

**Special Fellowship \* The Church in Oklahoma City \*7/15/18\* “Having a Porch”**

"An additional point concerning the **porch** is that it is used as a **lobby**. This makes the temple **easy to approach**. In the church life we also should have a lobby, making it **easy for others to come in**. This means that **we need to have an atmosphere that is stretching out and making it easy for others to contact us and touch us**. Such a lobby makes the church **accessible** and enables us to **take others in** and **hold them**. In addition to making the temple approachable, the porch, or lobby, is a place where we can **slow down, draw near, and prepare ourselves to enter** the temple."

(*Life-study of Ezekiel, Ch. 22*)

~~~

The truth that we have received, and our practices are very high, even by far the highest among all Christians. *It is not their job to come up to where we are. This is not God's way. God's way is to come to where we are* (Gen 3:8-10; Luke 15:4; Luke 19:10; John 4). We must learn to educate the new ones among us gradually, and not let our terminology and practices become a hindrance to them.

We want them to come into the church life. This takes gradual education. We are not abandoning or trying to change our practices; rather, we are trying to bring them into these practices.

**Q: “How can we help a new one pray like us”?**

**A: “Learn how to pray like them”** – Story\* 1973 Summer Training\*

**Life Study of Job\***

1) “Suppose someone had tried to talk to Job about all these things. If someone had done this, Job might have said, “**What are you talking about?** I have learned a lot about God from my forefathers, and I have been paying attention to what I have learned. Yet you say that I am in the wrong realm and that God intends to build up something of Himself in me. You speak to me about incarnation, regeneration, and transformation, but **I do not know what any of these things mean.**” **Job simply did not have the capacity to receive such a revelation. He did not have these terms in his spiritual dictionary.**

**In principle, the situation is the same with many Christians today.** The divine revelation has been given, it has been written, and it has been interpreted. Nevertheless, **many believers have no understanding** of the economy of God or of the divine dispensing according to the divine economy. They may think that being a Christian is simply a matter of believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is

our Savior, who shed His blood for our sins and who has saved us through His death; that the Holy Spirit is now with us to help us to behave ourselves well and to do good that God may be glorified; and that we will go to heaven when we die. Those who hold this concept of the Christian life may not realize that being a Christian also involves sanctification, transformation, conformation, the divine dispensing of the divine economy, and the New Jerusalem as the enlargement of the processed and consummated Triune God. **If you want to teach them about these matters, you must do so in a very gradual way, beginning with the most elementary things.**

*(Life-Study of Job, Ch. 31)*

2) We should not even allow the **terminology** with which **we are familiar** to be a **hindrance to fellowship**. Other Christians may not be familiar with the word economy. In such a case, **it may be better** for us to speak of God's will than about God's economy. We may share with others that God's will is to work Christ into us. We may prove our point by quoting Ephesians 3:17, a verse which speaks about Christ making His home in our hearts.

*(Life-Study of Ephesians, Ch 86)*

~~~

### 3) ***\*The Principle of Caring for Others\****

**Matthew 7:1** Do not judge, that you be not judged.

**3** And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider?

**5** Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

**6** Do not give that which is holy to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the hogs, lest they trample them with their feet, and turn and tear you.

**7** Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.

**9** Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks him for a loaf, will give him a stone?

**10** Or also when he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

**12** Therefore all that you wish men would do to you, so also you do to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

4) **Some spiritual terms that need to be defined and explained** (which we are familiar with, but news may not have any idea of, or may have another definition in their "spiritual dictionary"):

economy  
consummation  
corporate  
conformation  
deification/deify  
incorporation  
mingle  
saints  
brother and sister  
Lord's Day  
blending  
prophecy  
pray-reading  
dispense  
organic  
natural  
vital

dispositional  
metabolic  
assimilate  
meetings  
the footnotes  
the ministry  
church life  
recovery  
local church  
building  
New Jerusalem  
burden  
grow  
coordinate  
full-timer  
churching  
hospitality

losing your face (*vs. losing face*)  
objective/subjective  
morning revival  
mystical  
storm/turmoil  
constitution  
consecration  
meeting hall  
high peak  
GTCA  
YP  
FTTA  
church kid  
the ministry  
*<probably others>*