

**Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**  
**Message Four: Becoming a Reproduction of Christ and Experiencing Christ as the Shepherd of Our Souls**

**I. Overview:**

The living of the Lord Jesus under the government of God is a model so that we may follow in His steps by becoming His reproduction. The Greek word for model in 1 Peter 2:21 denotes a master copy for students to use in tracing letters. The New Testament reveals that Christ is formed in us, lives in us, and makes His home in our hearts, we become a reproduction of Christ for the corporate expression of God. As the Shepherd of our souls, the pneumatic Christ oversees our inward condition, caring for the situation of our inner being. As the Shepherd of our souls, Christ restores our soul that we are revived, including renewing and transforming. As the Shepherd of our souls, the Lord gives rest to our soul. The Lord calls those who are striving to keep the law or struggling in any work to come to Him for rest. To take the Lord's yoke is to take the will of the Father to make a rest for our souls. Regarding Christ, our taste is mainly with our soul; in order to have the enjoyment of Christ, we need the Lord to shepherd every part of our soul, especially our mind.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound the meaning of the word model in 1 Peter 2:21.

Literally, the Greek word model in 1 Peter 2:21 means a writing-copy, an underwriting for students to use in tracing letters. In ancient times teachers would write letters on writing material, and those letters became a master copy. Another piece of writing material was put upon the master copy. Then the children would practice writing by tracing the letters onto their copies. The Lord Jesus has set His life before us as an underwriting for us to copy by tracing and following His steps.

B. Explain the difference between imitation and reproduction.

We know from experience that trying to imitate Christ does not work. We are not able to imitate Him. What we need is not imitation, but reproduction. Outwardly Christ is our model, and inwardly He is our person, living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in us. Through this process we become a reproduction of the original of Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Expound Christ being the One who lives within the believers so that they may live Him.

Christ is not only our life; He as a person lives in us. All Christians need to realize that we have another person—Christ—living in us. We need to see the vision that the very One who died on the cross to redeem us is now living within us. We should take Him as our person and live Him.

B. Explain the words in John 14:19, and how to experience it.

Before His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus, in John 14:19, said to the disciples, "Because I live, you also shall live". Christ lives in us by causing us to live with Him. Christ does not live alone; He lives in us and with us. He lives in us by enabling us to live with Him.

Day 3 —

A. Fellowship the words in Galatians 4:19

Christ was born into the Galatian believers, but not formed in them when they were regenerated through Paul's preaching the gospel to them the first time. The apostle then travailed again that Christ might be formed in them. His preaching was to bring forth Christ, the Son of the living God, in the believers. Paul's preaching was emphatically Christ-centered.

B. Explain the significance of the Christ being formed in us.

Paul's word about Christ being formed in us implies that we are being constituted of Christ. To have Christ formed in us is a living, organic matter.

The word formed in Galatians 4:19 corresponds to the word image in 2 Corinthians 3:18, where Paul tells us that we are being transformed into Christ's image. Christ must be formed in us so that we may express Him by being in His image.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the Lord as our soul's Shepherd and Overseer in I Peter 2:25.

Christ was our Redeemer in His death on the tree. Now He is our soul's Shepherd and Overseer in the resurrection life within us. Our soul is our inner being, our real person. Our Lord, as the Shepherd and Overseer of our soul, shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our real person.

B. Explain Psalm 23:3, "He restores my soul..."

In the second stage of His shepherding, Christ restores (revives and transforms) our soul and guides us (to walk according to the spirit) on the paths of righteousness (to fulfill the requirement of righteousness. To be righteous, that is, to be right with persons, matters, and things before God according to His righteous and strict requirements, we need to be revived and transformed in order to be proper and balanced in our soul.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that anyone who toils is always heavily burdened in Matthew 11:28.

Matthew 11:28 refers not only to the toil of striving to keep the commandments of the law and religious regulations but also to the toil of struggling to be successful in any work. Whoever toils thus is always heavily burdened. Rest refers not only to being set free from the toil and burden under the law or religion or under any work or responsibility, but also to perfect peace and full satisfaction.

B. Expound the Lord leaving you a model in Matthew 11:29

To take the Lord's yoke is to take the will of the Father. It is not to be regulated or controlled by any obligation of the law or religion or to be enslaved by any work, but to be constrained by the will of the Father. The Lord lived such a life, caring for nothing but the will of His Father. He submitted Himself fully to the Father's will (Matt. 26:39, 42). Hence, He asks us to learn from Him.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the way to enjoy Christ.

In order to enjoy Him, we need to deal with every part of our soul, especially with our mind. If our way of thinking is dealt with, we will have the proper taste for Christ, and we will both experience Him and enjoy Him. Whether or not we enjoy the food we eat depends upon our taste. Concerning Christ, our taste is mainly with our soul.

B. Fellowship how the Lord was the Shepherd to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Sometimes the Lord shepherds us in the same way that He shepherded the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We also may speak to Him in a nonsensical way or ask Him nonsensical questions. We may even rebuke Him, and He may pretend not to know what we are talking about. Many of us can testify of having the Lord Jesus shepherd us in this way.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Sometimes the Lord shepherds us, just as He did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We may speak nonsense to Him or ask Him absurd questions. Many of us can testify to having experienced such shepherding from the Lord Jesus. He is the life-giving Spirit who dwells within us and is our shepherd in our experiences. The life of Christ, as revealed in the four Gospels, is the original used in the process of spiritual reproduction. In the process of spiritual reproduction, the Spirit of Christ is the light, and the richness of the divine life is the essence of the ink. We are the copies of the original that will be made on the paper. Day by day, as we live out Christ, we are under the process of spiritual reproduction. As a result, others can read Christ in us because we will become the letter of Christ.