

Message Two

The Practice of Prophesying for the Building Up of the Church as an Exceedingly Great Army

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 37:4-10; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Acts 5:20; 6:4

Outline

Day 1

- I. Prophesying (speaking for the Lord and speaking forth the Lord into one another) in the meetings of the church fulfills the greatest prophecy in the Bible, which is to build up the church (in oneness as an exceedingly great army)—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Ezek. 37:4-10.**
- II. We need to live a prophesying life by loving the Lord to the uttermost:**
 - A. The more we love the Lord, the more we are qualified, perfected, and equipped to speak for the Lord.*
 - B. Our love for the Lord is the factor, the element, and the very basic essence of our having the authority and impact and of our being powerful in our speaking for the Lord (Peace Wang is an example of this—see *Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ*, pp. 33-34).*
 - C. If we love the Lord, we will be filled with Him; whatever fills us within will come out of us; the overflow comes from the infilling—John 7:37-39; Rev. 2:4-5; cf. Mal. 3:14 and footnote.*
 - D. When we love the Lord to the uttermost, we must speak; we*

must release the One who has filled us within—1 Cor. 2:9-10.

Day 2

III. By taking the way of PSRP (pray-reading, studying, reciting, and prophesying), we will be able to nourish people with the unsearchable riches of Christ:

- A. Pray-reading is a very important part of PSRP; we study the Bible by pray-reading the Bible.*
- B. Prophesying requires a lot of prayer—Acts 6:4; cf. Heb. 7:25; 8:2:*
 - 1. To pray is not only to entreat the Lord to do things for His move but also to cause our spirit to be exercised and strengthened.
 - 2. Hence, prayer should precede the ministry of the word, just as the apostles practiced; without such prayer the ministry of the word will not be enlivened and empowered—cf. John 7:37-39; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3; 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.
 - 3. “This is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15; cf. Matt. 7:7); these verses are an encouragement to pray back to the Lord the things that are according to His will in the Bible, His testament, His covenant.

IV. The opening and closing words of the prophesying meetings are very important:

- A. Both the opening and closing words should be approximately five to eight minutes long.*
- B. The opening word ensures that the meeting starts in a strong way with a definite direction and burden from the Lord.*

- C. *The closing word ensures that the meeting does not end in emptiness and that the meeting concludes with the fullness of the supply of reality, so that the saints are filled with the pleasantness of the Lord's presence and the satisfaction of the Lord's words of spirit and life (John 6:63); never let a meeting end in emptiness and without the supply of reality.*
- D. *We must compose our prophecy with the main points and the subpoints—cf. Deut. 17:18-20 (see footnote 1 on verse 18).*
- E. *What the Lord is mainly concerned with in the prophesying meeting is not the quantity of saints who share but the quality of what they share—Rev. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:12.*
- F. *On the day of the prophesying meeting, we should prepare our being for the meeting (focusing on what we will prophesy) and not be distracted by other things, even spiritual things.*

Day 3

V. We must see the three constituting elements of prophesying—cf. Acts 5:20; 1 Tim. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; 1 John 1:3; Acts 4:20; 22:15:

- A. *We must possess knowledge of the Word of God—the human element of learning.*
- B. *We must have the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit—the divine element of inspiration.*
- C. *We must have a vision concerning God's interest and economy, concerning the church as the Body of Christ, concerning the local churches, concerning the world, concerning the individual saints, and even concerning ourselves—the view through the enlightening of the divine light:*

1. In beseeching the saints to walk worthily of God's calling, Paul spoke from his status as a prisoner of Christ Jesus and a prisoner in the Lord—Eph. 3:1; 4:1.
2. Sooner or later, every steward of God, every minister of God's riches, every faithful lover of Christ, will be imprisoned not only by Christ but also in Christ; the more we love Him, the more we will be in Him to such an extent that He will become our prison for us to enjoy Him to the uttermost so that we may have a walk that is worthy of God's calling.
3. The more freedom we have, the more blind we are, but if Christ is our prison, our eyes will be opened to see the heavenly vision, and we will receive the highest revelation of God's economy—3:9; Acts 26:19.

Day 4

VI. We must learn and be perfected to organically prophesy (to speak the Lord into others) with the constituting elements of prophesying for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 14:4b:

- A. *We need to redeem our time and spend our energy to be saturated and soaked with the holy Word to be equipped to prophesy—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ezek. 3:1-4:*
 1. We need to be revived by the Lord every morning by enjoying Him in a portion of the Word:
 - a. The Lord's lovingkindness and compassions are new every morning—Lam. 3:22-23.
 - b. The path of the righteous is like the rising sun—Prov. 4:18; Judg. 5:31; Luke 1:78-79; Mal. 4:2.
 - c. Our inner man is being renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16-18.
 - d. We should anticipate the dawning of the morning with our hope in God's Word, that we might muse upon His word, that is, that we might receive His word

with much reconsideration—Psa. 119:15, 147-148; cf. Lev. 11:3 (see footnote 1 on Psa. 119:15).

- e. We should find God's words and eat them for them to become the gladness and joy of our heart—Jer. 15:16.

Day 5

2. We must study the Word by using the best help to open it, expound it, and release its unsearchable riches—the Life-study messages, the books of the ministry, and the Recovery Version footnotes—Luke 24:27, 31-32, 44-45; Acts 8:30-35.
3. We must read the Bible (“all Scripture is...profitable” and man shall “live... on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God”) regularly from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 (2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 4:4).
4. We must write down daily the spiritual enlightenment, inspiration, and enjoyment received from the Lord in His Word and at the end of the week put these points together to compose a prophecy of no longer than three minutes to speak in the church meeting.
5. The knowledge of the Word becomes the constant element for our prophesying.

B. We must be ready in the spirit to receive the instant inspiration of the Spirit:

1. The spirits of the prophets are the most preeminent part of their being—1 Cor. 14:32, 37a.
2. Whenever we speak for the Lord, we must exercise our spirit to speak with the Spirit and with Christ as all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge—Acts 7:10; Isa. 11:2; 2 Chron. 1:10.
3. We must pray ourselves into God to receive the unsearchable riches of the Holy Spirit in order to be fed ourselves so that we can feed those under our care—Luke 11:1-13.

4. We must abide in fellowship with the Lord by walking according to our spirit, serving in our spirit, ministering the Spirit, and serving by the Spirit of God—1 John 1:6-7; Rom. 8:4; 1:9; 2 Cor. 3:6; Phil. 3:3; cf. Zech. 4:6.
5. The Lord Jesus, as today's Moses and Elijah, is the real Prophet in our spirit, speaking for God and speaking forth God within His believers—Acts 3:22; 2 Tim. 4:22.
6. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the instant element for our prophesying.

Day 6

C. We must have a clear view with the insight to see through all things in all situations through the enlightening of the divine light:

1. We can receive revelation only in our spirit—Eph. 1:17; Rev. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10.
2. We must have not only the dove's eyes (S. S. 1:15) but also, and even more, eyes like pools (7:4):
 - a. Dove's eyes signify the insight and realization of the Spirit—1 Cor. 2:11-12.
 - b. Eyes like pools signify the enlarged and broadened vision full of light to cover the whole universe.
3. We must have a clear view of the entire universe to see the real situation of the world, of the churches, of our fellow believers, and of ourselves.
4. We must have the heavens opened to us to see visions of God by receiving the express word of the Lord (special, fresh, and vivid words that convey divine revelation) with the hand of the Lord upon us—Ezek. 1:1-3:
 - a. The hand of the Lord follows the word of the Lord; if what one ministers is truly God's word, God's almighty hand will follow to accomplish what He speaks.
 - b. God's hand upon man is also for leading man and for causing one to take action (cf. 1 Kings 18:46); after the Lord's hand came down upon Ezekiel, he did not

act according to his own choice but according to the leading and directing of the Lord's hand.

VII. We must speak with the constituting elements of prophesying—speaking what we have seen and heard with the living words of this life under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with His enlightenment—1 John 1:3; Acts 22:13-15; 5:20:

A. Prophesying is a miraculous normality:

1. It is normal because it requires us to learn the Word and be trained to speak.
2. It is miraculous because it is speaking with the divine element, the divine light, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

B. To prophesy is to have the oracles of God (God's speaking, God's utterance, that conveys divine revelation)—1 Pet. 4:11; cf. 1 Cor. 14:24-25.

C. When we have the human learning of the Word, the divine inspiration of the Spirit, and the clear view, we will be able to prophesy.

D. Prophesying is always composed of the living words of this life, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the clear view through the enlightening of the divine light.

E. What a great thing it is that "he who prophesies builds up the church"—v. 4b!

WEEK 2 – DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Cor. 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

We must endeavor to have church meetings with many speaking and without speaking by only one person. Some of us, however, still like to be spectators in the meetings. All of us should get ourselves prepared to speak in any meeting that we attend.... The practice of Christianity has annulled the functions of the members of the Body of Christ and has choked them. This practice has delayed the Lord's return....But we must realize that the truth overcomes. Nothing in this universe can do anything against the truth. We need to labor in the scriptural way with endurance.... Eventually, what we have been speaking concerning the scriptural way of meeting and serving for the building up of the Body of Christ will be very prevailing on this earth. The Lord has to fulfill His word. He has to do something on this earth, not to build up Christianity as a kind of "church," an organization, but to build up His Body as an organism. (Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, pp. 30-31)

Today's Reading

There are basically two ways we can take for our meeting life. One way is for us to have a pastor, or a minister, speak to us every Sunday morning. Another way is for all of us to speak in the meetings. Which way is better? We all know which way is better because we have tasted it to a certain extent. If the way of everyone speaking is better, then we must desperately endeavor to build up a habit of speaking in every meeting. The way of everyone speaking is undoubtedly better, but this way depends on something.

For the God-ordained way, the biblical way, the new way, we all need, first of

all, to love the Lord. In John 21 the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter told the Lord, “You know that I love You.” Then the Lord answered, “Feed My lambs,” and “Feed My sheep” (vv. 15, 17). To speak is not only to edify or to teach but also to feed the lambs and to feed the sheep. If we are going to feed the Lord’s sheep, we have to speak. Without speaking, how could we feed any Christian? For us to feed the Lord’s sheep, we must love Him. We should tell the Lord, “Lord, I love You, so I like to speak You forth to others.” The more we love Him, the more we are qualified, equipped, and even perfected to speak.

[The] young lady [who preached the gospel to me], who was only twenty-five years old, loved the Lord to the uttermost. That was her motive. Her love for the Lord was the factor, the element, and the very basic essence of her being powerful. The message she released was from the book of Exodus. She told the audience that Egypt typified the world and that all the worldly people were under the tyranny of Satan just as the children of Israel were under the tyranny of Pharaoh. She said that we had to be delivered out of this tyranny and that this was our exodus. When I heard this near the beginning of her message, I said to myself that I would not be under Satan’s tyranny any more. Because this young sister loved the Lord to the uttermost, she had the Lord’s authority, and the impact was in her gospel preaching.

If we love the Lord, we surely will be filled with Him. Whatever fills us within will come out of us. The overflow comes from the infilling. When we love the Lord, He will fill us. From that day in 1925 when I gave my life to the Lord, I loved to study the Bible and to talk to people about Jesus. Because I was filled with the Lord Jesus, I wanted to speak the Lord Jesus. If we are filled with the Lord Jesus, we surely will have something to pour out.... When we love the Lord to the uttermost, we must speak. We must release the One who has filled us within. (Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, pp. 31-34)

Further Reading: Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, ch. 3; Propheying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), otl. 1-3

WEEK 2 — DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

To pray is not only to entreat the Lord to do things for His move but also to cause our spirit to be exercised and strengthened. Hence, prayer should precede the ministry of the word, just as the apostles practiced. Without such prayer the ministry of the word will not be enlivened and empowered. (Acts 6:4, footnote 1)

The Bible was first written, then translated, and finally interpreted and explained. According to our old way, many of us have been listening to messages interpreting the Bible for years, but when we go to contact people, we still do not know what to say. This is why I have shared that we need to follow the pattern of the saints in Taiwan to practice PSRP—pray-reading, studying, reciting, and prophesying. All of this requires time. Pray-reading cannot be done lightly. Then we need to study the truths word by word, term by term, and phrase by phrase. (The Vital Groups, p. 141)

Today's Reading

In order to be constituted with the truth, we need to pray-read and then study. Pray-reading verses such as John 1:1 and 14 lays a good foundation. Then we can study the crucial points of these verses with the help of the Life-studies. With this help we can find out what grace and reality are. We have to study the truths word by word, term by term, and phrase by phrase. Spontaneously, we will be able to recite what we have pray-read and studied. In addition to our personal study, we also need to study with others. This kind of study cannot be carried out in big

meetings. It can be carried out mutually in vital group meetings of six to not more than ten saints.

We should prophesy with what we can recite; what we can recite is what we have studied; and what we have studied is what we have pray-read. If we do not pray-read, study, or recite, we cannot prophesy. I have encouraged people to prophesy in the Lord's Day meeting, but they still claim that they do not know what to say. Now we have a new way. If we pray-read, study, and recite the points of the outlines released in our crystallization-study of the Word, we will surely prophesy. Who cannot prophesy? Those who do not pray-read the outline, who do not study the outline, and who do not recite the outline. If we practice PSR (pray-reading, studying, and reciting) each day, from Monday through Saturday, we will surely prophesy in the Lord's Day meeting of the church.

The practice of PSRP is not our new way. It was in the Bible already, in Acts 8. The way Philip answered the eunuch and preached Christ to him as the gospel surely indicates that Philip had studied that portion of Isaiah 53, which the eunuch quoted to him, and that he had remembered that portion so that he could preach Christ as the gospel as a kind of prophesying. If he were not familiar with that portion of the holy Word, how could he have preached Christ as the gospel according to that portion? His preaching was a real prophesying of the holy Word with which he had become familiar.

All the members of Christ's Body should be functioning members who speak for the Lord. This is why we need to practice PSRP. We have to pray-read, study, and recite the points we have studied. Then spontaneously our pray-reading, studying, and reciting will become our prophesying. (The Vital Groups, pp. 142-144)

There should be the supply of reality in every meeting. Whenever the supply of reality is lacking, there should always be someone doing his best to make up this lack, to strengthen the supply of the word, and to give a concluding word. (CWWL, 1985, vol. 4, "Meeting to Speak the Word of God," p. 300)

Further Reading: The Vital Groups, msg. 16

WEEK 2 — DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

1 Tim. 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.

Eph. 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles.

The three constituting elements of prophesying [are to]... possess a knowledge of the Word of God—the human element of learning, ...have the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit—the divine element of inspiration, ... [and] have a vision concerning God's interest and economy, concerning the church as the Body of Christ, concerning the local churches, concerning the world, concerning the individual saints, and even concerning ourselves—the view through the enlightening of the divine light. (Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), p. 33)

Today's Reading

In releasing the revelation of God's mystery concerning the church in Ephesians 1 and 2, Paul spoke on the basis of his status as the apostle of Christ through the will of God [1:1]. That status was the authority of his revelation concerning the church. In beseeching the saints to walk worthily of God's calling, he spoke from his status as the prisoner of the Lord. His status as the apostle of Christ qualified him to release God's revelation, whereas his status as the prisoner of the Lord demonstrated his walk in the Lord, by which he could inspire and beseech the saints to walk in the Lord as he did.

Paul considered himself the prisoner of Christ [3:1] because he had been

imprisoned by Christ. Later, in 4:1 he refers to himself as “the prisoner in the Lord.” Christ was Paul’s prison. One day, the very Christ whom you love will become your prison. Sooner or later, every steward of God, every minister of God’s riches, every faithful lover of Christ, will be imprisoned not only by Christ but also in Christ. The more you love Him, the more you will be in Him. Eventually, you will be in Him to such an extent that He will become your prison. Once you are placed in this prison, you will not want to get out, because you will love this prison very much. Here you enjoy Christ to the uttermost.

Everyone who loves the Bible has a high regard for the Epistle to the Ephesians. It would be a great loss for us not to have this book in the New Testament, for Ephesians contains the highest revelation in the Bible. This revelation was given to a man imprisoned in Christ, a man who enjoyed Christ as his prison. This indicates that in order to see something so heavenly and divine, we need to be a prisoner in the Lord. The more freedom we have, the more blind we are. But if Christ is our prison, our eyes will be opened to see the heavenly vision, and we shall receive the highest revelation.

Paul saw this vision on behalf of the saints, for as he says in 3:1, he was a prisoner on behalf of the Gentiles. If we enjoy Christ as our prison, we also shall see a vision not for ourselves, but for the church.

Many Christians read Ephesians again and again without seeing the revelation contained in it because they are not imprisoned in Christ. They are too free, and their freedom makes them blind. But if you are willing to lose your freedom, the vision will come to you. Which do you prefer to have—the freedom or the vision? We all need to pray, “Lord, for the sake of the heavenly vision, I am willing to lose my freedom. Lord, I want to be imprisoned in You. Others may think that I am suffering, but when I am imprisoned in You, I enjoy You to the uttermost.” The enjoyment of being imprisoned in Christ enables us to receive the heavenly revelation. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 242-243)

Further Reading: Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), otl. 4-6; Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 28

WEEK 2 — DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Prov. 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

In order to carry out the New Testament priesthood of the gospel according to the Lord's up-to-date recovery, all of us...need to prophesy for the building up of the church as the organic Body of Christ (1 Cor. 14:3-5). This requires the growth in life and in truth through some particular training.... In order to prophesy, we also need to walk and live under the enlightenment of the divine light. If we are persons always under the light that we may be enabled to know the divine things, we will be able to prophesy. Furthermore, to prophesy we need to be always ready to receive spiritual inspiration in the constant fellowship with the Lord. We need to know the Word, we need to have the growth in life, we need to live under the divine light, and we always need to be ready to receive God's inspiration. Then we will be enabled to prophesy. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, pp. 151-152)

Today's Reading

To carry out the New Testament priesthood of the gospel, we must have a time with the Lord every morning. During this time we should pray-read a few verses of a certain chapter of the Bible. By doing this, we will have some inner feeling which may be called the inner inspiration. We can then write down something to remind us of what we have been inspired with. We need to do this morning by morning for six days, from Monday to Saturday. On Saturday evening we can put all the inspirations that we have received during the past six mornings together and compose something to prophesy for the Lord's Day morning meeting. (The

[In Proverbs 4:18] the light of dawn, the sunrise, signifies Christ in His coming (Luke 1:78; 2 Pet. 1:19). This figure may also signify our being revived every morning. The Christian life is like the dawning of the sun (Judg. 5:31; Matt. 13:43). As Christians we should follow the sun to be revived and to have a new beginning every morning. Then we should continue to rise and shine brighter and brighter until the full day. (Prov. 4:18, footnote 1)

Rich in meaning, the Hebrew word for muse (often translated meditate in the KJV) implies to worship, to converse with oneself, and to speak aloud. To muse on the word is to taste and enjoy it through careful considering. Prayer, speaking to oneself, and praising the Lord may also be included in musing on the word. To muse on the word of God is to enjoy His word as His breath (2 Tim. 3:16) and thus to be infused with God, to breathe God in, and to receive spiritual nourishment. (Psa. 119:15, footnote 1)

Animals that divide the hoof and chew the cud (Lev. 11:3; cf. vv. 4-8, 26-28) signify persons who have discernment in their activities (Phil. 1:9-10) and who receive the word of God with much reconsideration (see footnote 1 on Psa. 119:15). (Lev. 11:3, footnote 1) Every morning we [should] have a good time with the Lord to enjoy Him with a few verses. When we pray-read these few verses, we will be nourished and receive some inspiration. This is very, very basic to our Christian life.... [Practicing this] will enable us to feed the young ones, to go to home meetings and group meetings to help others. Furthermore, as we enjoy the Lord morning by morning in His Word, spontaneously, we will be built up to prophesy.

For us to prophesy...we need to contact the Lord from morning to evening by calling on Him—"O Lord Jesus." Whenever we call, "O Lord Jesus," we have the sensation that Someone is with us.... When we call all day long from morning to evening, we are one with the Lord in a practical way. By this we can realize and experience the fact of being one spirit with Him. As such people who live a prophesying life, our speaking will have the indwelling Spirit as its contents. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, pp. 153, 126)

Further Reading: The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, ch. 8

WEEK 2 – DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Luke 24:27 And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he announced Jesus as the gospel to him.

We can pursue, desire earnestly, and seek to prophesy by learning (1 Cor. 14:31) in the Word of God, in the growth of life, and in our contact with God. First Corinthians 14:31 says that we can all prophesy one by one that all may learn. When we prophesy, others learn. This proves that before we prophesy, we have learned something. We are enabled to prophesy by learning.

If we desire to prophesy, we must learn the holy Word in the Bible.... We need to be soaked in the holy Word so that we can be knowledgeable of the holy Word. In Luke 1 there is a record of the Lord's mother, Mary, visiting Elizabeth. Both of them prophesied to one another. Nearly every clause and every phrase of Mary's prophecy was a quotation from the Old Testament. This proves that Mary as a young woman was very knowledgeable of God's Word....If we do not have the holy Word, we do not have the expressions with which to speak. We may have the feeling and the inspiration within, but we will not have the utterances and the wording. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, p. 120)

Today's Reading

We also learn to prophesy in the growth of life. A person who has only been saved two months should not expect that he will be able to speak that much. In order to do things properly even in our human life, we have to grow. In the spiritual life it is the same.... How much we can prophesy depends upon the degree of our growth in life.

We also learn to prophesy in our contact with God. We have to contact God, to fellowship with God. If we get into the Lord's Word, pursue the growth in life, and keep ourselves in contact with God, we will learn to prophesy.

We are also enabled to prophesy by being perfected by the prophets (Eph. 4:12). There are some among us who can do the prophesying work. We should receive the perfecting from these ones.... We all must have a new start in speaking for the Lord. The gifted ones among us can go to some promising saints to teach them to prophesy. After a number of weeks, a nucleus of saints can be perfected to prophesy by learning.

We should try to adjust what we compose so that we do not speak more than three minutes. If possible it is better to compose a prophecy with the help of someone who can act as a tutor. Two saints may even get together to tutor each other. They can even practice prophesying to each other so that they can adjust one another. In this way we can be ready to prophesy in the Lord's Day morning meeting. In the past, we may not have known what to speak or how to speak, but now we can have something when we come to the meeting. First Corinthians 14:26 tells us that whenever we come together, each one has something. When the time comes for us to speak, we can speak according to what we have labored on. We should not read what we have composed, but we should speak it.

At the beginning, what we speak may not be so organic, but we should try again and again by exercising our spirit. Then we will be brought into an organic situation, and we will improve. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, pp. 121, 152-153)

[We must be] ready in the spirit to receive the instant inspiration of the Spirit.... The spirits of the prophets [are] the most preeminent part of their being (1 Cor. 14:32, 37a).... [We must abide] in fellowship with the Lord by walking according to our spirit.... The Lord Jesus [is] the Prophet in our spirit....The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the instant element for our prophesying. (Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), p. 34)

Further Reading: The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, chs. 7, 10; Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), otl. 6-7

WEEK 2 — DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

S. S. 1:15 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.

7:4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory; your eyes, like the pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim; your nose is like the tower of Lebanon...

Christ appreciates the lover's beauty in looking to Him with a single eye by the Spirit (eyes like doves...). She appreciates His beauty in His pleasantness (S. S. 1:16). (S. S. 1:15, footnote 1)

In Song of Songs 7:4 the Spirit reviews her beauty in her submissive will (neck) wrought by the Spirit's transforming work through sufferings for the carrying out of God's will, in the expression of her heart, which is open to the light, clean, full of rest, and accessible (eyes like pools...), and in her spiritual sense of high and sharp discernment (nose...). (S. S. 7:4, footnote 1)

We must have a heavenly view, a broadened view, a clear view that knows Christ and knows the church, not having our own opinions and viewpoints but rather God's viewpoint concerning His interest on the earth, His Body, the church, the local churches, the individual saints, ourselves, the world situation, the sinners' condition, and God's economy; this heavenly view is gained through God's light, His Word, and the experience of Christ as life and the Spirit. (Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), p. 57)

Today's Reading

The hand of the Lord follows the word of the Lord. If what one ministers is truly God's word, God's almighty hand will follow to accomplish what he speaks. God's hand upon man is also for leading man and for causing one to take action (cf. 1 Kings 18:46). After the Lord's hand came upon Ezekiel, he did not act according

to his own choice but according to the leading and directing of the Lord's hand. (Ezek. 1:3, footnote 5)

The function of the prophets... [is to] speak for the Lord, speak forth the Lord, to dispense, impart, and minister Christ to others, ...not mainly to foretell or to predict.... To prophesy is to speak for God, to speak forth God, and to speak God into others, ... [and] to speak building up, encouragement, and consolation [1 Cor. 14:3]. Prophesying is for the building up of the church, which is the organism of the processed Triune God, in the way of life (1 Cor. 14:4-5). When Christ is spoken into us as building up, encouragement, and consolation and when we are convicted and judged to turn to Christ, Christ is gained by us as nourishment. Encouragement and consolation are a nourishment. To be convicted and judged brings us to Christ. Then we receive Christ and gain Christ. Whenever we gain Christ, the Christ gained by us becomes our support, our supply, and our nourishment, and then we grow. Our growth is the building up of the Body of Christ.

When we prophesy, we speak what is on God's heart, and we speak God's will, God's way, and God's economy. Actually, all the Epistles written by the apostles are books of prophecy, not in the sense of prediction, but in the sense of speaking for God and speaking forth God into people. There are some predictions in the Epistles, but mainly they speak for Christ, speak forth Christ, and speak Christ into people, dispense Christ into people.

Prophesying is also excelling in convicting people, exposing people's real condition, and showing people their spiritual need. When people read the twenty-two Epistles of the New Testament, including the book of Revelation, they are convicted, judged, and all the secrets of their hearts are exposed, especially the evil secrets. Such speaking shows people their real need, not in material things but in spiritual things. This is why we encourage people to read the New Testament. The four Gospels plus the book of Acts may be considered as historical books. The twenty-two Epistles that follow these books are all prophesying. Each Epistle exposes our condition and shows us our real spiritual need in Christ. (The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, pp. 82-83, 109-112)

Further Reading: Prophesying in the Church Meetings for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ (Outlines), otls. 8-10; The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today, chs. 5-6

WEEK 2 — HYMN

Whene'er we meet with Christ endued

Meetings — Exhibiting Christ

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1. When - e'er we meet with Christ en - dued, The sur - plus of His
plen - i - tude We of - fer un - to God as food, And thus ex - hi - bit
Christ. (C) Let us ex - hi - bit Christ, Let us ex - hi - bit
Christ; We'll bring His sur - plus to the church And thus ex - hi - bit Christ.

2. In Christ we live, by Christ we fight,
On Christ we labor day and night,
And with His surplus we unite
To thus exhibit Christ.
3. Our life and all we are and do
Is Christ Himself, the substance true,
That every time we meet anew
We may exhibit Christ.
4. In meetings Christ to God we bear
And Christ with one another share,
And Christ with God enjoying there,
We thus exhibit Christ.
5. The risen Christ to God we bring,
And Christ ascended offering,
God's satisfaction answering,
We thus exhibit Christ.
6. The center and reality,
The atmosphere and ministry,
Of all our meetings is that we
May thus exhibit Christ.
7. The testimony and the prayer,
And all the fellowship we share,
The exercise of gifts, whate'er,
Should just exhibit Christ.
8. The Father we would glorify,
Exalting Christ the Son, thereby
The meeting's purpose satisfy
That we exhibit Christ.

