

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Two : Learning the Secret of Doing All Things in Christ as the Empowering One for Us

I. Overview:

Paul learned the secret of doing all things in Christ as the empowering One. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and into the Body of Christ; he then learned the secret of how to take Christ as life, to live Christ, to magnify Christ, and to have the church life. The believers are disciples, who are learning the secret, which is to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus by allowing the Spirit of reality to guide them into all the reality of the actual condition of the life of Jesus, living God by denying Himself in His humanity. Actually this will be revolutionizing their concept concerning man. We learn Christ according to His example by His life in resurrection, which is a life of obedience. Paul desired to be found in Christ by others; he was able to do all things in Him, the very Christ who empowered him. This practical way is seen in Philippians 4:6-7: "In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Our Lord is willing to bear all our anxieties, and He is happy to listen to our speaking; in order to enjoy Him as the living water of life, we need to speak to Him as our spiritual rock.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain "I have learned the secret." in Philippians 4:12.

The metaphor in Philippians 4:12 refers to a person's being initiated into a secret society with instruction in its rudimentary principles. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and the Body of Christ. He then learned the secret of how to take Christ as life, how to live Christ, how to magnify Christ, how to gain Christ, and how to have the church life, all of which things are rudimentary principles.

B. Expound what the secret Paul learned is.

Paul seems to be saying, "In all things I have been instructed with the secret so that I know how to be in want and how to abound." Paul had been instructed with the particular secret, which is not that Christ is in us, but we are in Him. If we would exercise to be in Him in a practical way, we would not be active to do so many things on our own. Instead, we would simply rest and be at peace.

Day 2 —

A. Explain how the Spirit being breathed into them would guide them.

In resurrection He Christ became the life-giving Spirit and entered into them the disciples. The Spirit of life and of reality who was breathed into them would guide them into all the reality of what they had observed of the Lord. The followers of Christ were discipled through Christ's human living on the earth, as the model of a God-man. The concept of the disciples was revolutionized by what they saw of the Lord Jesus living God by denying Himself in His humanity.

B. Expound how all His followers were discipled.

They were discipled through Christ's crucifixion to annul their human life for them to live the divine life. They were also discipled through Christ's resurrection to know Him as God's firstborn Son. He lived the divine life and nature through the denying of His human life and nature. This was His divine and mystical living to disciple all His followers.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Paul's conversion.

Paul had been altogether in the Jewish religion under the law and had always been found by others in the law. But at his conversion he was transferred from the law and his former religion into Christ and became "a man in Christ". Now he expected to be found in Christ by all who observed him—the Jews, the angels, and the demons.

B. Expound Paul's experience of being empowered by Christ in Philippians 4:13.

Paul was a person in Christ and he desired to be found in Christ by others. In 4:13 he declared that he could do all things in Christ, the One who empowered him. This is an all-inclusive and concluding word of Paul's experience of

Christ. It is the converse of the Lord's word concerning our organic relationship with Him in John 15:5, "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

Day 4 —

A. Expound the significance of "To God in Philippians 4:6".

To God in Philippians 4:6 denotes motion toward, in the sense of a living union and communion, implying fellowship, hence, in the fellowship with God. The result of practicing fellowship with God in prayer is that we enjoy the peace of God. The peace of God is actually God as peace infused into us through our fellowship with Him by prayer, as the counterpoise to troubles and the antidote to anxiety.

B. State anxiety being opposed to forbearance.

Anxiety is like a worm that devours our ability to forbear. Anger often comes out of anxiety. If I am worried about my future, my circumstances, or my family, I will not be happy with others. This worry will cause me to be upset with everyone. Only when we are happy and contented do we have forbearance. Because Paul was full of happiness and contentment, with him there was no anxiety but an abundance of forbearance.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the experience and application of the matter in telling the Lord.

The Lord Jesus is a person in whom men can most easily confide. He allows others to tell Him anything. John the Baptist's disciples realized that their teacher was dead and had buried their teacher, they came to tell Jesus about it. The other picture shows us the Lord's twelve disciples being sent to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons. This was a happy experience, and the disciples came and told the Lord about it.

B. Explain Lord Jesus is a person in whom men can most easily confide.

Men can easily tell the Lord what they want to say. Any words can be told to Him. Many times we need someone to share our sorrow or joy, but we are unable to find someone. No matter what we tell Him, He will listen. He is sympathetic to every one of our problems.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that our complaining may be the way to do something for God.

The Lord in His sovereignty may allow us to lose our money, but when every cent is gone, God is still here. We may complain to God, but our complaining may be the best prayer, the most pleasant prayer to God. While we are complaining, God is rejoicing because He is causing all things to work together for good that we may be conformed to the image of His firstborn Son.

B. Describe Psalm 102:7 about the situation of the writer of this psalm.

Psalm 102:7 says, "I watch, and I am like / A lone sparrow on a housetop." This verse indicates that when the Lord Jesus was on earth, probably there were times when in the night He, like a lone sparrow on a housetop, would watch and pray, caring for God's interest. Because of the devastation of Zion, he could not sleep or stay in bed. Instead, he went to the housetop where he poured out his complaint to God, asking Him to look upon Zion, the city, and the temple.

III. Conclusion:

We can come to God with everything and tell Him about our situation. This is a very practical prayer, and if we do this, we shall have peace. Learn to tell the Lord and not to pray religiously, but to talk like a friend, and there will be peace. This is the secret Paul learned. When we practice the secret of doing all things in Christ, we end up experiencing what Paul experienced, that to live is Christ. Most Christians only like to go to meetings to hear messages, but the only way to live the Christian life is to do all things in Christ. In order to magnify Christ, we must live by Christ and do all things in Him. We can do all things in Him who empowers us. Learn to rest in Him. He is never wrong. Sometimes it seems that He is wrong and that wants you to learn more lessons.