

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

### **Message Three : Being One in Soul to Enjoy Christ by Thinking the One Thing, by Being One with Christ in His Inward Parts, and by Allowing God to Operate in Us the Willing and the Working for His Good Pleasure**

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

The experience of Christ is primarily in our spirit, but the enjoyment of Christ is in our soul. Since Philippians is concerned with the experience and enjoyment of Christ, which issue in joy, it is a book filled with joy and rejoicing. The saints in Philippi had fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel, through the apostle Paul's ministry. Paul charges us to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. In order for us to be one in soul, we need to think the one thing; the one thing in Philippians refers to the subjective knowledge, experience, and enjoyment of Christ. In order for us to be one in soul, we need to be one with Christ in His inward parts, in His tender and delicate feelings. In the book of Philemon, Paul's inward affection and compassions went with Onesimus to Philemon. In order for us to be one in soul, we need to work out our own salvation by cooperating with the inner energizing God. By building the ark, Noah was ushered into God's salvation in our experience, we will be saved from the great tribulation.

#### **I. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound participating in the furtherance of the gospel in Philippians.

The saints in Philippi had fellowship unto the gospel, participating in the furtherance of the gospel through the apostle Paul's ministry. This participation included their financial contributions to the apostle, which issued in the furtherance of the gospel. This kind of fellowship, which kept them from being individualistic and diversely minded, implies that they were one with the apostle Paul and with one another.

B. Explain the difference between the experience and enjoyment of Christ.

The experience of Christ is a matter primarily in our spirit, but the enjoyment of Christ is in our soul. To experience Christ is one thing, and to enjoy Christ is another. Like children who eat without enjoying their food, many times we experience Christ without enjoying Him. Thus, we can have the experience of Christ without the enjoyment of Christ. The problem here is with our soul.

Day 2 —

A. Expound to be of one soul more difficult than to be in one spirit.

We need not only to stand firm in one spirit in order to experience Christ but also to strive together with one soul along with the faith of the gospel. To be of one soul for the gospel work is more difficult than to be in one spirit for the experience of Christ. To be of one soul requires that, after having been regenerated in our spirit, we go further and be transformed in our soul, especially in our mind, which is the main and leading part of our soul.

B. Explain being in one spirit with one soul, we will be strong convincing.

In our preaching of the gospel, everyone must be fully impressed that we are in one spirit and with one soul. Nothing is more convincing than this. When all the members in the church are in one spirit with one soul, this oneness will be convincing, subduing, and attractive. When we have such a subduing and convincing oneness, we will experience Christ and enjoy Him. We will enjoy Christ by being in one spirit with one soul.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that Paul was imploring the Philippians to think this one thing.

Paul was imploring the Philippians to think this one thing. This one thing is clearly revealed in Philippians 3, where Paul speaks of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord. To experience Christ as our enjoyment for the church is excellent. Anything other than this one thing is refuse, food for dogs, not something for us Christians.

B. Expound thinking the one thing being for the church life.

In Philippians 2 Paul was encouraging the Philippians to think the one thing and to be one in soul. The one thing is not merely the objective Christ but the subjective experience of Christ as our enjoyment for the church life. This one thing should occupy our mind all the time. We should constantly be thinking about how to experience Christ as our rich enjoyment so that we may have the proper church life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound Paul's experience being in the inward parts of the Lord Jesus.

In longing after the saints, the apostle was one with Christ even in the bowels, the tender inward parts, of Christ. This indicates that for Paul to enjoy Christ meant that he was one with Christ's inward parts. Paul took the inward parts of Christ Jesus as his own inward parts in caring for the church. This also means that he took care of the Body of Christ by taking Christ's feeling as his own feeling.

B. Explain Paul's conducts was in the inward parts of the Lord Jesus.

Paul's longing after the saints was in the inward parts of the Lord Jesus; it was his longing in the Lord, in his union with the Lord. During his imprisonment, Paul begot Onesimus through the Spirit. He ran away from his master, committing a crime which could bring the death penalty. While he was in prison at Rome with the apostle, he was saved through him. Now the apostle sends him back with this Epistle to his master.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that we can work out our own salvation because God works within us.

God is mysterious, invisible, and abstract, but He is nonetheless within us. We need to be in fear and trembling lest we miss God. But God is working the willingness into you. He is also working in you for the working out of His good pleasure. He works in and you work out. Thus, there is no need for you to do the work by yourself.

B. Expound our neck being like the tower and the meaning of the aspects of the tower.

A tower, first, describes a condition that is opposite to that of a hunchback. In the Bible, hunchbacks are bound by Satan to face the earth all the time. Second, a tower also means strength. The maiden's will has been strengthened by God to the point that she is no longer affected by Satan. Third, "your neck is like the tower of David" [S. S. 4:4]. The maiden's will has been brought into complete submission to David.

Day 6 —

A. Why do we say that we are building the Ark today?

Noah worked with God and for God. What he worked on and entered into was just God's salvation, the ark. We should have a present and practical Christ whom we can enter into. And we should work together with God on Christ. Christ is our ark, and in the local churches we are building up this ark.

B. Explain though we are saved, yet we still need to work out our own salvation.

Although we have been saved, we still need to work out our salvation. Today we are in the passage of God's salvation. The more Noah built the ark, the greater more he passed through God's salvation. Eventually, he entered into what he worked out. The very Christ whom we are building up will become our future salvation. One day under God's sovereignty we will enter into the very Christ whom we have built up.

### III. Conclusion:

God is now operating in us both the willing inward and the working outward for His good pleasure. Because God's operation moves us inwardly, we only need to cooperate with Him to work out our salvation, to save us from this present age. In order to have the proper church life, we must not only stand on the ground of oneness, but also, like Noah's whole household, build an ark to save ourselves from the present evil generation to bring us into a new age. We need this kind of salvation; it is not established by God directly, but by our daily cooperation with His inner operation. This is the revelation of God today.