

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Two : The Continuation of the Book of Acts— Living in the Divine History within Human History

I. Overview:

The Acts of the Apostles is a book without an ending, still being continued as the word of God is still growing and being multiplied also because a group of people who live in the divine history within human history as the acting God. The group of people live by calling on the name of the Lord, suffering on behalf of the name of the Lord, and speaking in the name of the Jesus; they do everything in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body by rejecting themselves, living by God's divine life, by continuing steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word. They live in the divine history of Psalm 68, which shows that Christ is the center of God's move on the earth and the reality of God's activities through the churches.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Which are the two histories showed to us in the book of Joel?

In the book of Joel there are two histories: the history of man and the history of God. We may liken the history of man to the shell of a walnut and the history of God to the kernel within the shell. Although it is easy for us to see the shell, we must have a kind of intrinsic insight in order to see the kernel, to know the divine history within the human history.

B. Explain how the processes are for the manifestation of Christ.

This manifestation began with the incarnation of Christ, by the outpouring of the Spirit, and the individual Christ became the corporate Christ, which is the church as the great mystery of godliness to bring in the age of the millennial kingdom, in which Christ will be manifested in a fuller way. The restoration will consummate in the fullest manifestation of Christ in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.

Day 2 —

A. Explain Acts being a book without ending.

There is one book in the Bible which does not have an end, which is the Acts of the Apostles. When you read Acts 28, you feel as if the book has not yet concluded, is still being continued. Perhaps the acts of the first-century apostles have ended, but the book of Acts as a whole has not yet ended. Until now we still have the Acts not yet ended.

B. What is the vessel God is after today, and how should we be?

God is after the same vessel today that He ordained at the beginning. This vessel is the church. In other words, God is not after an individual vessel today, but a corporate one. We have to learn to live the Body life. For this we have to deny the natural life and be judged and dealt with by God, and learn obedience, fellowship to make us having the chance of becoming God's vessel.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what Revelation 1 says that the churches are golden lampstands.

The churches are golden lampstands because golden lampstands shine and enlighten. God desires the church to be a shining vessel, a vessel of testimony. Hence, the church exists for God's testimony. Anything that is not golden is not the church, and anything that is not a lampstand is not the church. Anything that does not have life within is not the church, and anything that does not have the testimony within is also not the church.

B. Why does the church need the overcomers, and what is the purpose for?

The testimony of the overcomers is for the corporate whole, not for individuals alone. The overcomers are not men who consider themselves extraordinary, put everyone else aside. The overcomers work on behalf of the whole church. They do the work, while the whole church gains the benefit. The overcomers are not for themselves; they stand on the ground of the church, and they are there to bring the whole church to perfection.

Day 4 —

A. Explain Romans 15:16, offering the saved sinners to God as sacrifices.

In the Old Testament the priests offered bulls and goats as sacrifices. God was pleased with that because they were types of the coming Christ. Our work today in the New Testament age is to preach the gospel to save sinners, to make them parts of Christ. When we offer these ones to God, God considers them as parts of Christ. We all need to rise up to be a laboring priest of the gospel.

B. What are the two aspects of Joel's prophecy and its fulfillment concerning God's New Testament jubilee? On God's side, He poured out His Spirit in the ascension of the resurrected Christ; on our side, we call on the name of the ascended Lord, who has accomplished all, attained unto all, and obtained all. Calling on the Lord's name is vitally necessary in order for us, the believers in Christ, to participate in and enjoy the all-inclusive Christ with all He has accomplished, attained, and obtained.

Day 5 —

A. How do we say that Acts should not be separated from the four Gospels?

Acts should be included with the Gospels because these five books together give us a full picture of a universal man. The four Gospels give us a picture of the Head, and the book of Acts shows us the Body. In the four Gospels there is one man, Jesus, originally He was one grain, but now He became many grains, a mass duplication, a mass reproduction. Every one of us is also a part of this mass reproduction.

B. Why do we say that Acts is the acts of Christ by the Spirit in the church?

The book of Acts contains the acts of Christ, not Christ acting in Himself alone but acting by the Spirit in the church. The believers as His Body act in His reproduction and duplication, which is the church, the Body of the universal man. This universal man is the fullness of Christ; therefore, it is a part of Christ, even Christ Himself.

Day 6 —

A. What is the meaning of the sanctification in the Holy Spirit in Romans 15:16?

Paul, as a priest of the gospel of God, ministers Christ to the Gentiles. The saved ones were set apart from things common and were saturated with God's nature and element, and were thus sanctified both positionally and dispositionally. Such a sanctification is in the Holy Spirit. This means that, based on Christ's redemption, the Holy Spirit renews, transforms, and separates unto holiness those who have been regenerated.

B. How does Zebulun become the shore of the evangelists?

Zebulun typifies Christ as the "shore" of the evangelists for the transportation and spreading in the preaching of God's gospel. After Christ accomplished all the things that are to be proclaimed as the gospel, on the day of Pentecost at least 120 gospel "ships," all of whom were Galileans, set out from the "shore" to spread the gospel, which from whom has been spread, preached, and propagated.

III. Conclusion :

The Acts in the sixty-six books of the entire Bible is the only one book that has not yet concluded and still continues. This message is the abstract, the intrinsic significance, and the organic reality of the Acts; it focuses on that a group of people who live in the divine history within the human history as the acting God let the word of God be growing and being multiplied as the continuation of the book of Acts. They lived by calling on the name of the Lord, by steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word, by rejecting themselves, and living by God's divine life in the reality of Body of Christ. They, who are overcomers, experienced of Psalm 68, which Christ ascended to the heavens where He is now reigning. Hope we all believers can participate in it as well.