that we are one with Him. It has been graciously granted to us on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer on His behalf (Phil. 1:29).

Suffering in His Sufferings as Those Organically United with Him

the churches need to be aggressive. By striving in this way, they will be able to maintain their stand. But if the churches do not strive, sooner or later they will be shaken and moved."

(*ibid.*, pp. 66-67)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling;

4 And **my speech and my proclamation were** not in persuasive words of wisdom but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**,

5 In order **that your faith would not stand** in the wisdom of men but **in the power of God**.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Standing Firm in One Spirit

"If we would stand firm, we must be in one spirit. If we would strive together, we need to be with one soul. In our experience we realize that there is a great difference between being in one spirit and being with one soul. Whenever the church is attacked and opposed, we need to stand firm. Where do we stand firm? We stand firm in spirit. If we do not stay in our spirit, we shall be divided. First opinions will enter in, then there will be dissension, and eventually division will come about. Even if three brothers are together and do not remain in the spirit, they will eventually be divided. The different opinions, thoughts, and concepts will lead to dissension, and this dissension will undermine the oneness and cause division. Therefore, we can stand firm only if we are in spirit. In no other organ of our being can we stand firm. "If we consider our experience, we shall realize that if we are drawn out of the spirit when we are opposed or attacked, doubts and questions will rise up within us. Suppose the Philippian believers did not remain in the spirit when they were opposed by the Judaizers. They might have had doubts or questions about Paul. They might have wondered if Paul had told them all the truth, or they might have thought that the Judaistic preachers had something more that they needed. Such doubts and questions do not have their source in the spirit. When we return to our spirit, stay there, and close our being to negative questions and doubts, there are no problems.

"Throughout the years we have been attacked. The enemy attacks constantly and refuses to let us go. During times of attack or opposition, we may be pulled out of the spirit. If we realize that this is our situation, we must immediately return to our spirit and close the door to Satan's attack. To remain in the spirit in this way is to stand firm in the spirit.

"During the years I was with Brother Nee in China, I saw how many attacks came upon him. In those days he was the umbrella, and I was one under the umbrella. Because he was the umbrella, the rain beat down on him, not on me. Sometimes, when the attacks first came, doubts would creep into my being. This would happen especially early in the morning or late at night. Occasionally the thought would come that perhaps we are wrong in certain matters. Whenever I detected such an inroad of the enemy, I would return to the spirit and exercise my spirit to pray. Then I could stand firm in one spirit. During times of attack and opposition, it is crucial that we remain in spirit. Only our spirit can keep us together at such times. We need to stand firm not with one spirit, but in one spirit.

A Place To Stand

"Standing firm requires a place, and this place is our spirit. The leading ones in a local church should not ask whether or not others agree with them in a particular matter. This is the wrong question. Among the elders there is no need for agreement, but there is the desperate need to remain in the spirit. Diplomats may need agreements, but elders do not. If the elders in a local church remain in the spirit, there will be no need for agreement. To try to come to an

agreement is an indication that we are not in spirit. Instead of trying to agree, we should simply stand firm in spirit.”

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 8, pp. 67-69)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:5-6a, 7

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 Who...
7 ...emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Striving Together With One Soul

“...To stand firm in one spirit is to be organic; to strive together with one soul is to take God's economy as our focus.

“To stand firm in one spirit is something that comes out of the common life possessed by all believers. The moment you touch this life, you experience being one spirit organically with the other believers.

“To be one soul with others, however, is not so easy as being one spirit with them. Think of all the different kinds of souls among us. Some are from the East; others are from the West. Some are quiet and reserved; others are outgoing and even wild. How can we be one soul? The secret is to empty ourselves, as the Lord did (2:7). We must become lowly (2:3) and focused on Christ and His economy.

“Any time our soul becomes focused on something other than Christ, we become opinionated and can no longer be one soul with those who are simply for God's economy. When our soul is unto the gospel of Christ, however, we are spontaneously one soul. Things other than God and His unique economy cause us to lose our ability to strive together with one soul. Even debating about the high peak truths can cause us to lose the experience of being one soul, if it draws us off from striving together for the fulfillment of God's economy. To be one soul requires that we share the same unique focus. We only care for this gospel of Christ.”

(Titus Chu, Fellowship Journal, Vol. 3, No. 10, The Experience of Christ in Philippians, pp. 21-22)

Using the Weapons of the Soul

“Standing firm in one spirit, however, is a defensive measure, not an offensive one. As we have indicated, without an offense we shall not be able to maintain a proper defense. Thus, in order to stand firm in our spirit, we also need to strive, to fight together, with one soul. Whereas the preposition ‘in’ denotes a realm, the preposition ‘with’ denotes an instrument. The realm is our spirit, but the instrument is our soul.

“The faculties of our soul may be likened to weapons used in warfare. We need to strive together with these weapons of the soul. Do not think that it is sufficient only to be in spirit. No, we also need to be exercised in our mind, emotion, and will. We should be thoughtful in our mind, full of feeling in our emotion, and strong in our will. Then we shall have powerful weapons with which to fight.

“Some seemingly spiritual people are like jellyfish in the soul. They are very wishy-washy. They never want to fight or strive. This indicates that they do not have the needed weapons. They are very different from the Apostle Paul. When Paul stood, he stood in spirit. But when he strove, he strove with a very strong soul.

“Our problem is that either we are wishy-washy and do not use the faculties of our soul, or we become dissenting and fight each other instead of fighting the enemy. Those who are wishy-washy are like jellyfish. Such ones not only lack backbone, but do not seem to have

any bones whatever. Wanting to be ‘spiritual,’ they always act nice, kind, and humble, never striving with their soul in the faith of the gospel. Others, however, may fight and strive, using the mind, emotion, and will. But in fighting they become dissenting. Instead of fighting the enemy, they fight against other saints. This is the reason Paul tells us to strive with one soul. With one soul we should fight against the enemy.

“Although it is rather easy to be one spirit, it is not so easy to strive together with one soul. In the spirit we have the conscience, the fellowship, and the intuition. These functions of the spirit are not the cause of problems. The cause of problems between us and others is found in the soul. The mind may be troublesome, the emotion may be destructive, and the will may be stubborn. The sisters are usually troubled by the ‘giant’ of the emotion, whereas the brothers are troubled by two ‘giants’—the mind and the will. Most men are strong in their concept and in their will. They do not want to follow others foolishly, but insist on their own honor and integrity. For the most part, the sisters exercise the emotion more than the will or the mind. As a result, they are easily moved by the sight of someone weeping. No matter how well educated a sister may be, she is still a female and influenced much by her emotion. This is true of older sisters as well as younger ones. Our problems, therefore, are found in the soul—in the mind and will for the brothers and in the emotion for the sisters.

Experiencing Christ by Standing and Striving

“We surely need Paul's charge to strive together with one soul. In our fighting, our striving, we need to be on the alert concerning our mind, emotion, and will. We need to be watchful with respect to our thought, our feeling, and our intention. We should not give any ground to our natural mind, will, and emotion. They must not be allowed to interfere with our striving together with one soul. We who fight for God's interest must be in one spirit, and we must strive with one soul. This is another way for us to experience Christ. To stand firm is to experience Christ, and to strive together is also to experience Christ. Let us all experience Christ by standing firm in one spirit, striving together with one soul.”

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 8, pp. 69-71)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:27b-29

- 27 ...striving together along with the faith of the gospel,
28 And in nothing being frightened by the opposers, which is to them a proof of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God;

Philippians 3:2

- 2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the concision.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

In Nothing Frightened by the Opposers

“As we are standing firm in one spirit with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel, we shall encounter opposition. A healthy local church will always confront religious ‘dogs’ (Phil. 3:2) who are more fearful than Satan as the ‘roaring lion’ (1 Pet. 5:8). So many saints have been hurt by the biting of these dogs, who talk of things other than Christ in the church life. After such ‘fellowship,’ the saints end up wounded and bleeding, yet they often do not know why. In the Greek, the word for ‘frightened’ in Philippians 1:28 has the sense of drawing back or withdrawing. How do we know when saints have been frightened by the opposers? It is when they begin to withdraw from the full participation in the church life after having had ‘fellowship’ with someone.

In the Healthy Church Life, Dogs Cause Sufferings