

Tuesday morning, we met here, talked about the knowledge of life, and found out what life was. If you could give me one word, what would that word be? God. Then, on Wednesday, we met again and talked about the first experience. We decided that from that time on, we would start talking about the experience of life. Okay.

The experience of life. What is the very first experience of life? Regeneration. And do you have another term for it? Conversion. Rebirth. This is the word, rebirth. So we talked about regeneration. Can anybody remember anything about what was said? That's right. Whether they were big conversions, great memories, small, every one of us got the Lord's life.

Now then, that life must grow in us. We got all of the Lord's life in us. There is the continual expanding, spiraling, revealing, revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. And sometimes when you think you know it all, it puts you right back in the primer and starts you all over again. There is no secret to the Christian life. I didn't mean that in an ugly way. That's really true.

Now, today, something different. And it's this. What happened to you? What happened to you on the day you were converted? Now you say, "I got the life of God." That is correct. I want to go a little further and a little more thoroughly. What happened to you on the day that you were converted and became a Christian? What happened to you in the rebirth? What did you receive in the rebirth that day? Many, many things, but I would like to touch on the most important.

Now then, the rebirth. What do you get in the rebirth? Can anyone tell me? Do we have any scholars here to tell us a few things? What is gotten in the rebirth? The spirit of truth. What do you get in the rebirth? You get God's life. Okay, that's number one. No, you get cleansing then. I, you get a what? You get an enlightened human spirit. I'm going to say, I'm gonna put the cleansing aside; I am talking about things. You are clean, but this is subjective. I'm talking about things you actually get, packaged things. You know, the sins are taken away, but what do you get? Gifts, okay, fine. You get His inheritance. A heart of flesh, praise the Lord. You get what? You get made alive. I don't think I can package that. Yeah, okay. He gave us everything. But in the Old Testament, He wrote on our hearts, "Now where does He write?" He writes in our spirit.

Number one, the first thing you get when you're born again, of course John 3 makes so clear, you get God. You get God. Now the second thing that you get is that you get a heart of flesh. You get a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "I will give you a new heart." What kind of heart did you have before you got a new heart? You had a heart of stone. I have often been asked by brothers, "What do you mean you get a fleshly heart? Don't we dislike the flesh?" No, we must understand the scripture uses the word flesh in three ways. The Bible speaks of all flesh, meaning all humanity. Then it speaks of the flesh in a good way, you know, your skin and bones. Then the flesh is spoken of in a negative way in that it is the corruption of

sin in our being, in our bodies. But to say we will get a heart of flesh, you must see it's contrasted to a heart of stone.

Now you see, we have here, what's that? What is that? That's a skull. It's bone. Now that's hard, I assure you; that is really hard. Okay. What do you have here? Flesh, soft. Bone is hard; flesh is soft. Your heart was stone. You were hard to the Lord, and then when you got born again, when you were born the second time, the stony heart was taken out, and you were given a soft heart. We became the sons of God. It gets to be a long list.

Now I want to take just a few of the most packageable things and look at them. I want you to know that when you got saved, the Lord gave you a soft heart before it was hard. What does this mean? A hard heart, a stony heart. Okay, it won't let anything into it. What else about a hard heart? It won't let anything grow in it. Not pliable. Alright, and life can't flow into it, can it? Heavy, isn't it? It won't bring itself under submission.

Now then, let me ask you a question. What is the primary purpose of the heart? The spiritual heart. Yeah. Oh, it's the exit and entrance of life. Now this is getting much closer. Brothers, the primary purpose of the heart is *to love*, and you had a heart that would not love God. These were the things most of the brothers were talking about: how to keep it loving, how to keep it soft. But I would say the first thing He did was to give us a heart capable of loving. Loving who? Loving the Lord. Then loving who? The brothers and the sisters. I'm not even sure we have to be so careful about anything else. To love the Lord and to love the brothers and the sisters. He gave you a heart of love, a heart that could love. I think if any of you had a clearly memorable conversion, you recall a deep and profound sense of love. That is probably the greatest single thing most of us recall about our conversion. So much got done, and there was a sense of love.

Now then, the heart is made so soft to love God and then love the brothers and sisters. Now, all the things you just heard are to keep your heart strong. We must let the Word come in and grow. We must keep the heart cultivated. We must be so quick to admit our low estate, our sinfulness. I don't want anybody here to go around thinking, "Oh, how sinful I am." Nonetheless, we can't afford to be the other. We can't be arrogant. We must be so soft to realize that every one of us is a sinful person. When you join the society called the church, you join a group of really messed-up people. Very sinful. And I must keep a heart that says, "Thank you, Lord, for my forgiveness and the forgiveness You gave all my brothers and sisters."

The heart must be so open to receive Christ and to release Christ. The hard heart cannot receive Him and cannot release Him. When was the last time you received the Lord Jesus Christ? You know what I do every morning of my life, unless something happens that pressures me. Every morning of my life, without exception, I get up and receive the Lord Jesus Christ. I do it simply. I do it quietly. I usually do it all alone, and I will not leave until I

have a real sense that He has come into me. And just as soon as I sense the Lord has just come in tonight, I then ask Him to go out of me. Now, that might not work for you, but that's my secret. You go find your own secret. My secret is every morning I get up and receive the Lord Jesus Christ. You receive Him as your Savior; I receive Him. I don't ask Him in what office or position. I ask the Lord, "Lord, come into me." So quiet, nothing else in my mind or thought. Then, as I begin to sense the Lord, I say, Lord, flow out of me, flow out of me. This keeps my heart soft.

Keep a soft heart. The heart must be soft. Toward whom? Toward God. Toward whom? Toward all the brothers and sisters. Then third, toward heaven. There's only one class left. There's only one group left. If you have a soft heart toward the Lord, a soft heart toward the brothers. One word. Your enemy. Didn't you know everybody else is your enemy? They don't look like enemies, but they are. Every teacher I teach with at the school where I teach is my enemy if they aren't a believer. Every one of those people would have me ensnared in the educational world if I weren't careful, or they would try to bring me into their worldliness or something.

Keep a soft heart towards your enemies. But I brought up being soft toward our enemies because the Lord admonishes us about the heart: "Love your enemies," which is the hardest to love. And even those who are ensnared by *the* enemy, we love. We fight him, we war with him, but we don't make the world's people who are ensnared by Him; we don't hate them, even if they aggressively hate us, even if they imprison us; we just don't hate them. If there's anything that can be learned in the season that we're in right now, it is to be utterly soft toward absolutely everyone. Our flesh lurches right at the door right now. Every instant we walk, the flesh is ready to take over at a moment's notice. The Lord gave you a soft heart at conversion; this is no time to harden it. Keep it very, very soft, very soft.

Alright, the Lord gave us a heart of flesh. The second thing He gave us was what? He gave us God and God's life, then He gave us a heart of flesh. The one that follows right after that, what does He give us? Very similar. He gave us a new spirit. He gave us a new heart. You got Ezekiel 26:20, 36:26. Alright, you want a new spirit? Okay. Ezekiel 36:26 also, Colossians 2:13, Psalms 42:1 and 2, and 1 Corinthians 2:14. He gives us a new spirit. What are we speaking of when we speak of a new spirit? He will give us a new spirit.

Do you know what we're referring to? You have heard it said, man is three parts: spirit, soul, and body. Brother John taught you that this morning. A spirit, a soul, and a body. Alright, my body. With this body, what do I contact? I contact the physical world.

Something within me is my soul. Through our body, we contact other people's minds, emotions, and wills, but it is a very inner, subjective exercise of our soul. I think of something, and I express it with my tongue. I contact other humans and communicate with them with my soul. We must be clear about this: in the garden, Adam contacted the fruit

with his hand, but he decided to contact it with his soul. When God created him, He gave a body to contact the outer world, the physical. He gave a soul primarily for contacting one another and for our own self-consciousness. You might even say the body is other consciousness; the soul is self-consciousness. In the garden, when man ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, at that time He lost the function of his spirit. He lost the function of his spirit.

Now then, if the body is for other consciousness, the soul is for self-consciousness, what is the spirit for? God consciousness. The spirit is for the contact of God. It is with the spirit we contact God. I'm telling you that right here is the first key to the experience...the continuing experience of life. Whatever experience you had that day of the Lord, it was simply that spirit coming in. He gave you a new spirit. Well, we can say it was new, or we can say it was renewed; it doesn't matter. I'll tell you it was in such bad shape, it doesn't really matter. Sometimes we say, "Oh, the car's got a new engine in it," but the block is the same. But the pistons, the rings, the inserts, all the little things inside that matter, the nuts and the bolts have all been replaced. God gave us a new, or renewed, spirit without touching it.

What do you contact a book with? Yeah? But even sight isn't sufficient; mind and what will you contact God with? Absolutely. Who said that? Bill said, "You contact God with your heart." Bill, may I? With your heart, you love Him, but it is not with your heart you touch Him, nor contact Him, nor know Him. After you know Him, you will love Him with your heart, but you must first contact Him. Therefore, brothers, how do you contact God? With your spirit? With your spirit. How are you going to experience God? Spirit. How will you know that?

Which are you more interested in? Knowing yourself, knowing a tree or a wall, or knowing the Lord? Alright, then I want to say to you, brothers, probably as Christians, we need to start giving a little attention to our spirits. For it is through the Spirit we contact the Lord. Now, God gave you a new spirit to contact Him. When He gave you the spirit, He can communicate with you in spirit, and in that communication, no matter what it is, there comes a love for the Lord out of the heart. Have you ever considered any time in your life when you were really touched by the Lord, no matter what the situation was, that it didn't produce a love for the Lord? Always. The heart is stirred by the Spirit's conduct here.

Here is a burden of mine today. I have said this so many times, but today, because I find something reasonable here that has to do with the Bible, doesn't mean I've contacted the Lord. If I find something that is just absolutely correct and right and proper, it doesn't mean it has anything to do with the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ told us in the scripture, "Guard your mind." Oh, we need the biggest sentinel in the world standing at the mind. The mind can start functioning and spiraling until it convinces itself of anything. We'll say it one more time, "He who sits on a totem pole, a telephone pole, and talks to self comes up with many weird ideas."

Don't let yourself get stuck primarily in the mind. I don't mean to give up all rationality; I don't mean to reject the thinking, but it isn't primarily the mind and then the spirit. It is primarily the spirit and then the mind. I may even have to go through the mind to get to the spirit. That's okay. That's really proper order. Then the spirit is energized and touches and renews the mind. But if I start in the mind, sit down there, I don't care what spiritual subject I deal with, I am not in the proper place. I must go into the spirit.

You know the Lord Jesus Christ is absolutely in disagreement with everything in my spirit. Did you know that? Yeah, yeah. In my spirit, the Lord is just in disagreement with everything. I want an automobile; He doesn't want me to. I want to live in a certain place; He doesn't want me to live in a certain place. I want to marry a certain girl. He doesn't want me to marry a certain girl. I want to make a lot of money. You just need to be willing to be poor. I want to save the kingdom of God. He's doing His best to lose it. Everything about me is usually found in reverse...to be in reverse order tonight, sir. Now I'm not going to ask you to go around beginning today and do everything opposite of what you want to do. It has nothing to do with the spirit. That's just a double mind. Just come to the Lord's spirit, live there in your spirit; the rest will come. It will take care of itself.

Now I want to say this to young Christians, those of you who are really new in the Lord, or if you're new in an experience of spiritual things, and I don't care if you've been a theologian for thirty years. If you have not been in your spirit, you are a babe in Christ. As far as that goes, you're worse than a babe in Christ. You have got problems; you really have got problems. I want to urge you, brothers, who are new in Christ, to live a simple life. Be very simple. Don't start a movement to evangelize the world in our generation. If you're a new Christian, keep your life very simple. Then, if a situation comes up, go to a brother with more experience and ask him to help you understand your spirit. Let someone else be ambitious. Right now, you spend the next two years getting to know the Lord.

Now, I praise the Lord that two years ago I made about the same statement. Now I can say to some new brothers; I can say to you now, some brothers around here don't know much. They haven't experienced much, but for two years they have been seeking to experience the Lord in their spirit. These are brothers who two years ago got a revelation from God. You are gonna forgive me, brothers, for what I'm about to do? These are the brothers who got a revelation that God wanted them to marry a certain girl. Sometimes three, four, and five brothers got the same revelation.

I want you to know that today, today, those same young brothers have had some real experience. You go to those brothers, and they'll tell you their stories now, and then they will give you a word that will help you to understand the difference between your mind and your spirit, and you'll be really helped. Isn't that neat? I've never been able to make this statement before. Now then, we've got a little help floating around. Not much, but a little bit.

Well, you need now to begin to locate, and it is from that spirit that the life comes. Now, brother, where's the life located? In the spirit. Where is Christ located? In the spirit. So, if you want Christ, where do you go? And if you want life, where do you go? You just got the biggest secret of the Christian experience you'll ever have. It won't take you over ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years to get it worked out.

We're gonna make it with our spirit and with our brothers and sisters. The next thing you get it with the Lord's spirit, you get as part of that spirit. I wonder if I should even ask the brothers because I'm not sure they know what I'm getting at. There is something that always goes along with the spirit. It is part of the nature of God to use this instrument. It's one thing in the Old Testament. Then, in the New Testament, He gives up the old and gives a new one, but He keeps the basic concept. Now I'm hinting; let me just talk a little bit more.

In the Old Testament, it was not possible to fulfill. Just say one word. He gave law. Do you not think you are under the law? You are under law. Don't put me under law. You're already under law. God has never allowed people to be outside of law. Now, don't ever allow me to put you under law. Do you know which man on this earth is more apt to put you under law than anybody else on earth? Yourself. Alright. Who's the second one? Me? I think probably I'm second. Now then, who is the third? Alright, if you're married.

Number one, you are most apt to put yourself in the wrong. Number one, you are most apt to put yourself in the law—number two, probably Gene Edwards. Mostly I'm talking now in a negative way: bad law puts you under condemnation, puts you under, under performance, I believe, is the old term. I am probably most apt to put you under law secondly. Who is the third? Your spouse. Now then, what if you're not married? If you're not married, who's most apt to put you under law? Your parents? Yeah, probably. I don't know from there, but I'll tell you, you're going to have to agree to it, for sure. Now then, let me tell you: don't get on the wall; don't get under the pile. Your employer can; that is the law of the world. We're not speaking of a spiritual performance.

Oh, I'll tell you who's the worst of all. I keep wanting to stay on the subject, and I can't. Lord, this brother loves the Lord, and he gets out of bed in the morning, and he goes along; he gets up, he gets dressed, and the other brother is sleeping. He goes over, wakes him up, and says, "Brother, brother, brother, praise the Lord." Then he says, "Brother, brother." It's time to pray. The other brother looks up, and he says, "I'll get up, but I won't go to school." In other words, he's not even awake yet. He, he looks at you, real, real blurry-eyed, and he turns over, and then about an hour or two later...

Brother, you know, we're in business for the Lord, you know? Brother, we really are glad you're here; brother, we really are. Did you notice, brother, this morning that you didn't make up your bed? Have you looked over the kitchen sink this morning? Brother, I want to show you something. According to my records here, you didn't wash dishes Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. Then, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, I helped you a little. The only reason you did it is because your mother was coming. Now, my brother? I love you and all that, but Jesus said, "Jesus said that one of the things we must have is character and discipline." And the other brother says Gene also said that our sins are forgiven. Well, he said our sins are forgiven, but he said if we didn't keep a soft heart, it would get hard. And lo and behold, I am one of the most misquoted people.

Well, brother, what do you think about that? What's the cure for that? I'll tell you, there's only one cure. There's only one cure, and I'll tell you what it is. It's a trip, it's a trip to Florida, go to Cape Kennedy, get in a rocket, press the switch and leave. Brother, we are surrounded by humans. They just come. My college roommate did this to me all the time. I had a Christian roommate. This is twenty years old. This is a thousand years old. I can't do anything about it. I tell you, it's wrong. What do you want me to do? Excommunicate everybody who does that? There's just one thing that'll solve that problem. Time. About ten years from now, you're gonna get up, and you're gonna be so embarrassed, and you're gonna go back to your roommate and say, "Roommate, I'm sorry, gee, you were, you were glorious." You are an out-and-out liberal compared to the woman that the Lord has given me. Roommate, roommate, I am sorry.

Now, brother, be careful. Are you gonna try to liberate all the young people coming along ten years from now? You can't do it. You know the only thing you can do? Just put them under some other pile. These, these young people are like that. They don't care what truth they get hold of; they go to extremes. You go to some evangelistic organizations and ask the young people, "How many souls have you saved today?" That's just part of being young. That's just part of loving the Lord. Stop putting people under the law. Everybody, stop putting people under the law!

I don't know how the Lord makes it in our lives. I really don't. How do you raise up the church, Gene? Well, you take it one day at a time. You present the Lord, and it gets out of adjustment, so you present the Lord somewhere else. And that gets out of adjustment, so you present the Lord in another way, and we just stagger through, brothers. And we know a little bit, we learn a little bit, we help one another, we get mad at one another, we threaten to kill one another, and we get discouraged and we get up and we get down, and I'm just telling you, I told you the first night I was ever with you, I tell you again, it takes a little time. It takes time. It takes time to know and experience the Lord. Pursue your Lord, get to know Him, but realize, brothers, it takes a little time.

The kingdom of heaven...blessed are the poor in spirit. What do you mean, poor spirit? Have a poor spirit. Realize that you are among the biggest bunch of failures in the universe. Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who can't make it. Blessed are those who aren't proud. Blessed are those who have been nothing but failures all their lives. Blessed

are those who are poor in their spirit. Those who are rich in their spirit have no need. Those rich in spirit expect other folks to actually act like Christians. Poor in spirit, blessed are those poor in their own strength. The rich do not need the kingdom of God. The rich in spirit are those who can make it by on their own strength. They are the kind who can read their Bible. They are the kind who can pray. Blessed is the guy who can't get up and pray, and he knows it. He wants to, but he can't. Blessed is the man who doesn't have the will. Blessed is the man who just can't be a Christian. Blessed is the guy whose heart pants after the Lord like a deer does after a stream of water.

Blessed is the man who has a hard time finding God. Blessed is the hungry man. Blessed is the guy who's a psychological mess. Blessed is the fellow who is very weak and very poor. If you're a strong man, you're never gonna make it to the kingdom. The only people who are going to go into the kingdom are those who stagger in, claw in, kick in, scream in, and pull one another in. Drag one another in, helping one another. The lame, the halt, the blind, the half dead, the thirsty, the staggering. Blessed are those who can't make it. There's only one way you can get into the kingdom, and that's to not be qualified. There's only one way. You've got to know you're wounded, down, and defeated, and the chances are just zero. Then there's a chance. Blessed is the man who knows he just doesn't have anything on the ball.

That is the attitude of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ toward one another. Don't expect anything out of your brother in the church but sin. Don't expect anything out of your brother in the church but failure. And I promise you, if you expect only sin and only failure, you won't be disappointed. If you expect a brother to do anything but sin and fail, you've expected too much. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom. Let your brother go. Just let him go. Let him go. Just let him go. If he doesn't want to get up in the morning, let him go.

I am a failing sinner. That's all I am. I need the Lord Jesus Christ. I, I can't pray, I can't witness, I can't make it in the church, I can't do anything. I can't do anything but fail, and that's gonna be my credential into the kingdom. I do want you to know one thing: I'm gonna set the highest record for the most amount of failures of any man who's ever lived. I'm gonna fail and fail and fail and fail again. There's one thing I'm not gonna do: I'm not gonna stop failing. I'm gonna fail today, and praise the Lord, I won't get up and fail again tomorrow. Don't you stop me from failing, brother, and then I'm just going to stagger into the kingdom. The Lord's gonna lift me up and say, "This one failed." 73,921 times. He made it, hallelujah!

You give everybody else the same credentials. God gave us a new heart; keep it soft. God gave us a spirit; keep it poor. Keep it poor. Don't ever feel like you're making it as a Christian, or that you can really-- you ought to get some other brothers. Don't correct one another, is what I'm trying to say, and don't get proud; realize that your turn's gonna be up

next, and you're gonna be the biggest looking mess around. I tell you, I know many of you, I know perhaps most of you fairly well. And I know, I know...brother, you just aren't qualified to be a spiritual Christian. You don't have what it takes. Why do you keep trying to help us, Jean? Why don't you give up? If I give up, I can't fail anymore. You want me to stop failing? My only hope is to keep failing, brother. Brother, your only hope is to keep on failing.

You really blew it, didn't you? Didn't you? Now what are you gonna do? Go blow it again, bro. I'm trying to balance something out. Okay, how am I doing? That's my next failure. My next failure was not keeping a soft heart. I got a hard one. And I finally got to the point I said, "Lord, I am absolutely, totally through with you. All I've been able to do is fail, and I can't get any further." Brother and sister, you are approaching the kingdom.

I don't know how to describe this, but you read the biographies of Christians, and they struggle, and they struggle, and they struggle with the Lord until finally they come to a moment of desperation, and they say, "Lord, I'm through with you and Christians and everything else." And they fall on their face in bitter weeping, and then in that moment the Lord speaks in their spirit, "I've been trying to get your attention, brother...for 30 years. You can't do it. Now, why don't you just sit back and relax, forget the whole thing, and let me work myself into you as I can."

Then the first thing you do is get up and say to somebody, "I got it, I got it, I've come to peace and rest with the Lord. Why didn't you tell me this thirty years ago? Twenty years ago? Ten years? Two years ago?"

It doesn't matter what finally brings us to the Lord; everything we did before doesn't make sense. Well, was all of that wasted back there? No, I suppose it was absolutely necessary, because in all of our failings and strivings with the Lord, He gained a little territory, or at least He broke us. Oh, I can tell you the whole secret to the Christian life, brother, in one nutshell. You can't do anything. No matter how hard you pursue the Lord, you're never gonna find Him. Give up the whole idea and just let the Lord do it in you. Just come to rest. Then go try doing that. You can't do it, brother, because if you say, "Gee, that's neat," and then you just go home and sit down and do nothing, next week you'll be down at a movie. The next week you'll be out...

Well, Gene, what are you trying to tell me? I'm trying to tell you this. I don't have the vaguest idea how to become a Christian. I don't have the vaguest idea what the formula is for growing in Jesus Christ. All I can tell you is this: pursue Him till He finds you. I have not made any effort to be a Christian since nineteen sixty-two. I resigned from the Christian family in nineteen sixty-two. I stopped trying to do anything. But I thank God for all my striving up till then, and I quit. I just sat down and said, "Lord, I am through," and I mean it, brothers. In the sight of the Lord, I have not served the Lord one day since then. I haven't witnessed, and I haven't prayed since that day. What on earth have you been doing? I'm not

sure. All I can tell you is this: sometimes I get up in the morning, and I just really love the Lord, and I just let Him come into me.

But there's something in me that is at peace with my Lord. He's taken me the way I am, and I'm taking Him the way He is. All I can tell you is since the day I gave up trying to reach Him, He's sure found it easy to reach me. Now that comes down to the simple matter: you can't live a Christian life; only Jesus Christ can. Well, Gene, I feel like you handed me a bucket without a handle on it. You really just handed me a bucket with no handle. Well, I guess that's because there's not. Just lay it on the ground and drink out of it.

You go to the Lord Jesus, you go to the Lord Jesus and say, "Lord, I want to clear this up. I want You with all my heart. I really want You with all my heart. I want to know all I can about You so I can understand You better. But Lord, I just want You to know that no matter how hard I try, I can't make it. I get You on a temporary basis, and that's about it." Then you can say to the Lord, "Lord, I just lay it down. I'm gonna quit trying. I'm not going to...I'm not going to try anymore. Lord, if it's gonna be done, You do it." Then just give up the whole idea of being a Christian.

Well then what do you do, Gene? Go to the world? *Just sit there.* Just sit there. Don't run off, don't leave, don't go away. Just wait. Rest. Let the Lord become the aggressor. If you see a brother in church who's getting up at four o'clock in the morning, let him go. He's pursuing the Lord too, and he's finding Him. The next year he may not get up at four. The next year he may even be opposed to people getting up at all. That's fine, but don't, don't oppose it to the next guy who's getting up at four. Next year we're gonna have a whole bunch of new Christians in here. You just try to tell them to sit around and never do anything. They'll go somewhere else. They have got to pursue the Lord. There's no need to sit down and talk to them a whole lot about the cross because they're not in the cross, and every one of us is at a different place in our Christian experience.

Every once in a while, you hear something from me that's helpful, right? And every once in a while, you hear something from another brother that's helpful, right? Every once in a while, I want you to know I get help, too. I come back to the Lord and in His presence, and I say, "Lord, what my brother Bill said just was exactly what I needed, and I just really can't handle this by myself." And I want you to know that tomorrow I need him again, in some other way. And you know something? When this life is ended for me, you know what I'm going to do? What I'm going to know? I'm going to know the Lord in an infinite variety of experiences in life. And when I get old and gray, some young brother is going to come up to me, and he's gonna say, "I got a problem, what's the solution?" And I'm gonna tell him, "Some part of Jesus Christ is the solution." Which part, Gene? I'm sorry, I don't know. But brother, your answer is somewhere in Jesus Christ.

Well, you've got a spirit. Try to locate it. Experience the Lord in your spirit. Sometimes you won't be able to experience the Lord in your spirit. Wonderful. Wait a while, and He'll do something to get you in His Spirit. Then one day you'll get in His Spirit, and you'll just stay in His Spirit. Don't go try to bottle it and sell it to your five roommates. The next day, brother, you may really find that the only way on earth that you can draw life is from another dear Christian.

Gene, what are you saying? I am telling you this: the Lord Jesus Christ has come and dwelt in your spirit, but He's got your soul to convert. And there are at least five thousand conversions that are necessary in your soul. Each one will need a different aspect of Christ, and each of us is different. As much as possible, just as much as possible, pursue the experience of the Lord in your spirit. And when you can't, come right up to the Lord in His presence and say, "Lord, I can't make it. All I can do is sin and fail. If it's gonna get done, You're gonna have to do it."

Now, this morning, I have given you the secret of the Christian experience. Well, Gene, how can I come to the Lord with this? Oh, it's very simple. Lord, I thank You that in my soul I'm a mess, and I thank You, Lord, that in my spirit I am perfect. Lord, I will try to hang around my spirit just as much as possible, but I'm not always gonna make it. Sometimes, Lord, I'm gonna be in my soul. Lord Jesus, You know that. And whenever I'm there, You'll know exactly what I need. Please bring me to the revelation of my need. And Lord, I promise one thing: whatever that is that You show me, I will respond.

Sometimes the revelation the Lord gives you is that you do absolutely nothing but rest. Sometimes the revelation is that you pursue Him with all your heart.

Come to the Lord and say, "Lord, I have a spirit; make it sensitive, so sensitive to You. And Lord, when I can't make it, when I can't make it, Lord, come to me and make it for me," and then sit down and rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.