

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Ten : Glory and Glorification as Revealed in the Gospel of John

I. Overview :

Glory is an attribute of God; glory is the expression of God. The glory of God is intrinsically related to the economy of God. God's eternal goal is to bring His many sons into glory. The all-inclusive Christ dwells in us as the hope of glory. The goal of God's organic salvation, and the last stage of this salvation, is glory—our glorification. The glory of God will be manifested in the coming kingdom. This is the subject of the Lord's prayer in John 17; the Lord Jesus prayed that we would enter into the highest stage of oneness—the oneness in the divine glory for the corporate expression of the Triune God. In this aspect of oneness the believers, their self having been fully denied, enjoy the glory of the Father as the factor of their perfected oneness and thus express God in a corporate, built-up way. It is by the church that the Son will be glorified. The oneness in John 17 is for the Father's glorification in the Son; this oneness is actually the divine glorification. In the divine glorification the Triune God is glorified in humanity.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound man having sinned, falling short of God's glory.

Man was made by God in His image that man might express Him for His glory. But man has sinned and has contradicted the holiness and righteousness of God. Instead of expressing God, man expresses sin and his sinful self. Hence, man falls short of God's glory. This falling short of God's glory and expression is sin. Sinners are not only under the requirements of God's holiness and righteousness but also under the demand of God's glory. All have offended God's holy being and have broken God's righteous law, and all are short of God's glory. Therefore, all are under God's condemnation.

B. Explain the propitiation place in Exodus 25:17.

The propitiation place is typified in Exodus 25:17 by the sin-covering lid on the Ark. The Ark was the place where God met with people. In the Ark was the law of the Ten Commandments, which by its holy and righteous requirement exposed and condemned the sins of the people who came to contact God. However, by the lid of the Ark, with the expiating blood sprinkled on it on the Day of Expiation, the entire situation on the sinner's side was fully covered. Therefore, upon this sin-covering lid God could meet with the people.

Day 2 —

A. Why can Christ be our hope of glory?

Christ can be our hope of glory because He dwells in our spirit to be our life and our person. According to Colossians 3:4, when Christ our life is manifested, we shall be manifested with Him in glory. He will appear to be glorified in our redeemed and transfigured body. This will cause our body to be transfigured.

B. Explain that believers are being transformed into God's glory.

God created us as His vessels to contain Him and express Him. God makes known the riches of His glory upon us, His vessels, which He has prepared unto glory. We were predestinated by His sovereignty to be His containers, vessels of honor, to express what He is in glory. This will be fully revealed in the New Jerusalem.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the Lord, living on the earth, to seek the glory of God.

As One who lived a restricted life, a life restricted from doing things for self, the Lord sought the glory of God for God's satisfaction. In John 7:16-

18 we see that the Lord did not seek His own glory, in that He did not speak from Himself. Rather, He sought the glory of the One who sent Him.

When the Lord spoke God's word, God was expressed through His speaking.

B. Expound that Christ was glorified by the Father with the divine glory in His resurrection.

John 7:39b says, “The Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.” This refers to His resurrection (v. 46), which brought Him into glory. For Christ to enter into His glory, into His glorification, was for Him to enter into His resurrection. This means that He was glorified in His resurrection. His resurrection was His glorification.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the Lord’s glory being seen by the three disciples on the mountain.

John along with Peter and James, beheld the Lord’s glory when He was transfigured on the mountain. His transfiguration was a glorification. In Christ’s transfiguration on the mountain, while He was living in His humanity, the glory of His divinity was manifested for a glimpse to His disciples. Peter refers to this in 2 Peter 1:17 that this voice we heard being borne out of heaven while we were with Him in the holy mountain.

B. State the process of the Lord being glorified.

The Son was God incarnated, and His flesh was a tabernacle for God’s dwelling on earth. His divine element was confined in His

humanity, just as God’s shekinah glory was concealed within the tabernacle. Now He was going to pass through death that the concealing shell of His humanity might be broken for His divine element to be released. Thus, the Father would be glorified in Him.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the three grounds of the believers’ oneness.

The first ground of the believers’ oneness is regeneration, receiving the life of the Father, and the second ground is sanctification, being separated from everything other than God to God Himself. The third ground is the oneness in the manifestation of the divine glory. After we have been separated from the world, we must live, through the denying of ourselves, by Christ as our life.

B. Expound becoming one in the divine glory.

If we would be one in the divine glory, we must forsake and forget ourselves. It must be no longer I but Christ who lives in me. The “I” has been crucified, and the self must be denied that Christ may live in us. We must not only renounce the world but also ourselves. We must not live by our own life but by the life of glory, the divine life.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship the main point of the Lord’s message in John 14 through 16.

The main point of the Lord’s message in John 14 through 16 is that the Son may be glorified so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Before His incarnation Christ as the only begotten Son of God was with the Father in glory. But when He with this glory put on flesh through incarnation, this glory was concealed in His flesh. The divine glory, the expression of the divine life and nature, was therefore confined and concealed within the Lord’s humanity.

B. By what way will the Son be glorified today so that the Father might be glorified in and through the Son?

It is by the church. When the church has been regenerated, sanctified, crucified, and united with Christ in glory, then the Son of God will be expressed and manifested. The Son of God will be glorified in the oneness of the church, and the Father at that time will also be glorified in and through the Son.

III. Conclusion:

From generation to generation, the Son of God has been glorified and is still being glorified. What are we doing today? If we say that we are gathering together to exhibit Christ, it means that we are glorifying Christ and making Him manifest. If we say that we are testifying for the Lord, it means that we are allowing Christ to be manifested through us. The testimony of the Lord is that the Lord is being manifested and glorified through us. If we want to testify for the Lord Jesus in our work, school, or many other places, it means that we want the Lord Jesus to be manifested through us. This is the glorification of the Lord. When the Lord is manifested and glorified through us, the Father is also glorified in the Lord. Therefore, the prayer of the Lord in John 17 is still being fulfilled through the church today.