

**Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**  
**Message Seven : Entering through the Narrow Gate and Walking on the Constricted Way That Leads to Life, the Ever-blessed Condition of the Kingdom**

**I. Overview:**

In the decree of the kingdom's constitution, Christ displayed the two possible ways of people's life and work before God—"Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it. Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life. We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life. The God-ordained pathway for the church is the way of Philadelphia; its characteristic is their brotherly love. The Lord's using the key of David to open the door for us to be transformed and built into the house of God as a pillar. The overcomers in Philadelphia keep the Lord's word, and do not deny the Lord's name. The Laodicea is a distorted Philadelphia; the characteristics of Laodicea are lukewarmness and spiritual pride. Here the overcomer is to overcome the lukewarmness and pride of the degraded recovered church, to pay the price to buy the needed items, and to open the door so that the Lord can come in; to sit with the Lord on His throne will be a prize to the overcomer.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain that the growth of the tree is according to the principles of life.

Trees do not grow in a miraculous way. Their growth is according to the principles of life. God ordained these principles. We are being trained in the God-ordained way revealed in the Bible. The God-ordained way is to have a living and a working that are always narrowed and constricted. In the spiritual field there is no broad way. The way in the spiritual field is always constricted.

B. Expound concerning the meaning of the trimming in John 15.

In the spiritual realm we need the trimming. A miracle is not mentioned in John 15 concerning the bearing of fruit, but trimming is strongly referred to by the Lord. Are you going to bring forth fruit? You need to be trimmed, pruned. To be trimmed is to be constricted. The fruit of life does not come by means of a miracle. We need to see that the more we are constricted, the more we are regulated. The more we are regulated, the more we are healthy.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the Bible having two lines.

The Bible has two lines—the line of the tree of life and the line of the tree of knowledge. These two lines began at the book of Genesis and continue through the subsequent books of the Bible until they reach their destination. The destination of the line of life will be the New Jerusalem, where the tree of life appears once again. The line of knowledge will conclude with the lake of fire, a vivid contrast to the city of New Jerusalem.

B. Explain what is the way that we live and work.

As redeemed people we are surely on the right line, the line of life. However, it is possible that our walk and our work—that is, the way we live and work for God—might be on the wrong line. The Bible firstly warns people to stay away from the line of knowledge and remain on or return to the line of life. Paul warns us to walk in the Spirit. Otherwise, everything we do will be consumed by fire.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the characteristic of the church in Philadelphia.

Phil means "love" and adelphia means "brotherly." Philadelphia means "brotherly love." The characteristic of Philadelphia is brotherly love. Here is a return to brotherly love. There is no worldliness here because all are brothers. There is no need to struggle to separate oneself from death. It is a return to the original state of brotherhood. Here we find brotherly love.

B. Explain the meaning of "a little power".

Many times we estimate the church in Philadelphia too highly, thinking that this church was strong and prevailing. Actually, it was not so. The Lord said that she had "a little power." What pleases the Lord is not that we are strong but that we use our little power to do the best we can. Do not try to be strong. You can never surpass what the Lord gives you.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the key of David in an objective and subjective ways of applying.

In Revelation 3:7, the key is used by the Lord to open the door for His recovered church. Today it is also used by the Lord for us, the seekers and lovers of the Lord in His recovery, to have an opened door not only for the spread of the recovery in an objective way but also for us to become a white stone and pillars that are built into the temple of God and bear three names—the name of God, the name of the city of God, and the Lord’s new name.

B. Explain the pillars of the temple bearing three names.

The name of My God indicates that the pillar is God; the name of the city of My God indicates that the pillar is the New Jerusalem; and My new name indicates that the pillar is Christ in a new significance. The overcomer as a pillar becomes God (in life and in nature but not in the Godhead), the New Jerusalem, and Christ in a new experiential sense.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Laodicea being a distorted Philadelphia.

As soon as Philadelphia becomes degraded, the “brothers” become the “many people,” and its “brotherly love” becomes “the opinions of the many.” When brotherly love is lost, the Body relationship is lost. The fellowship of life is cut off as well, leaving only the opinion of men. The opinion of the Lord is lost, and the only things left are the vote of the majority, ballots, and the show of hands. Once Philadelphia falls, it becomes Laodicea.

B. Describe the condition of the Laodicea.

Revelations 3:15, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot”. Verse 17 says, “Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.” In the eyes of the Lord, the spiritual pride comes from history.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that the Lord counseled the church in Laodicea to buy white garments that they may be clothed.

The Lord counseled the church in Laodicea to buy white garments clothed that the shame of their nakedness may not be manifested. In figure, garments signify conduct. White garments here signify conduct that can be approved by the Lord. Such conduct is the Lord Himself lived out of the church. These white garments are not Christ as our objective righteousness for justification. Rather, the white garments are Christ as our subjective righteousness.

B. Explain the Lord also counseled the church in Laodicea to buy an eyesalve from Him.

The eyesalve anoints their eyes that they may see. The eyesalve needed to anoint their eyes must be the anointing Spirit, who is also the Lord Himself as the life-giving Spirit. Because she has been distracted by the dead knowledge of letters, the degraded recovered church also needs this kind of eyesalve for her blindness. With this eyesalve, this anointing, we may have both foresight and deep insight to see things thoroughly.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The Lord has only one requirement for the church in Philadelphia, that is to hold fast what you have. You must continue in what you have done. What you have done is blessed by God, and you must continue to do it. What Philadelphia overcome is in not losing what they have already gained. The characteristic of the church in Philadelphus is to have kept the Lord’s word and to have not denied the Lord’s name. Do not let your guard down on either of these two matters. There is only one path for the Lord, and that is the path of Philadelphia. Follow this path! But be careful not to become proud. Once you take the path of Philadelphia, the greatest temptation is pride. Such as “I am better than you, my truth is clearer and more profound than yours, and ours only have the name of the Lord unlike yours. Pride will immediately lead you to Laodicea. Following the Lord does not involve pride. Those who are proud are cast out by the Lord. We need to pray for mercy. People should refrain from speaking prideful words.