

The Crystallization

EXPERIENCING THE PNEUMATIC CHRIST

The Gospel of John reveals the two becomings of Christ. By incarnation Christ became flesh to be the Lamb for our redemption, and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit, the pneumatic Christ for our experience of Him. As the pneumatic Christ, He imparts Himself into His believers as their life, their life supply, and their everything for the producing and building up of the Body of Christ, which consummates in the New Jerusalem. In our experience of Him, Christ comes to us as the pneumatic Christ, the Lord Spirit. According to the Gospel of John we may now experience the pneumatic Christ as our life, as our life supply—the breath of life, the water of life, and the bread of life—as resurrection, and as the Shepherd who leads us stage by stage until we become part of the house of God, the corporate expression of the Triune God.

The apostle Paul had a very personal and intimate experience of this pneumatic Christ. He experienced Christ's inward parts, knowing Him in His affection, mercy, and tender love, and he lived Christ for His expression by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Paul took Christ's mind as his mind, he was constituted with Christ to become a drink offering, and he endeavored to gain Christ and be found in Him. As those who love the Lord Jesus and seek to know Him, we should learn of Paul to take Christ as our goal, our joy, our virtues, our secret, our power, and our expectation.

Such a personal and intimate experience of the pneumatic Christ begins with regeneration, which is the center of the experience of salvation, the beginning of the experience of life, the entering into us of Christ's life, the birth of Christ within us, and the beginning of the new man. A normal and proper experience of regeneration should lead spontaneously to the clearance of the past, that is, to a dealing with all unrighteous, improper, evil, and unclean matters and with the old way of living. We should clear the past to the point where we have a genuine sense of life and peace, and then we will be able to forget the things which are behind and advance in our experience of the pneumatic Christ.

We should experience the pneumatic Christ not only as He is revealed in the Gospel of John and in the Epistles of Paul but also as He is unveiled in the book of Revelation. In this book the all-inclusive Christ is presented in a variety of ways: as the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth, the Son of God, the Son of Man in the midst of the churches, the supply to the churches—especially as the tree of life, the manna, and the feast—the Lion-Lamb in the universal, divine administration, the Word of God, the morning star, the Lamb, the Husband. We may experience Him as such a wonderful One because He is the Spirit, even the sevenfold intensified life-giving Spirit.

IN OUR
EXPERIENCE OF HIM,
CHRIST COMES
TO US AS THE
PNEUMATIC CHRIST,
THE LORD SPIRIT.

The more we experience Christ as the pneumatic Christ, the more we can participate in the carrying out of God's economy, His plan and arrangement to fulfill His eternal purpose according to His good pleasure. God's goal in His economy is to make His chosen and redeemed people the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead and to make Himself one with them and them one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that His divine attributes

may be expressed in human virtues. God's economy is an economy in light—the nature of God's expression. God is light and Christ is the light of the world. The believers as children of God are children of light and are even light in the Lord and thereby become the light of the world, walking in the light and living a life of reality, genuineness, and truthfulness in the kingdom of God as a realm of light under the shining of Christ, the Son of God's love. This shining will be intensified during the millennium, at which time the overcoming believers will shine as the sun as they reign with Christ in the kingdom of their Father. This intensified shining will consummate in the shining of the holy city, New Jerusalem—the ultimate corporate expression of the Triune God—where God will be the light, the Lamb will contain the light, and the city will diffuse the light. In this glorious consummation of God's economy in light, for eternity we will experience, enjoy, and express the pneumatic Christ as our life, our life supply, and our everything.

The Editors