

Stephen Kaung
“Spiritual Exercise: Intuition”

Scripture

Hebrews 8:10-12—For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Ephesians 1:15-19—Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

I John 1:5, 7—This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

I John 2:27-28—But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Prayer

Dear Lord, as we gather here before You, our hearts are filled with praise and thanksgiving because You have chosen us among the thousands. Even Your mercy is upon us, allowing us to gather before You in peace. Lord, this morning, if You have any words for us, please speak. We are all Your servants and our hearts are open towards You. Please speak to us. Please enlighten us. Please allow us to enter into You, so that Your glorious will can be accomplished on these earthly vessels. We give You all the glory, honor, power, and dominium. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

REVIEW

We thank the Lord for giving us another opportunity to gather before Him. I hope brothers and sisters would remember the purpose of our gathering at this time is not to hear some doctrine. We are to enter into a gymnasium and exercise together. If we go to school for a lecture, we can listen very passively. But if we go to a gymnasium to exercise, we need to alert and commit ourselves in the hands of the Lord.

The Bible tells us that bodily exercise profits a little. It is not to say that God despises our bodily exercise. When God created this amazing body, He wanted us to glorify Him in our body. We need to exercise our body so that we have a healthy body to serve Him. But the Bible also tells us there is another type of exercise. If you compare that with bodily exercise then bodily profits only a little. I Timothy 4:8 tells us exercising godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come and this life is a divine life. Not only do we have a physical life, we also have a divine life. Physical life is only temporal but divine life is eternal. If we exercise godliness, He has given the promise of His divine life; not only in this life but also the life to come. Exercising godliness, in other words, is exercising to be like God. We need to have the characters of God because it is the will of God that we conform to the image of His son. Exercise godliness is a door by which we enter into the will of God. Paul reminded us that we strive for this very reason. Dear brothers and sisters, are we striving and laboring hard to exercise godliness?

Exercising godliness is to exercise the spirit that God gave us. Because God is spirit, we need to worship Him in spirit and in truth. But spirit is not material and we cannot see it. Just because we cannot see it does not mean that it does not exist. In reality, the invisible is often more tangible than the visible. The Bible tells us what we can see is temporal but what we cannot see is eternal. The spirit that God gave us is real even though we cannot see it. A Christian's spiritual life is completely in this spirit. If we do not exercise our spirit, there is no way that we can enter into the spiritual life of Christian living.

As we mentioned before, although the spirit is invisible, we know of its existence based on its functions. Therefore exercising the spirit is to exercise the functions of the spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells within our spirit. He will teach us how to exercise our spirit. He will teach us how to exercise the conscience of our spirit. We often say, the conscience is the voice of God. God speaks to us and He touches our conscience so that our conscience can discern right from wrong. We need to have a pure and unashamed conscience, to live before God and to live before man.

There is a direct relationship between conscience and righteousness. We praise and thank God. He washed our sins with His blood so that we are justified in Jesus Christ. This is our position. Now that we are in this position, we ought to walk righteously in our daily life. How can we walk righteously? How can we tell what is deemed righteous or condemned in the sight of God? We need the Holy Spirit to touch our conscience. We need to exercise. When the Holy Spirit touches our conscience, we need to have a response. We cannot just suppress the voice of our conscience. We are to obey the will of God by following the guidance of our conscience.

INTUITION

This morning we prepare to exercise the second function. Another function of our spirit is called intuition. What is intuition? When you hear the word intuition, I believe you can understand – there is a type of knowledge and this knowledge is direct.

(1) Intuition is not common head knowledge

The knowledge we commonly talk about is head knowledge. We thank and praise God. He gave us five senses. We came in contact with this world the moment we were born. As we grow, we gather all kinds of knowledge. Through our eyes, ears, and other means, we compile

all kinds of knowledge. Our brain is truly amazing. Even though it is so small, the amount of information or knowledge we can collect is unlimited. Today live in the computer age. We think that computers are very amazing. Such small devices can store a large pool of data. But the brain that God gave us is more amazing than any computer. Someone once told me, if we were to build a computer that matches the capacity of our brain, it would be gigantic. This little brain is truly amazing! It can collect information from the external. It can analyze, categorize, and store the information for future use. Knowledge allows us to know how to act and behave and how to live our lives. If a person has no knowledge, he lives in vain. We need to go to school and we need to absorb different kinds of knowledge. Then we can become a person with knowledge because there is a significant relationship between knowledge and our living.

(2) Intuition is not theological head knowledge

Brothers and Sisters, how can we live a spiritual life? It is not according our head knowledge. Head knowledge only tells us to how to act and behave. Now that we have a spiritual life, we need to have a spiritual living. This spiritual living is lived out through the inner knowledge. There is a misconception among brothers and sisters – if we were to have a spiritual living, we ought to gain some theological knowledge. Just like absorbing more earthly knowledge enables us to act and behave properly on Earth, absorbing more theological knowledge enables us to have a spiritual living. How does one acquire this so-called theological knowledge? You can attend some seminary or some special conferences. You need to listen more, see more, and think more. Brothers and sisters, where does this knowledge come from? It still comes from the external and you are still using your head to absorb it. This kind of knowledge will make your head swells but the feet of your spiritual walk shrink. Because this is still external knowledge. It is neither direct nor inner knowledge. Nor is it knowledge from revelation or knowledge of life.

SPIRITUAL LIVING REQUIRES EXERCISING THE INTUITION

Brothers and sisters, if you want to have a spiritual living, you need to exercise your intuition.

(1) Having a spiritual life requires revelation

Those of us who study the Bible know, in regard to the truth, the Book of Ephesians is esteemed the highest among Paul's epistles. Paul could not talk about these matters with the Corinthians. But to the saints in Ephesus, Paul could share with them the heavenly mysteries. Although this is the case, in the Book of Ephesians, you will notice, Paul would often kneel down for prayers after saying just a few words. Why is that? It is because when Paul started to share, he felt from within that these matters cannot be taught externally nor be understood by the human mind. Therefore he prayed to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory asking Him to give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the *knowledge* (epign-osis, true knowing) of Him and the *eyes of their understanding* (the mind) could be enlightened. Foremost there needs to be wisdom and revelation in the spirit. Then our mind will be able to understand what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward those who believe. As you can see, all these originate from the spirit of wisdom and revelation.

(2) Wisdom is different from knowledge

What is wisdom? Wisdom is different from knowledge. Knowledge is things that you know. Wisdom is the application of what you know. All the knowledge that God gave you can be applied. It is all from revelation. Brothers and sisters, there is something that the children of God must acknowledge and the Bible has taught us so. The Bible says a carnal man cannot comprehend spiritual matters. He is unable to understand because he considers these matters to be foolish. Spiritual matters can only be understood by spiritual men. Therefore, when we touch upon spiritual matters, we need to have an attitude, that is, these matters surpass what we can comprehend. In order to understand spiritual matters, we need have such attitude. I often say all Christians are theologians. Because as you are reading the scripture, you are also interpreting it. Therefore, you are a theologian. One thing we must see, unless you receive spiritual matters from revelation, they are not real. They are not tangible and you cannot apply them. The Word of God is living and you can apply it. Why is it that we read the Word of God but we cannot apply them? Why does it have an effect on us? It shows us that there is a separation between us and the Word of God. We need to ask God to grant us the spirit of wisdom and revelation. If we do not even have such attitude, we are outsiders of spiritual matters.

(3) Characteristics of the New Testament

We praise and thank the Lord. Today as believers we live in the New Testament and not the Old Testament. Unfortunately, if you make some observation, you can see Christianity is falling back to the Old Testament. We need to know God has already brought us into the New Testament. Christians do not live in the Old Testament; we live in the New Testament. Although the Old Testament was from God, it is but a preparation, the New Testament is His ultimate goal. Although the new covenant that God will establish with the Israelites is still in the future, prior to the Lord Jesus' crucifixion, at His last supper with the disciples, He took the cup and said, *This cup is the new covenant in My blood, you shall take it in remembrance of Me.* In other words, in Christ, He has brought us to the New Testament.

God did three things in the New Testament. First, *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* Second, *No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.* Third, *I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.* This is the new covenant that God established with us in the precious blood of Christ.

What is the second point? *No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me.* Because it is the Old Testament and in the days of the Old Testament, how did one come to "know the Lord"? They needed to be taught. They needed the priests and Levites to teach them. This word 'know' in the original text is a common knowledge. The New Testament tells that you do not need others to teach you. Brothers and sisters, are you living in the New Testament or in the Old Testament? Do you feel that no one is teaching you? How would one know? To what degree can man teach you? He can only teach you externally, make your mind understand. But you cannot know the Lord this way. True knowledge of the Lord is from within. Remember it is *from the least of them* – you start from the day you were saved – *to the greatest of them, they all shall know Me* – to truly know God from within. This "knowing" in the original text is a knowing from within. It is practical. This is true knowledge. This is the New Testament.

(4) Intuition of the new life

Brothers and sisters, we are those who live in the New Testament. Why is it that we can get to know God from within? Because the new spirit God gave us has a function called intuition and the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit to teach us. I John 2:27 tells us, "...the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you." In the original text, the "anointing" is both a noun and a verb, manifesting His function in there. We know this "anointing" is referring to the Holy Spirit. Everyone who believes in the Lord has the indwelling Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like the "anointing", having the function of anointment; therefore, it is called anointing. Just like when you are not feeling well, you can anoint the area with some oil, rub it in a little and you will feel more comfortable. The Holy Spirit is like the oil that anoints us in our spirit. Why does the Spirit perform this function? Because He is to teach us in all things. If you have someone who teaches you all things from within, do you still need someone else to teach you on the outside? You might as well get rid of all these teachers. Yet God rises up apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and gospel preachers. What are their functions? Remember, your spirit and soul is most precious God's eyes. Since God has already saved you, He will not place you in the hands of just anybody. He Himself will be responsible for you and we thank the Lord for that. However, because we are still very immature, we are not sensitive to spiritual matters, we cannot feel clearly, and we may misunderstand at times. Therefore God prepares people who know Him to help us. They can confirm and they can also correct but the one who leads us is still God Himself.

(5) Exercise intuition to receive the word directly from God

Do not live in the Old Testament. Today because of living in the Old Testament, the children of God do not grow in spiritual stature, error easily, and even fall into heresies, especially in these last days. If the children of God exercise their intuition, we can receive from God directly. Then, we can depart from heresies and false doctrines. Our spiritual stature will also grow. This anointing will teach us in all things, whether the matter is small or big. We think that we don't need the anointing regarding small matters. We only pray to God regarding big matters. The love of God is comprehensive. He will be involved in both small and big matters. Do you think God is too troublesome? He wants you to be perfect as He is perfect. We thank and praise God. Where can you see such love? He loves us to such a state! If we obey the teaching of the anointing, we will always abide in Him. Do we always hope to abide in the Lord Jesus Christ but often feel that we have come out of the Lord Jesus? What can keep us abiding in Him always? It is in the teaching of the anointing. The objective of the teaching of the anointing is not to increase our head knowledge but to increase the stature of Christ in us.

(6) Exercise intuition to become sharper

Brothers and sisters, God has already prepared all for us. Yet, if we do not exercise, we will not receive it. You have this grace but if you do not use it, it is as if you do not have it at all. There is a type of fish in the deep ocean. They have eyes but they cannot see because they live in the dark and never use their eyes. We need to make use of our eyes. Some people even train their eyes to the extent that they can even see in the dark. God gave us this intuition and He teaches us through it. If we do not use it and we do exercise it, it will slowly lose its function. . Only when we exercise it more and more, will it become sharper and sharper. Brothers and sisters, do you exercise your intuition?

HOW TO EXERCISE INTUITION

(1) We can only exercise in His light

The Bible says, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5) This “light” is not referring to His words. Yes, His word is light. Psalms tells us that His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light onto our path. (Psalm 119:105) But the “light” mentioned in 1 John 1:5 refers to God Himself. He is light and in Him there is no darkness. What about us? We are all in darkness. But thanks to God, this light has already shone into our darkness.

Many years ago, I was in Yunnan and I visited a coal mine with a brother. When this brother came out of the coal mine and saw everybody’s black faces, he laughed. What he did not realize was his own face was black as well. Likewise, we do not know of our darkness. But God is light and in Him there is no darkness. We all need Him to enlighten us. His light is the light of life. This light shines outward from within. It is not an external light that enters in. The light of life illuminates us from within, hence we know our darkness. In 1 John 1:7 it says, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” We ought to walk in the light. What kind of light is this? This is the light of life within us. Because life is light, when life grows, this light also grows. Conversely, when the life does not grow, this light will not grow either. When the light enters, you can see your darkness. If you walk in this light that you see, you dwell in the light as God is in the light.

Let’s say God is 100 candles and you only have 1 candle because you have just been saved. Although you have just been saved, you already have the light. You know what is right and what is not pleasing to God. As you obey according to this knowledge, you are walking in the light as God is in the light and you are having fellowship with God. When your conscience is clean, you can fellow with God and the blood of His son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all our sins because this light allows us to see what we could not see in the past.

If we submit and walk in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our sins, thus we will be more like God. If we continue to walk in the light, this light will get brighter. We obey completely the light we have in us and there shall be no barrier between God and us. It does not mean that you are perfect. We are not perfect because only God is perfect. God can have fellowship with this imperfect man because we obey and we walk according to the light we receive. But if we do not obey, our conscience will accuse us. Our fellowship with God will run into problems. This is the path of spiritual growth for Christians.

(2) God is willing to reveal His Son in us

Our spirit within has this function of intuition. The Holy Spirit abides in us as the anointing and all is prepared. Galatians 1:16 tells us that God is willing to reveal His Son in us. Do not think that just because you do not receive revelation, God is responsible. The problem lies not with God. No, God is willing to reveal his Son in us. I often say when I travel and come across a family that has a precious new born, the first thing the family do as I walk through the door is to show me the baby. You do not have to ask because they are delighted to show off their child. This is our God. He is happy to show us His Son. He values His Son and wants us to value Him as well. The problem lies with us. How do we exercise our intuition? How do we receive this spirit of revelation? Let me share a couple things with you.

Be pure in heart

Matthew 5:8 says, “Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” God is omnipresent but you cannot see Him. Why? Because our hearts are not pure enough. If our hearts are completely towards Him, there is no doubt that we can see Him. When Lord Jesus was on this earth, He did a lot of work in the Capernaum and Chorazin area but they did not believe in Him. In Matthew 11 Jesus prayed, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.” To whom does God reveal Himself to? To the wise and prudent? No, He reveals Himself to the babes. In Matthew chapter 18, the disciples were arguing who was the greatest. The Lord brought a child among them and told them if they did not repent and become as little children, they could not enter the kingdom of heaven. If one would humble himself as a little child, he will be the greatest in heaven. This is a spiritual secret.

There is an old Chinese saying: *Deep understanding of worldly matters destroys senses towards heavenly matters.* Children do not have much knowledge; they act upon their intuition. It is remarkable that children would be frightened amongst certain people yet be drawn to certain people. What is the basis of such behavior? It is based on a child’s intuition. The older we get, the more hypocritical we become. Everything is according to our head knowledge. We think a little and deduce a little and we conclude that it is better to protect ourselves. Brothers and sisters, *Deep understanding of worldly matters destroys senses towards heavenly matters.*

The Lord does not want us to be “childish”, but “childlike”. Childlike means to have a pure heart towards the Lord. I know nothing else. I only know my Father. If our hearts are pure towards Him, He will teach us much much more through our intuition.

Have you read a book called *My Utmost for His Highest*? It was written by Oswald Chambers, who lived in the latter part of the 20th century. He was an artist. He was also a philosopher and psychologist. He was very clever British man. By God’s grace, he was saved. Outwardly he lived a life of a godly Christian but he felt darkness inside. So he came before God in prayers. He felt that he needed to be filled by the Holy Spirit but he did not receive it. One day he was reading Luke 11:13 – *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!* Suddenly he was enlightened. By simple faith he received the word of God. He received the word of God by faith liken the faith of a child. He did not have any special feelings but from that day on, his life went through a great change. In all things, he could use the faith of a child to trust and rely on God. No difficulty was too great for him. He simply trusted and relied on God completely. As a result he was greatly used by God in our generation. What does this tell us? If we have a heart pure like a child, God would reveal more of His will to us.

Often times we do not receive because we are too clever and we know too much. If you have read *The Normal Christian Life*, you would know Brother Watchman Nee had such a testimony. He had already believed in the Lord for many years and he had been serving God. As he pursued the Lord, he read many spiritual books and saw expositions of Romans 6: 6, “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” Then he asked – *How can I experience dying with Christ? He had already crucified our old man on the cross. How can I experience it today?* Many told him to follow Romans 6:11 “reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” So he reckoned and reckoned and reckoned. The more he reckoned, the

more alive and unwilling to die his old man was. He had exhausted all means. Until one day, while he was reading the Bible in the morning, God opened up his spiritual senses and allowed him to see why we were already crucified with Christ? It is because we are in Christ. If Christ was crucified, we who are in Him were crucified as well. When he received this light, he was truly praising God. He ran downstairs and saw a brother. He grabbed hold of this brother and said, "Brother, do you know I am already dead!" Brothers and sisters this is a true revelation. This is the spirit of revelation. When the spirit of revelation comes, there is an effect. We have the head knowledge but we cannot live it out. Revelation allows us to live it out practically. I can give you lots of examples but we are running out of time.

Be submissive

If we are to exercise intuition, the second thing to learn is submission. When you submit to the light that you received, God will give you more light. If you do not submit to the light that God has already given you, God will not give you more light for God is particular about practicality and function. Let me give a small testimony. After I believed in the Lord, I was very fervent, foolishly fervent. I preached the gospel everywhere, even to remote villages. At that time I did not know anything. I believed I was serving God. I had laid hands upon a man who had already died of infectious disease trying to resurrect him. I was already baptized by sprinkling when I was young because my father was a pastor. After I was saved, somebody told me baptized by sprinkling of water is incorrect; the Bible says we must be baptized by immersion. I disagreed and I would rebut with reasons, telling people how I was sprinkled in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit when I was a baby. I could not blaspheme the name of God and therefore I could not overturn baptism by sprinkling. I would debate with anyone who talked to me regarding this matter. Some time later, as I read the Bible, I gradually realized the Bible is talking about "believe and be baptized". When I was a child, I did not know what to believe in. That was my father's belief, not mine. If the Bible says believe and be baptized, does this sprinkling considered baptism?

I was very fervent at that time; however, these acts of fervency were according to my thoughts and feelings. Until one day, someone came and discussed this matter of baptism with me. I debated with him until this brother thought I was too stubborn and gave up on me. I sat there and prayed to the Lord quietly – *Lord, I know one day I need to be baptized but this is not a convenient time. I am still a student. My father is a pastor and I love him. I could not go against him and get baptized. If I do that, I would disrespect him. God, I promise You. When I graduate from university and become independent, I will get baptized.* I thought I was being very reasonable. Suddenly I heard a voice. This was the first time I heard that voice – *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy to be My disciple.* Those words touched me and I replied, *Lord! I want to be Your disciple.* It just happened that my friend lived just next door to Brother Nee. I went over there and knocked on his door and he was sleeping. At that moment Brother Nee came downstairs. He saw me and asked me what I wanted. I said I wanted to be baptized. He asked if my father knew about this. I told him that my father did not know but I felt that was what the Lord asked me to do. And the next day I was baptized.

Why do I mention this matter? Because that instance of submission opened my mind. In the past I read the Bible and I prayed but I did not understand. I was using my intellect to understand. Due to this disobedience inside, I was not walking in light and I fell into darkness. I thank God, when I submitted on that day, my heart was opened up. From that day on, this light has shone upon me every step of the way. I am not saying I have submitted absolutely. Like Jacob I fought with God countless times. But Thank God He has never given up on me.

I learned this lesson. If we want to receive revelation, we need to exercise intuition. First, our hearts need to be towards God. Second, when He gives us light, we must submit. In this way, our intuition will receive more and more light. We will have a part in His holiness. The conscience interrelates to righteousness as intuition interrelates to holiness. Our conscience tells what God deems to be right and wrong. Our intuition tells us what the will of God is and what is not. This relates to our holiness. Not only that, intuition brings us into service. Intuition tells us how to serve God. When we serve God, it is not according to what we deem to be good but according to His will. May God have mercy upon us so that we can exercise our intuition under the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord we open our hearts to You. Please shine Your light upon us. Illuminate us, brighter and brighter, like the mid-day sun. May glory be given back to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.