

Christians At Texas State Bible Study—Genesis #9

The Line of Life with Enosh (2)

Scripture Reading: Gen. 4:16-26, 12:8; Psa. 99:6; Jer. 33:3; Rom. 10:12-13; 2Tim. 2:22

Gen. 4:26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah. **12:8** And he (Abram) proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah.

Psa. 99:6 Moses and Aaron among His priests, And Samuel among those who called on His name - They called out to Jehovah, And He answered them.

Jer.33:3 Call unto Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know.

Rom. 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him; **13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours.

The History of Calling Upon the Name of Jehovah

The history of calling upon the name of Jehovah, which began with Enosh, the third generation of mankind, continues throughout the Bible. Abraham "built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah" (Gen. 12:8). This is the Christian life. When you are asked what you are doing, perhaps you should say, "I have built an altar and am now calling on the name of the Lord." This is the real altar calling. This is not a calling to the altar but a calling from the altar. Our daily life would surely be different if we came to the altar early in the morning and simply called, "O Lord Jesus, I give You this day. O Lord Jesus, dispense Yourself into me today. Lord Jesus, I consecrate myself to You. Lord, do whatever You want to do in me today."

"Moses and Aaron among His priests, / And Samuel among those who called on His name- / They called out to Jehovah, / And He answered them" (Psa. 99:6). Moses lived to be one hundred twenty years old. Only the Lord knows how many times he called on His name.

"What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as Jehovah our God is whenever we call upon Him?" (Deut. 4:7). The Lord Jesus is so near to us. Sometimes God seems to be silent and distant. However, often this is because He is waiting for us to call. Sometimes, like a parent, all He can do is wait for us to call. God is only a call away, and He is near whenever we call.

"Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that You would richly bless me and enlarge my border, and that Your hand would be with me, and that You would so keep me from evil that it would not grieve me!" (1 Chron. 4:10a). The name Jabez means "pain." The full meaning of his name is "born with pain." This was the name that his mother gave to him. What kind of life did his mother have to name her son in this way? In any case, Jabez

must have received some help because he learned to call on the God of Israel.

"I will take up the cup of salvation / And call upon the name of Jehovah" (116:13)." We should not be ashamed to call upon the name of the Lord even while we are doing so many practical things in our daily life such as grocery shopping. What can we give to the Lord for all that He has done for us? Actually, we have nothing to give. We can only call on the name of the Lord as we take the cup of salvation and drink God into our being.

"There is no one who calls upon Your name, / Who stirs himself up to lay hold of You" (Isa. 64:7a). We should not wait for inspiration. We need to know the truth of the exercise of the spirit. How many days will we waste not exercising our spirit because we are not in the mood or because we do not feel like doing so? What a shame for the Lord to look upon His people and say, "Who will stir himself up to lay hold of Me? Who will go against his feeling and depression to call upon Me, stirring up his inner being?" This does not mean that we should stir up excitement in the meetings. This means that we should stir up our spirit. How long will we be like the lame man in John 5 who waited for an angel to stir up the water so that he could be healed? How long will we complain about our longstanding situation, murmuring that we have no one to put us into the water? The Lord may come to us and say, "Do you want to get well? Is your will frozen? Do you want to contact Me? Do you want to be enlivened and in the spirit? Then wake up and stir yourself up. Step on your passive self, and exercise your inner being. Lay hold of Me by calling on My name."

"Call unto Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know" (Jer. 33:3). We should pray, "Lord, there are so many hidden things that I do not know. Reveal these hidden things to me. As I call on You, take away the veils." "Then I will change the language of the peoples / Into a pure language / That they may all call upon the name of Jehovah, / To serve Him with one accord" (Zeph. 3:9). All human languages are corrupt. Perhaps in the millennium God will purify all the languages. Eventually, in eternity we will have to be able to communicate with everyone. There will be a complete reversal of the confusion of Babel. Beginning in the millennial kingdom, the Lord will change the language of the peoples into a pure language. It is difficult to call on the name of the Lord if our language is impure. If our talk is common or, even worse, profane, then we will discover that we do not have such a good feeling about calling on the Lord's name. Thus, we should be willing for Him to change our language. At a certain point in my Christian life, I told the Lord from the depths of my heart that I had to learn how to speak all over again. I asked Him to teach me to speak. If we are purified in our language, we will call on the Lord, and this will produce a one accord with other believers.

"They will call on My name, / And I will answer them; / I will say, They are My people, / And they will say, Jehovah is my God" (Zech. 13:9b). When we call on the Lord, the Lord says to Satan and the principalities and powers that we are His people. Then we will say, "He is our God." We need this kind of communication. I believe that there will be a revival and recovery of this matter of calling on the name of the Lord.

"It shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21; cf. Joel 2:28-32). "There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him" (Rom. 10:12). God is not a respecter of persons. He does not prefer one race above another or one class above another. The same Lord is Lord of everyone who calls upon Him. Furthermore, if you call upon Him, He will enrich you with the vast wealth of His triune being.

"To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours" (1 Cor. 1:2). "Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22). What is more precious than being with a group of people who only care for God's heart's desire, God's glory, God's economy, and God's eternal purpose, who are not for their own interests, and who have burned their bridges? These kinds of people come together and call out of a pure heart. They only want God and God's will,

and they pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with the other purified callers. The Lord could accomplish many things in His plan with a group of people who call on Him out of a pure heart.

The proper Christian life is a life of receiving the Spirit continually by calling upon the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:12). Galatians 3:2 says, "Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?" Then verse 5 says, "He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit. ... " John 1: 16 says, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." John 7:39 says, "But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive " In John 20:22 the Lord Jesus breathed into His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." All of these verses show that the Christian life is a life of receiving. It is a life of continually receiving the Spirit by calling on the name of the Lord. When we call on the name of the Lord, the physical Jesus does not appear, but the Spirit as the reality of Jesus comes into us. This receiving is continual and moment by moment.

The Spirit is the heavenly air for us to breathe; by exercising our spirit to call upon the name of the Lord, we breathe in the Spirit and thereby receive the Spirit (John 20:22; Gal. 3:2; 1 Thes. 5:17). To breathe spiritually is to receive the Spirit continually (John 20:22; Gal. 3:2). When we breathe in the Spirit by calling upon the name of the Lord, we both exhale and inhale; we breathe out the negative things and breathe in the positive things of the Lord (John 1:1, 14,29; 6:48; 8:12; 15:1; 20:22). Many Christians today have stopped their spiritual breathing; as a result, their spiritual life has come to a standstill. Prayer can become our spiritual breathing, and we can turn our prayer into breathing by calling upon the name of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:17). The way to live Christ is to breathe Him, and the way to breathe Him is to call upon Him without ceasing (Phil. 1:19-21a).

In a way, the only thing that matters is whether or not we are breathing right now. It does not matter how experienced we are, how much of the truth we know, how much we have gone through in our Christian life, or how long we have been in a Christian. One time, I got a call from a brother in the Lord who told me that his father was dying and asked if I could be with him. We went to the hospital and into the room where his father was. I will never forget what this brother said of his father. He said, "He is not breathing." Death is always a shock. We may realize the possibility of death when a person is seriously ill or only has a short time remaining, but when the breathing stops as the sign that death has come, it is still a shock. All of the Lord's people need to consider their Christian life in the light of this matter of breathing in the Lord. Whoever is normal in the matter of breathing, he will be living by breathing because he receives the Spirit continually.

* Ministry portions from *Ministry Magazine* and *Life-Study of Genesis*.