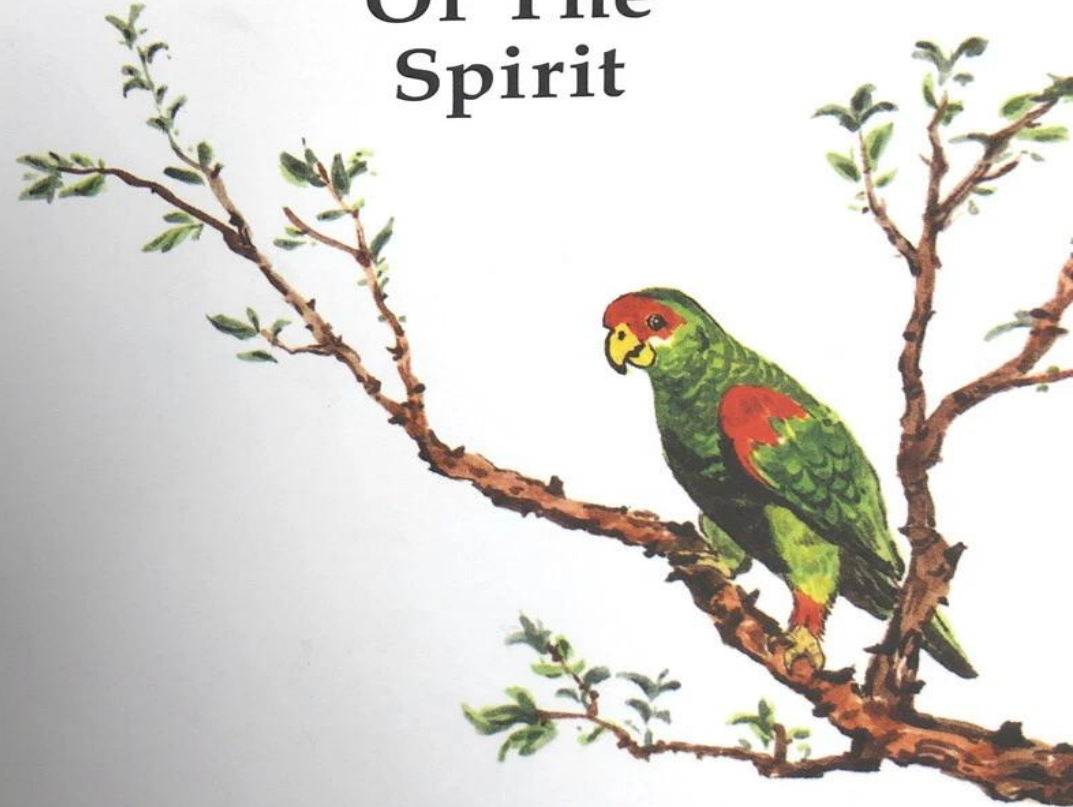


Current Book
We Are
Studying.
The Release Of
The Spirit
By Watchman
Nee

The
Release
Of The
Spirit



WATCHMAN NEE



The Inner Man

First Lesson.
Is there one?



The Inner Man Reveal

Second Lesson.

How does it work?



The Inner Man Revealing Part 1

Chapter 1 Importance Of Brokenness

By Watchman Nee



The Inner Man Revealing Part 2

Chapter 1 Importance Of Brokenness

By Watchman Nee



The Inner Man Revealing

Chapter 2

**Before And After
Brokenness**

By Watchman Nee

What You Should Do

- Acts 17:10–11 (NASB 95)
- **10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for *they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.***



One Word Of Advice

- **Context is KING!**
- **Words do NOT stand alone. Neither in English or any other language.**
- **You cannot pull a word out of a verse and understand what the author meant without its surrounding context, even the time frame it was written.**
- **When doing a Word study, look at EVERY instance it occurs in scripture to get better context.**



Opening Remarks

- **This is not behavior modification.**
- **This is not to get you to change *yourself*.**
- **It is not self destruction.**
- **Or a form of self abasement.**
- **You are not being asked to Pray more, Give more, Work more.**
- **Many of you already do works out of guilt and obligation, anyway.**



Opening Remarks

- **This is to learn to discern what God is already (right now, right here, right where you are sitting) doing in your life and cooperate with it.**

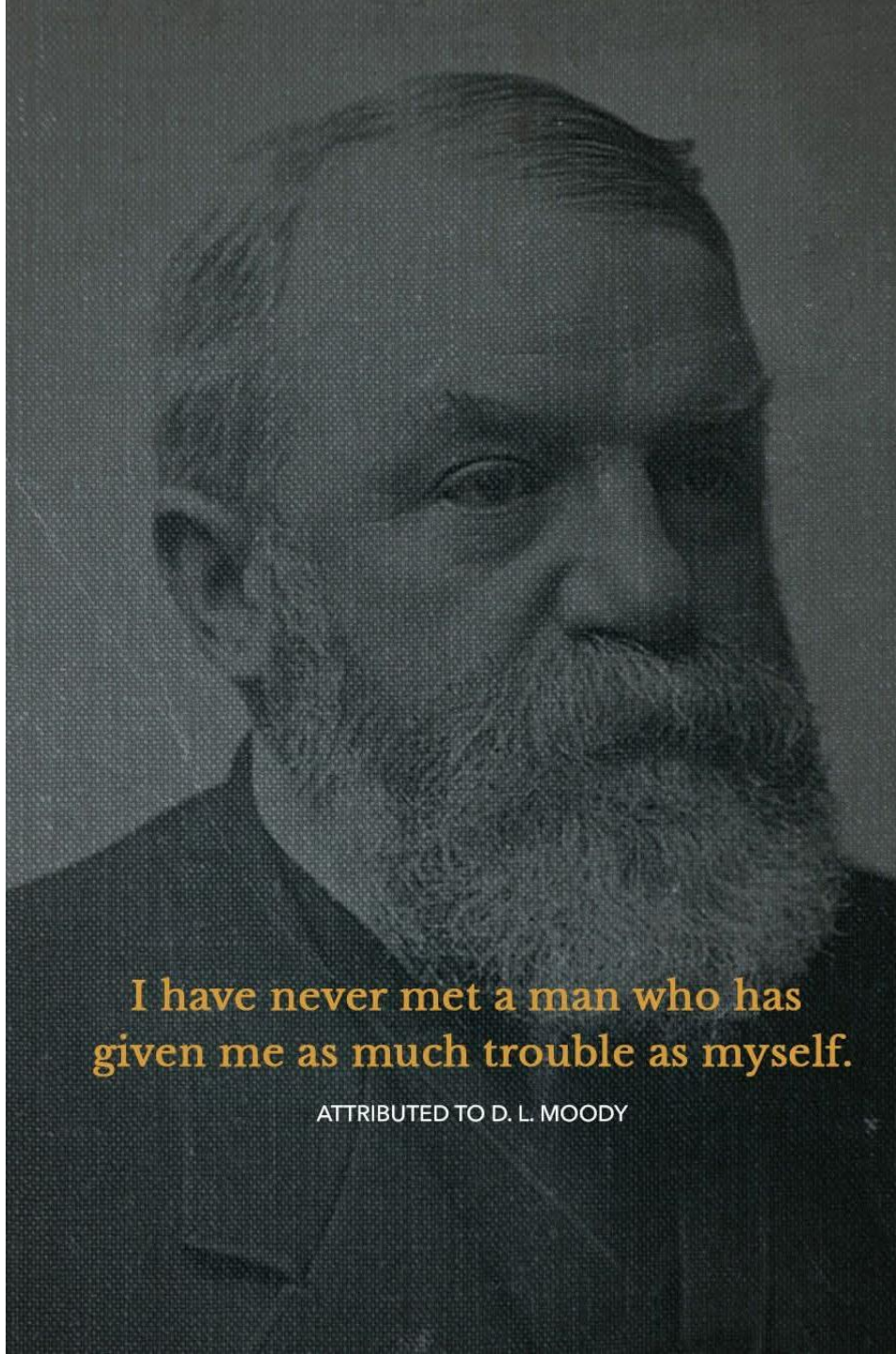
Reminder: The Release Of The Spirit

- **“Each one of us has as much of the same ‘Jacob-nature’ in us. Our only hope is that the Lord may blaze a way out of us, breaking our outward man – breaking it to such a degree that the inward man may come out and be seen.”**
- **— Watchman Nee**



The Release Of The Spirit

- “I have never met a man who has given me as much trouble as...
- ...myself”
- — D.L. Moody



I have never met a man who has
given me as much trouble as myself.

ATTRIBUTED TO D. L. MOODY



Before And After Brokenness

- “When one is working for God, two possibilities may arise. The first is the unbrokenness of self, forming a hard shell around the spirit. It is possible, when the outward man remains unbroken, that his spirit may be inert and unable to function. This means that if he is a clever intellectual person, his mind governs his work. Or, if he is a generous charitable person, his emotions control his actions.**



Before And After Brokenness

- **“His work may appear successful, but it cannot bring people to God. The second is the mixture of his spirit with his unbroken self. His spirit may come forth clad with strong thoughts or emotions of self. The result is that both his spirit and soul are mixed and impure. Consequently, his work will bring men into a mixed and impure experience. These two conditions illustrate how unbroken self will weaken our service to God.”**

Practical Problems

- **“Take preaching, for instance. How often we can be earnestly preaching – giving a well prepared and well thought-out message – but inwardly we feel as cold as ice. We long to stir others, yet we ourselves are unmoved. There is a lack of harmony between the outward and the inward man. The outward man is sweating from heat, but the inward man is shivering from coldness.**

Practical Problems

- **“We can tell others how great the love of the Lord is, yet we are personally untouched by it. We can tell others how tragic is the suffering of the cross, yet upon returning to our room we can clown around. What can we do about this? Minds may labor and emotions may be energized. Yet all throughout the endeavor, one has the feeling that the inward man is merely an observer – not a participant – of the outward man’s performance.”**

Practical Problems – Opposite Problem

- **“Consider the opposite situation. The inward man is devoured by zeal. He wants to shout, but he does not find utterance. After speaking for a long time, the speaker still seems to be talking in circles. The more he is burdened within, the colder he becomes without. He longs to speak, but he cannot express himself. When he meets a sinner and his inward man feels like weeping, he cannot shed a tear.**

Practical Problems – Opposite Problem

- **“There is a sense of urgency within him, yet when he ascends the pulpit and tries to proclaim it, he finds himself lost in a maze of words. Such a situation is most trying. The root cause is the same – the outer shell still clings to him. The outward does not obey the dictates of the inward – inwardly crying, but outwardly unmoved. Inwardly suffering, but outwardly untouched. Full of thoughts within, but the mind without draws an apparent blank. In other words, his inner spirit has yet to find a way to pierce through his outer shell.”**



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **“The moment our human spirit is raised from the state of death, we receive the Holy Spirit. We often say that the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit, but we find it perplexing to discern which is the Holy Spirit and which is our own human spirit. The Holy Spirit and our spirit have become so *joined together*. While each is uniquely separate, they nevertheless are not so easily *distinguishable*.”**



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **The Greek text lacks capitalization, so the decision to capitalize "Spirit" is an editorial choice based on context, theology, and translation philosophy. New Testament passages where the capitalization of "spirit" is ambiguous or debated, focusing on instances where the referent (Holy Spirit, human spirit, or other) is not entirely clear.**



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **Romans 8:16 Text (NIV): "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."**
- **Romans 8 may very well be the chapter where the word "(S)pirit" is use most frequently. 19 times in the KJV and NASB. 20 In NIV.**



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **Romans 8:16 Text (NIV): "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."**
- **Ambiguity:** This verse uses *pneuma* twice, first for what is likely the Holy Spirit and second for the human spirit. The phrase "our spirit" (*to pneuma hēmōn*) could be interpreted as the human spirit, the Holy Spirit within us, or even a collective spiritual sense. Some translations (e.g., NIV, ESV) capitalize the first "Spirit" (Holy Spirit) but not the second ("our spirit"). Others, like the KJV, capitalize both, potentially implying a divine aspect to "our spirit."



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **Romans 8:16. Why Unclear:** The phrase lacks explicit markers to distinguish whether "our spirit" is purely human or divinely influenced. Theologically, some argue it refers to the human spirit enlivened by the Holy Spirit, creating overlap.
- **Translation Variations:**
 - **NIV:** "Spirit" (Holy Spirit) and "spirit" (human).
 - **KJV:** "Spirit" for both.
 - **NASB:** "Spirit" (Holy Spirit) and "spirit" (human).
- **Scholarly Note:** Commentators like Douglas Moo suggest the second *pneuma* is likely the human spirit, but the lack of clear distinction in Greek leaves room for debate.



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**

- **1 Corinthians 2:11**

- Translation Variations: ESV, NIV: Lowercase "spirit" (human), uppercase "Spirit" (God).
- KJV: Capitalizes both.
- NLT: Paraphrases to avoid ambiguity ("human spirit" and "Spirit of God").

- **Galatians 6:18**

- Translation Variations: NASB, ESV: Lowercase "spirit."
- KJV: Capitalizes "Spirit."
- NIV: Lowercase "spirit."

- **Ephesians 4:23**

- Translation Variations: NIV: Avoids "spirit," using "attitude of your minds."
- ESV: "Renewed in the spirit of your minds" (lowercase).
- KJV: "Renewed in the Spirit of your mind" (capitalized).

- **1 John 4:1–3**

- Translation Variations: ESV, NIV: Lowercase "spirit" and "spirits," uppercase "Spirit of God."
- KJV: Capitalizes all instances.
- NLT: Paraphrases as "false prophets" to avoid ambiguity.



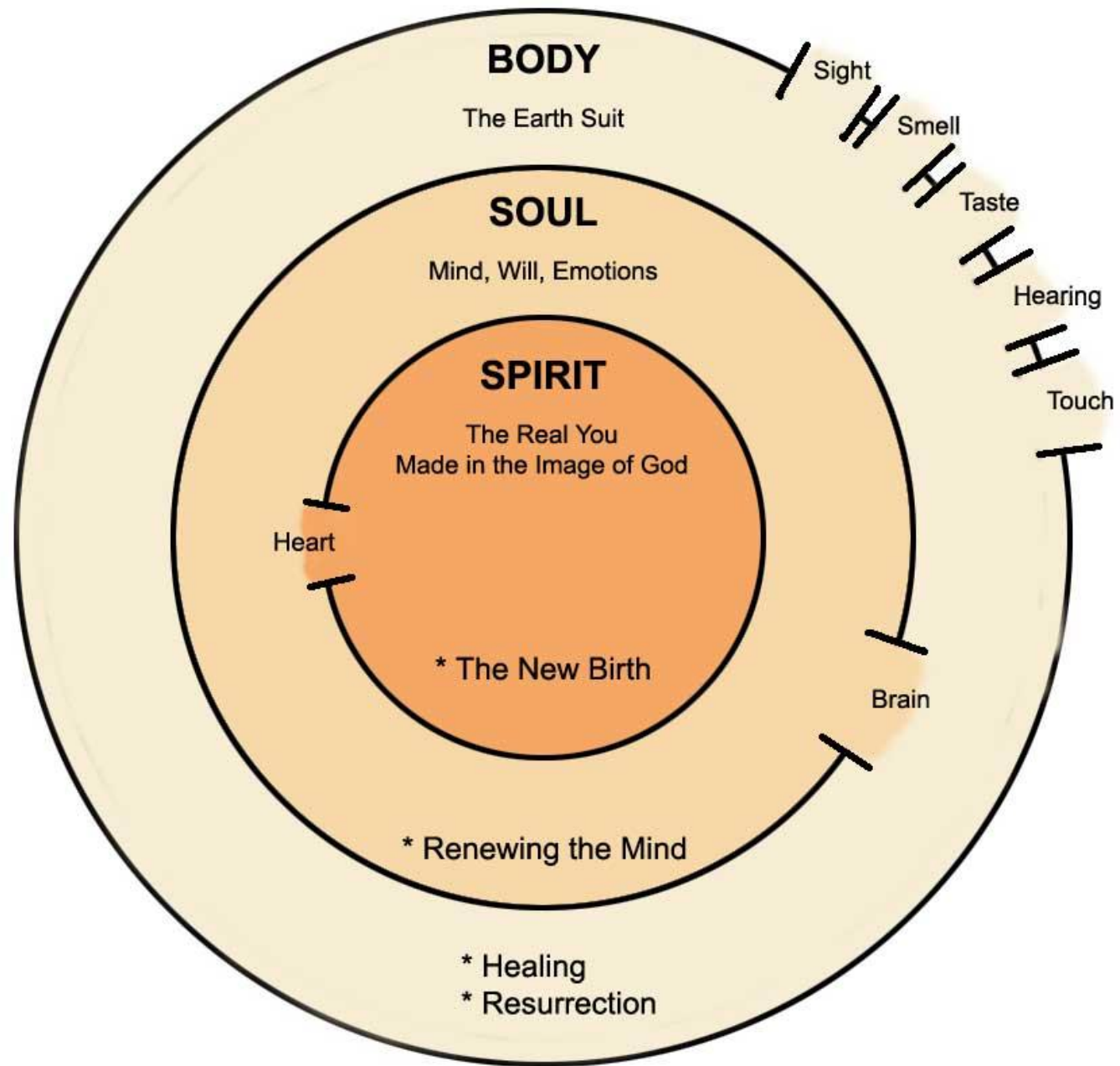
The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **New Testament Greek, as found in the earliest manuscripts (e.g., Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus, and other papyri from the 2nd to 4th centuries), generally lacks punctuation, spaces, and capitalization. These manuscripts were written in a style called scriptio continua, meaning:**
- **No Spaces: Words were written continuously without spaces between them. For example, a phrase like "the spirit" (*to pneuma*) would appear as ΤΟΠΝΕΥΜΑ.**
- **No Punctuation: There were no commas, periods, question marks, or other punctuation marks to indicate sentence breaks, clauses, or questions. Readers relied on context and familiarity with the language to parse the text.**



The Mechanics

- **How it works:**
- **No Capitalization:** Greek manuscripts used either uncial (all uppercase-like letters) or later minuscule (cursive-like) scripts, but there was no distinction between uppercase and lowercase letters as in modern English. Thus, whether *pneuma* (spirit) referred to the Holy Spirit, human spirit, or another entity was determined by context, not capitalization.
- **Occasional Marks:** Some manuscripts included minimal markers, like a diple (>) or paragraphos (a horizontal line) to indicate section breaks, or breathing marks (e.g., rough or smooth breathing) to aid pronunciation, but these were inconsistent and not standardized until later centuries.





The Mechanics

- **How it Works:**
- **“Thus, the release of the spirit is the release of both the human spirit as well as the Divine Spirit, Who resides in the spirit of man. Since the Holy Spirit and our spirit are joined as one many times they are distinguishable in name only, not in fact. And since the release of one means the release of both, the Holy Spirit is touched when our spirit is touched. Thank God that inasmuch as you allow people to contact your spirit, you allow them to contact God. Your spirit has brought the Holy Spirit to man.”**
- **1 Corinthians 6:16–17 (NASB 95) “Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “The two shall become one flesh.” 17 *But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*”**

Launching Out And Retreating

- **Watchman Nee uses Brother Lawrence as an example:**
- **The Practice of the Presence of God is a spiritual classic attributed to Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk, compiled from his letters and conversations. Its core message is about cultivating a *constant awareness of God's presence in everyday life*.**



Launching Out And Retreating

- **If you have to “maintain” the presence of God because daily life and activity takes it from you, you are not broken.**
- **If you require a “quiet time” to get it back, you are not broken.**
- **“The trouble lies not in those dishes (distractions), nor in other people, but in themselves. God is not going to deliver us from ‘the dishes!’ But He will deliver us from our responses!”**

Launching Out And Retreating

- **If we try to maintain God's presence with fleshy activity, then His presence ends when such activity ceases. However, God's presence requires the sameness of nature. Only the inward man is of the same nature as God. Through his spirit alone can His presence be manifested. The constant activities of the outward man will only disturb the inward man. Thus, the outward man is not a helper but a disturber. When the outward man is broken, the inward man enjoys continual rest in God.**



Launching Out And Retreating

- **“When the outward man is broken, the inward man *enjoys continual rest in God.*”**
- **A Rest and Peaceful spirit are good indicators or who is running the show.**



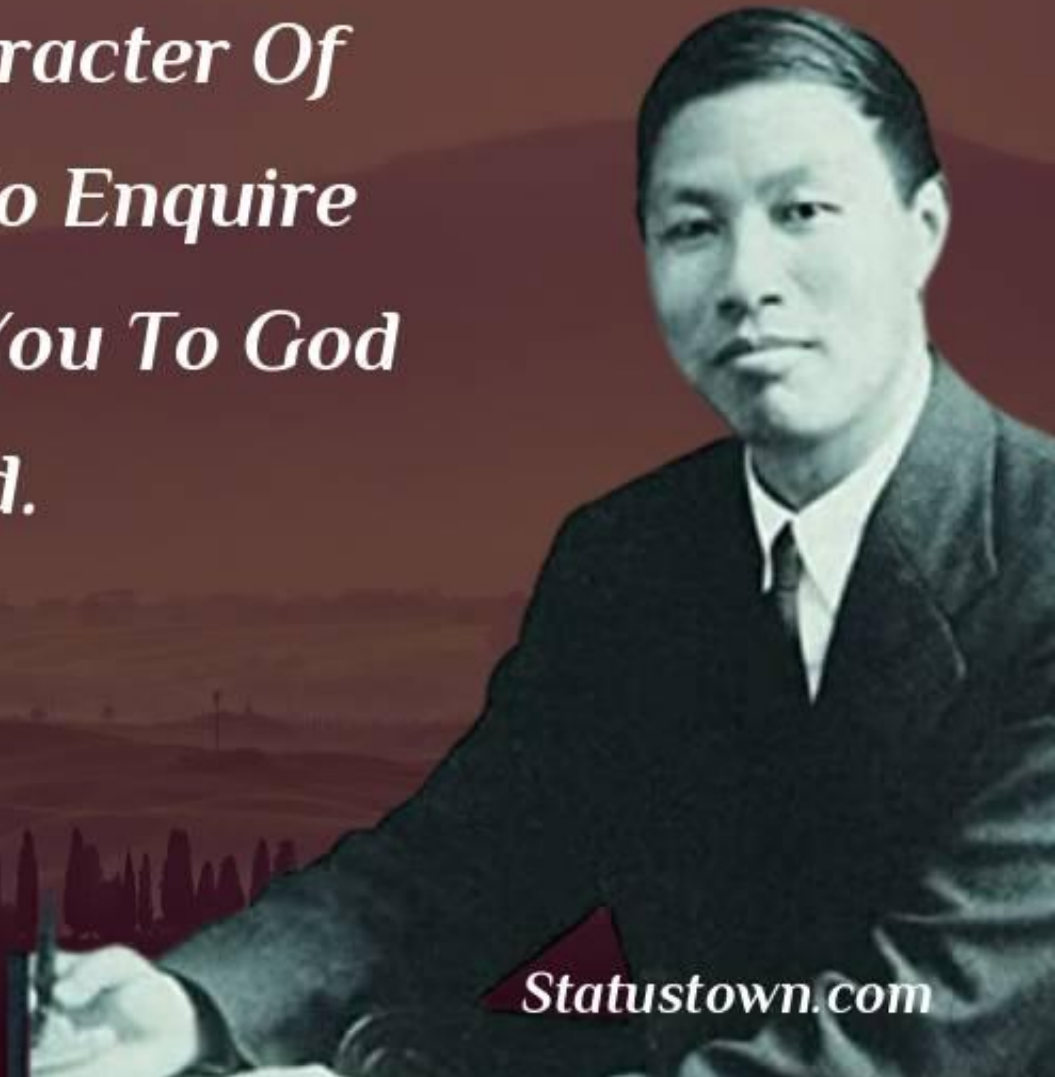
Is This A Good Summary?

- **Nee encourages readers to embrace hardships as divine discipline, fostering spiritual maturity and alignment with God's will.**

*If You Would Test The Character Of
Anything, You Only Need To Enquire
Whether That Thing Leads You To God
Or Away From God.*

~ WATCHMAN NEE ~

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Testimony Of Saints Lives

- Amy Carmichael (1867–1951), a missionary to India, provides a historical testimony of brokenness. Early in her ministry, she struggled with pride and a desire for recognition. Through personal trials, including health issues and the loss of close companions, she faced God's refining work. In her writings, she described how God stripped away her self-reliance, teaching her to depend solely on Him. This breaking process led to a deeper spiritual life, enabling her to minister to hundreds of rescued children in India with humility and love.

YOU CAN
ALWAYS GIVE
WITHOUT
LOVING,
BUT YOU
CAN NEVER
LOVE
WITHOUT
GIVING.





The Inner Man Revealing

Ephesians 1:18-19a (NASB 95)

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”