

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 23)

THE DEATH PRINCIPLE (CONTINUED). The fulness of the death principle is revealed in John 12:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit." Simply stated, the death principle is that life comes out of death. Or, death produces life. Jesus uses the physical realm to illustrate the spiritual realm. Watchman Nee explains the death principle: "Life is within the grain of wheat. But there is...a very hard shell on the outside. As long as the shell is not split open, the wheat cannot sprout and grow....What is this death? It is the cracking open of the shell through temperature and humidity working together in the soil. Once the shell of the husk is split open, the wheat begins to grow. So the question here is not whether life exists in the shell, but whether the shell on the outside is cracked open." Jesus used this statement regarding Himself. His resurrection life had to rise out of death. The outer shell is our soul life. Our life within is eternal life of Christ in us. To allow the inner life of Christ to come forth, the outer life (soul life) must be broken. Until our outer life is broken, the life of Christ in us can't come forth. A radical disciple is one whose inward man (his spirit) has been released. In order for that to happen the inner life of Christ in us must break through. In other words, the spirit must be released. For the spirit to be released, our outward man must be broken. Brokenness allows the Holy Spirit to be poured out through us. The death principle is a process of breaking. When we are broken, the inward life of Christ can be poured out for others. The death principle is a life of brokenness. It requires continual surrender of our outer man to Jesus so He can break us. It is through our breaking that the life of Jesus can pour out through us.