

The reaction of divine life's inside man

We do not live as Christians according to rituals, letter, or creeds, but according to the inward moving of the Holy Spirit within us (cf. Romans 8:8 - 10). The moment we believe in the Lord, we receive God's life and are united as one with Him. We are not separated from God; God and we are not two, but one. We have a life relationship with God, and God's own life dwells within us. Therefore, our entire living must be based on God's life within us, and we must live according to the moving of the Holy Spirit in our inner being.

We know that every kind of life has its inherent characteristics. The stronger the life, the clearer and more prominent its traits. In the universe, God's life is the richest and most powerful, so its characteristics are also the most distinct. If we desire to grow in the Christian life and manifest God's life, we must know the characteristics of the divine life we have received. According to the teaching of the Bible and the experience of Christian living, the divine life possesses the following evident traits.

The Characteristics of God's Divine Life

1. Hatred of Sin

First and foremost, God's life hates sin; the fundamental nature of the divine life is abhorrence toward sin. Once a person believes in the Lord, they no longer take pleasure in smoking, drinking, gambling, indulging the flesh, or other sinful things. Before salvation, people relish such practices, but afterward they lose all taste for them. This is because the divine life inherently hates sin; spontaneously, a believer grows to detest and avoid all things connected with sin.

There was a brother in Taipei who came from Xianyou. He testified that before being saved, he was addicted to all kinds of tobacco. He suffered from severe headaches, and smoking only made them worse, yet he could not quit. One day he went to the railway station with friends and saw brothers and sisters wearing gospel

vests preaching. Curious, he stayed behind to watch while his friends boarded the train. Later a brother invited him to the meeting hall to hear the gospel. After believing in the Lord and returning home, he was amazed at his transformation: he lost all desire for tobacco and never craved it again. Gradually his headaches also disappeared. This is the divine life expressing its nature in him, causing him to abhor all things of sin.

2. Delight in Prayer

The second characteristic of God's life is a love for prayer. If a Christian does not pray for one day, their inner being feels unsatisfied and joyless. Many suppose happiness depends on outward circumstances, and that sorrow comes mostly from misfortune. But the Christian life is different. A believer lacks joy chiefly because the inner divine life is unfulfilled.

John chapter 16 tells us that when we ask in the Lord's name, God answers, that our joy may be made full (vv.23 - 24). If we pray constantly, we can live as joyful Christians on earth. Our inner life loves prayer, so we ought to pray always. Without prayer, true joy is impossible.

3. Love for God's Word

The third characteristic of God's life is a hunger for reading the Scriptures. When one believes in the Lord and receives God's life, they will surely love God's Word. Even elderly sisters who cannot read will delight in having others read the Bible to them after salvation.

All of us naturally love eating and drinking—it is the instinct of human life. God created man with an appetite; even an infant cannot speak of hunger yet cries to express its need. Likewise, God's Word is our spiritual food as Christians. Neglecting the Bible leaves our inner spirit hungry and unsettled. Therefore, loving to read the Scriptures is an innate trait of the divine life within us.

4. Inclination to Love

Another characteristic of God's life is the nature of love. Before salvation, our hearts are often filled with hatred, cursing, and a desire to mock others. As students, we would tease classmates to embarrass them and feel pleased inside. We easily lose our temper, grow irritated over people and matters, and vent our anger to find temporary relief.

But after believing in the Lord and receiving God's life, we begin to cherish love. Doing the old things troubles our inner being and leaves us uneasy. We grow inclined to love, forgive, and show mercy, for such is the nature of the divine life within us.

5. Desire to Preach the Gospel

God's life also bears the characteristic of longing to preach the gospel. Whenever we share the gospel with others, our inner spirit is filled with joy.

Before the Chinese New Year gospel outreach in Taipei, I exhorted the saints to engage in evangelism. I asked the congregation: Who among you is saved yet feels full and joyful inwardly without preaching the gospel? Please raise your hand. Not a single person lifted a hand. Christians cannot be joyful without evangelism; preaching brings inward delight. This is the innate nature of God's life in us, drawing us to share God's salvation with others. We preach not out of religious rules or doctrines, but by the inward urge of the divine life.

I believed in the Lord more than twenty years ago. Immediately after salvation, I was filled with unexplainable joy and a strong longing to preach the gospel to everyone I met. Every Lord's Day I personally wrote gospel tracts and slogans, traveling to villages to distribute and post them, testifying to all I met. Far from feeling weary, I overflowed with gladness. Truly, loving to preach the gospel is a natural characteristic of the divine life within every believer.

6. Longing to Serve God and Consecrate All

God's life has yet another trait: it delights in serving God and willingly consecrating everything to Him. Refusing to serve or hold back from consecration goes against the nature of our inner life, leaving us unsatisfied and joyless. If we are

truly saved and possess God' s life within, we will surely love to serve the Lord and gladly offer all we have to Him.

Responding to the Nature of the Inward Divine Life

I would give a word of warning: every one of us possesses God' s life and all its aforementioned characteristics. When the inner life makes a demand, we ought to satisfy and respond to it. Yet often we grow weak, discouraged, and hesitant due to human reasoning, outward hindrances, or the opinions of relatives and friends, refusing to meet the inner life' s need. As a result, our Christian walk is not filled with sweetness and joy, but with sorrow, depression, spiritual dryness, weakness, and emptiness day after day.

Whenever we respond to the nature of the inner life, we have joy; whenever we care for its inward need, we find satisfaction. If we ignore the divine life within, we grow spiritually weak; if we neglect its requirement, our living becomes barren and joyless.

Our Christian walk must follow the nature of the inner life, not merely our own reasoning or outward circumstances. Living according to human thoughts and surroundings always leaves our spirit empty. Your reasoning may sound correct, your logic sound, and circumstances may seem to confirm your views—yet I ask only one thing: do you have inward joy? No amount of good reasoning matters if your spirit lacks joy. We are called to be Christians with a free, joyful spirit, fully satisfied in the inner life—not believers who live merely by arguments and logic.

Once a brother came to me with many opinions on church service, insisting his way was right and proper. His reasoning was sound and his viewpoint reasonable. I listened quietly without reply. When he pressed for my opinion, I patted his chest and asked: You have said much—how does your heart feel? Are you joyful within? Then I pointed to his head and said: Your thoughts and reasoning are good, but what of your spirit? Your mind thinks it is right, but is your heart at peace and joyful?

Being close to him, I spoke plainly. At first he grew upset, declaring he would

leave the church and abandon all service. Yet he was a seeking believer. After a moment he blushed, shed tears, received inward enlightenment, confessed his fault, and found release. His spirit revived, and he was filled with overwhelming joy.

Serving God therefore cannot remain only in the realm of the mind and reasoning. We must not judge merely by whether our logic holds strong. Our service is measured by God' s presence, inward joy, and the anointing of the Spirit. To be right merely in thought and doctrine means nothing if the spirit is wrong; if the spirit is not aligned with God, all else is in error.

May our Christian living and all our service henceforth no longer be governed by our own reasoning and thoughts, but by the nature of the divine life within us — responding to and satisfying its inward longing.