

head and find rest. The Christ on whom we rest is the constituent of the pillar. We ourselves are not the material for building the pillar. This material must be the Christ on whom we rest and whom we experience. It is the Christ wrought into our being who is constituted into the pillar.

In today's Christianity it is very difficult for people to have the constitution of the pillar because few have been instructed how to experience Christ in a subjective way. When you were in Christianity, were you ever told how to experience Christ's being wrought into you? Recently, I told some brothers and sisters that we in the church must not only love the Lord and live for Him – we must also live by Him. Oh, there is a vast difference between living for Christ and living by Christ. If you live for Christ, it is you who do things for Him, but you remain yourself and Christ is not wrought into your being. To live by Christ, however, means that Christ is wrought into us. By having Christ wrought into our being, we become material for the building. The stone for the pillar is firstly Christ. Following this, it is Christ experienced by us and wrought into us. Now this stone is not merely Christ, but Christ within us. Christ is wrought into our being, and we become one with Him. In this way, we become the building material for the pillar.

This experience is only possible in the church life. At the least, we can say that the greatest possibility of having this experience is in the church life. The reason for this is that outside the church, in the so-called Christian religion, very few are taught to have Christ wrought into them. I am fully assured that, from now on, message after message will be given instructing us how to live by Christ. This working of Christ into our being is true transformation. When the element of Christ is added into us, we become the material for the building of the pillar. This all takes place in Bethel, the place where Jacob was.

In 1964, I was invited to speak to a certain group in Dallas. My hosts, who appreciated my ministry, were very kind to me. However, they told me, both in plain words and by suggestions, that the people in Dallas were not ready to

hear about the church. They said, "Brother Lee, please sympathize with us and do not say a word about the church." I did not promise to comply with their request. Rather, I said, - I fully realize the situation. But I assure you that the more I talk about Christ and minister Christ as life to the people, the more they will desire to have the church. Even if I do not say a word about the church and only minister Christ as life, they will still have the desire for the church." In the last meeting, I was burdened to speak a word about the church. When I stood up and asked the people to read Romans 12, they were disappointed. But I said to myself, "I don't care whether I offend you or not. If I do not release my burden, I cannot live." I then gave a strong word concerning the church, and they were offended by it. Later, I learned that a certain brother, Benson Phillips, who had not yet come into the church life, had attended that last meeting. Many had been praying for Brother Benson. During that meeting, which was the only meeting he attended, he was caught for the church life. Although I had offended those people, the Lord gained Brother Benson. Today, this brother has become a pillar.

gg. Being Perfected to Be a Pillar

How can you tell that someone has become a pillar? In the church life we realize that if certain brothers are taken away, everything collapses, but if they are present, they are pillars supporting the whole building. The Lord is not concerned about those who are offended; He cares for those who will become pillars. The pillars can only be perfected in Bethel. In other words, the pillars can only be set up in Bethel. No pillar for God's house has ever been set up outside of Bethel. If Benson Phillips had not come into the church but had remained in a denomination, he could not have been perfected to be a pillar. He was perfected in Bethel, in the church life. After we experience Christ in a subjective way and are definitely and absolutely in the church life, we still need a great deal of perfection.

Let us consider further the pillars mentioned in Galatians 2:9. When the Lord called Peter, he was a fisherman. He

was raw, wild, and unperfected. But after the Lord had spent three and a half years working on him, he was perfected and, on the day of Pentecost, he was set up as a pillar. When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost, the angels might have rejoiced and said, "This is Boaz. This is the sign that God's building is coming." If you read the book of Acts, you will see that Peter was a pillar standing in front of the New Testament temple of God.

Young people, this is a word from my heart. The Lord's recovery is spreading, and I have the assurance that it will spread at a good pace. But the rate of the expansion of the Lord's recovery depends upon the pillars. I believe there will be churches in all the major cities of this country and in all the leading countries on earth. For this, there is the need of the pillars. I hope that you young people will see this. If you see it, you will say, "Lord, I cannot deny that You have appointed me to Your way and that I have heard Your up-to-date word. I realize that I must experience Christ in a subjective way and that I must be perfected in the church life in Bethel. Lord, have mercy on me and grant me the grace I need."

At this point, I would like to tell you about Brother John So. In 1968, while he was studying medicine in Germany, he wrote me a letter. Seven years earlier, in 1961, I knew him as a young high school student in Manila. In those years, I spent approximately four months a year in Manila, primarily to help the young people. In the summer of 1961 I went with many of the seeking young people to a retreat center on a mountain. That young people's conference was very much under the Lord's blessing, and all the young people, including John So, were deeply touched by the Lord. Soon after that, John went to Germany to study. Suddenly, seven years later, I received a letter from him. In that letter he told me that, as he was studying medicine, he had been burdened by the Lord to give up his study and to work for the Lord. He told me that he had contacted a famous preacher, but that he had discouraged John, telling him to continue his studies. John told me that, having no way to go on, he decided to write to me. I responded to his letter in a simple way, inviting him to come to

Los Angeles for the summer conference and training and telling him that we could have further fellowship at that time. He accepted the invitation and came to Los Angeles. Later in the summer, he joined us on the trip to the Far East. Although his parents tried to convince him to resume his medical studies, by the Lord's grace John overcame the objection of his parents and returned to Los Angeles where he stayed for three or four years. During that time, being a young man who knew nearly nothing, the Lord perfected him to be a pillar. Now he is in Europe. Before John So went there, many in Europe were prepared to oppose the Lord's recovery. They were afraid of my going there. Much to their surprise, the Lord sent a little brother named John So. I believe that when John So went to Europe, all the angels in heaven were rejoicing, saying, "Hallelujah, the signboard of the temple of God comes!" Today, no one in Europe can defeat this little brother. Recently, I was told that John So, who has been away from Germany for a period of time, is desperately needed there and must return.

Young people, my burden is that you realize that your responsibility is tremendous. If during the coming years many of you will be perfected **as John So was**, the Lord's recovery will spread at a rapid speed. How much the Lord has done in Europe through **John So!** What do you think the Lord could do if He had a hundred **like him?**

My burden is not simply to release a message. It is to help you see that today we all have the golden opportunity to be perfected and to be made pillars. Because we are at Bethel, our opportunity is much greater than Peter's was. Peter was in the Gospels, in the beginning of the New Testament, but we are at the end of the New Testament, even in Revelation 3:12. I believe that the opportunity we have today is unique in history. Never before has there been such a church life as there is today in Anaheim, and never before has the Lord's ministry of the Word been so bright and rich. Do not exercise your mentality or hold to your opinion. Your opinions will take you nowhere. Drop your opinions, love the Lord, take Him as your life and as your person, and live by Him in the church

life. Learn of **Brother John So. During the years he was in Los Angeles, he devoured, absorbed, and soaked in everything of the church and of this ministry.** Follow **him** to know nothing and to daily be saturated with the church life and with the Word of God. If you do this, I believe that after a few years many of you will become pillars. Then wherever you go, the pillar, the signboard of God's building, will go with you. We all are in the church and under this ministry. Today is surely a golden opportunity ordained by the Lord.

A message given by Witness Lee
in Anaheim, California, January 21, 1977

© 1977 **Living Stream Ministry**

Published by

Living Stream Ministry

1853 W. Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804, U.S.A.

(714) 991-4681

THE CHURCH BOOKROOM

3666 MADISON AVENUE 281-4193

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92116