

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message 12 : The Inward Recovery by Life for the Carrying Out of God's Economy

I. Overview :

The judgment on Edom is repeated indicates the judgment on the old man must be repeated again and again, until the day of the redemption of our body. For the inward recovery of His people, God acts on behalf of His holy name. God applies His judicial redemption to them for their being cleansed with the precious blood of Christ, and His organic salvation to give them a new heart loving Him and a new spirit receiving Him contacting Him, putting His Spirit within them. As a result of the inward recovery, the desolate and waste places will become like the garden of Eden. The Lord has promised to increase us, filling the waste cities "with flocks of men", but we still need to inquire of Him, asking Him to do what He desires to do.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Why does it still need of God's judgment upon Edom in the process of recovery?

Because the old man is very difficult to deal with, the judgment upon Edom, the old man, must be repeated. The judgment upon Ammon, Moab, Tyrus, Zidon, and Egypt may be once for all, but the judgment upon Edom cannot be once for all. On the contrary, Edom, our old man, must be judged repeatedly until the day of the redemption of our body.

B. What are the two aspects of recovery we need?

The genuine recovery of the Lord is not simply a matter of repenting, turning to the Lord, and enjoying the blessing of the Lord. There also needs to be a change in our life and nature. In His recovery, God needs to touch our heart and our spirit and to change us in life and nature. Therefore, we need both the outward recovery described in Ezek. 34 and the inward recovery described in Ezek. 36.

Day 2 --

A. How can we say that God acts on behalf of His holy name in His recovery?

Here we see that in recovering His people, God acts on behalf of His holy name. The inward recovery of life is carried out by God for the sake of His name. Many of us can testify that we have been recovered and revived not because of any merit in ourselves but because God did something in us for His own name.

B. What are the two categories of dirty things the Lord washes us from?

The two categories are the filthiness and the idols. Filthiness also includes hating others, doing wrong to others, and indulging in worldly amusements. The Lord's blood as the clean water washes us from all our filthiness. We also had many idols though we were saved. Anything that we love more than the Lord is an idol, for example, we may desire fame or may want to make a name for ourselves. All these things are idols. We need the Lord's redeeming blood to cleanse us not only from all our filthiness but also from all our idols.

Day 3 --

A. Explain that the Lord, by recovery of life, gives us a new heart and a new spirit.

Our heart is our loving organ, and our spirit is our receiving organ. While we are in a fallen state, our heart toward the Lord is hard, and our spirit is deadened. When the Lord saves us, making our stony heart a heart of flesh, enlivening and renewing our spirit with His divine life. As a result, we can love the Lord and contact, contain Him by our spirit.

B. Expound what is a pure heart?

A pure heart is to have a heart with a single motive. When God deals with our heart, He deals with these four aspects so that our heart may be soft, pure, loving, and at peace. To be soft means that the will of the heart toward God is yielding. A pure heart means a heart that sets its mind specifically on God. A loving heart means a heart in which the emotion loves God. A heart at peace means a heart in which the conscience has no offense, no condemnation or reproach.

Day 4 --

A. What does it reveal in Zechariah 12:1?

Zechariah 12:1 reveals that our human spirit is ranked with the heavens and the earth. The heavens are for the earth; the earth is for man; and man has a spirit to contact God. Our human spirit is important in our contacting God, and our contacting God is our worship to God. We cannot contact God without worshipping Him.

B. What is the best way to use our spirit to contact the Lord?

The best way to use our spirit to contact the Lord is to call, "O Lord Jesus!" When we exercise our spirit in this way, we have the sense of something moving deep within our being. That something is our spirit. Satan, in his subtlety, has hidden this matter of the human spirit from most Christians. If we do not exercise our spirit, we cannot be proper Christians.

Day 5 --

A. What is the meaning of the Lord putting His Spirit within us?

We see that the Lord said not only that He will give us a new heart and a new spirit but that He will put His Spirit within us, putting His Spirit into our spirit. We should not neglect our spirit, because our spirit is the vessel which contains the divine Spirit. We need to realize that the Holy Spirit is in our regenerated human spirit.

B. Expound that the law of the Spirit of life is the subject of Romans 8.

Life is the content and issue of the Spirit, and the Spirit is the ultimate and consummate manifestation of the Triune God. The law that has freed us from the law of sin is of this Spirit of life. This law of the Spirit of life is the spontaneous power of the Spirit of life. Such a spontaneous law works automatically under the condition that fulfills its requirements.

Day 6 --

A. What is the recovery of the good land spoken in Ezek. 36?

The recovery of the good land spoken in Ezek. 36, that is, the restoration of the full enjoyment of the riches of Christ. Whenever we backslide and become fallen, we lose the rich enjoyment of Christ. Christ Himself is rich, but we may lose the enjoyment of His riches. We praise the Lord that in His recovery there is the restoration of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ.

B. How would the Lord increase the number of the house of Israel?

Here the Lord promised that He would bring in flocks of people. Although He has promised to do this, we still need to inquire of Him. This means that we need to pray for the

increase. We should not say that numbers do not mean anything, rather pray that the Lord will give us the increase and that He will bring in flocks of men.

III. Conclusion :

For the inward recovery by life, negatively God must judge our old man and positively applies His judicial redemption to us for our being cleansed with the precious blood of Christ. The Lord has given us a new heart to love Him; our heart needs to be soft, pure, loving, and at peace. The Lord gave us a new spirit to contact Him; we must exercise to call on the name of the Lord, pray-read His word, rejoice always, pray unceasingly, give thanks in everything, not quench the Spirit, and not despise prophesying. Lastly, the Lord has promised to increase the house of Israel with men like a flock. The key is whether our church life can become like the garden of Eden, which is delightful, attractive, supplied, satisfied, that the Lord will make us having a true love among one another and the church life will be full of mingling, cherishing, and shepherding in humanity.