

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Five : Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Having a Revived Living and a Labor of Shepherding**

#### **I. Overview:**

In order to make ourselves ready for the Lord's coming, we need to maintain our victory by having a revived living. Every morning we should allow the Lord Jesus, our Sun, to rise up in us so we can be renewed that we may have a new beginning. We should offer up Christ as our burnt offering and peace offering, based upon His being our sin offering. In order to have a revived living, we must be those who love the Lord to the uttermost and live to Him, and also live the life of the altar and the tent. Building an altar means that our life is for God; to live the life of the tent is our declaration that we are strangers and sojourners on the earth who are waiting for the God-built city, the New Jerusalem. To have a new revival daily is to have a fresh transformation that we may grow in the life of the Lord until we are matured. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the Lord to cherish people in the humanity of Jesus and to nourish people in the divinity of Christ. Paul became a drink offering, one with Christ as the wine producer, sacrificing himself for others' enjoyment of Christ. Love is the most excellent way for the building up of the Body of Christ.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound how to contact people will have the great effect.

If you have a heart for the Lord, from now on you should have a revival every day to live the overcoming life, to strive to redeem every bit of time to contact people. Care for the saints one by one. The most effective way is the slow and sure way. If you contact one person a day, in a year you will have contacted three hundred and sixty-five persons. The effect of this is much higher than giving many messages.

B. Explain what kinds of life and work to maintain our victory.

Now we must recover this matter of giving our all and our time to contact and shepherd people. Only by this will the organic building up of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4:12-16 and the meetings of mutuality in 1 Corinthians 14:26 be realized and practiced among us. For this we need a daily revival and a daily overcoming as the base. We also need a life and a work that flow out from the love of the Lord in order to maintain our victory.

Day 2 —

A. Expound in Matthew 13:43 that the overcomers are likened to the sun.

In Matthew 13:43 the overcomers are likened to the sun shining forth in the kingdom of their Father. The sun rises afresh every morning. If we are to be the overcomers, the sun, we must also rise up every morning to be revived by the Lord. Proverbs 4:18, "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until the full day." We should follow the sun to be revived and to have a new start every morning.

B. Explain every day we need a renewal.

Every day we need a renewal, which has to be refreshed day by day. What we need today is this kind of renewal in the inner life. God has set up a natural law that the rising of the sun affords a new beginning and a fresh renewal every day. The same is true with our Christian life. Every morning we should allow the Lord Jesus, our Sun, to rise up in us so that we can be renewed.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the life of a Christian is the life of the altar and the tent.

The altar is toward God, while the tent is toward the world. In His presence, God requires that His children have an altar and on the earth that they have a tent. The altar and the tent are interrelated; they cannot be separated. In Genesis 12:7 we see that the altar is based on God's appearance. Consecration is not the result of man's exhortation or persuasion but of God's revelation.

B. Explain God's appearance bring something with its inexhaustible power.

God's appearance brings with it inexhaustible power. Such an appearance will alter the whole course of a person's life. For a Christian, the power to live for God is based on his vision of God. Oh! It is not our decision to serve the

Lord that enables us to serve Him. It is not our will to build an altar that produces an altar. An altar is built when God comes to a man. God appeared to Abraham, and Abraham built an altar.

Day 4 —

A. Expound God having the best provisions to help us to receive the renewing.

The first provision is the cross, the putting to death of Jesus. According to 2 Corinthians 4, Paul was always under the killing of the cross, the Lord's death. The second provision is the Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit within us. His main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day. The third provision God gave us is our mingled spirit, our human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit.

B. Explain that we are in the midst of suffering, we need to receive the renewing.

While we are in the midst of suffering, we need to receive the renewing. Otherwise, the suffering we pass through means nothing to us. Within us there is a refuge. This refuge is our spirit. We need to turn from our mind to our spirit. Then we are safeguarded, hidden, and concealed from any attacks. It is in our spirit that we will be renewed.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship the reason for our barrenness.

Not having the Father's loving and forgiving heart and not having the Savior's shepherding and seeking spirit is the reason for our barrenness. I realize that you all work hard, but there is almost no fruit. The Lord said, "By the fruit the tree is known", but we are a tree without any fruit. We do not have fruit because we are lacking in the Father's loving and forgiving heart and the Son's shepherding and seeking spirit.

B. Expound the preaching of the gospel is the top shepherding of sinners.

The first gospel preacher, Christ, carried out His ministry by shepherding. He went to Jericho just to visit one person, a chief tax collector. His desire was to preach the gospel to gain one person, and His preaching was a shepherding. John 4 says that while the Lord was on His way to Galilee, "He had to pass through Samaria". He detoured from the main way to Sychar, near Jacob's well, in order to contact a sinful woman.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the words in 1 Corinthians 9:22, and how to experience it.

Our attitude may be that everyone is weak but we are not weak. We may have the feeling that we are strong ones. In 1 Corinthians 9:22 Paul says, "To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak." This means that we should come down to the weak one's level. To a sick person we come down to the level of a sick person. This is the way to shepherd people by visiting them.

B. Explain Paul's perfecting work in Acts 20.

In Paul's talk with the elders in Ephesus in Acts 20, Paul said that he taught them "publicly and from house to house". In addition to all his labor, he still visited the homes of the saints, from house to house. He did this to perfect the saints. He did not shrink from declaring to them anything that was profitable. What a marvelous perfecting work the apostle Paul did!

### III. Conclusion:

□ The new way is a kind of living. Today we all live a life of contacting with the Lord every morning and have a living of revival. Every morning we have a new beginning. Every day is new to us, and in this revived and renewed life, we can spontaneously care for others, and automatically are willing to share with others the Christ we enjoyed, the Savior we have received, and to share with others the blessings God has given us. It is our duty and our glory to present as a gift the Christ we have enjoyed this day. May we devote our time and our whole being to reaching out to people and shepherding them. Only in this way can the organic building of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4: 12-16 and the meeting of mutuality in 1 Corinthians 14: 26 be practiced and fulfilled among us.