

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Six: Keeping Ourselves in the One Flow of the Lord's Work for the Spreading of the Church, and Receiving the Lord's Mercy to Be Saved from Satan's Schemes

I. Overview:

The flowing of the divine life, which started on the day of Pentecost and has been flowing throughout all generations to this day, is just one stream for God's goal to build up the church for His corporate expression. The basic principle of the church is that it is eternal and universal, so the church must constantly spread on the earth; the growth of the church and the building up of the church are based on spreading. We must receive His mercy to be saved from Satan's schemes to frustrate the spreading and building up of the church, keeping ourselves in the flow of the age for the building up of His Body. All of us should follow the pattern of the apostle Paul to do the same one work universally for the unique Body.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why's there only one stream the flowing of the divine life, How should we do?

The flowing of the divine life, which started on the day of Pentecost and has been flowing throughout all generations to this very day, is only one stream. From the book of Acts we see that there is only one stream. In reading the history of the church we find that this flowing stream has never been stopped, and we notice that everywhere this stream flowed, it was just one. We have to keep ourselves in this one stream.

B. Explain the divine stream brings material for God's building.

Out of the flowing of the stream come the gold, the pearls, and the precious stones. The picture in Gen.2 these precious substances are for building up God's habitation. Wherever the flowing is, material will be produced for the building of the church. The tabernacle in the Old Testament, on the shoulder pieces and on the breastplate of the high priest were precious stones set in gold; the church is built with gold, silver, and precious stones.

Day 2 —

A. What kind of effect will the church once spreads bring?

Once the church spreads, problems will disappear. Because of the spreading to the household of Cornelius, the Jews expanded their narrow view. Their narrow view, prejudiced hearts, regional concepts, and things not up to the standard of the Body were eliminated. The church was still not fully formed on the day of Pentecost. After the household of Cornelius was saved, however, it was fully formed.

B. What kind of negative things would be brought if the church wouldn't spread?

Because the church is universal, it is also spreading. The most blessed church is the church that spreads the most. If there is a local church that never spreads, it will have more and more problems until it becomes very weak. We must be careful and serious about the spreading of the church, not being loose or careless and using human methods to promote it. We must allow the Lord to work.

Day 3 —

A. Illustrate God's choosing shattering the human concept for God's spreading.

Acts 9 shows God's choosing of Paul, who was chose a person who persecuted Christians and opposed the Lord. Ananias could not understand why the gospel should be preached to Saul. This is the human concept; therefore, God did something to shatter this concept. Our narrow, erroneous human concept needs to be broken and shattered through the spreading of the church. God is able to do this because He wants to spread.

B. What did we see at the church's spreading in Antioch recorded in Acts 13?

The church in Antioch was also part of the story of the church's spreading. The five prophets and teachers recorded in Acts 13 were composed of Jews and Gentiles, each having a different background. This indicates that the church is composed of all races and classes of people, and that the spiritual gifts and functions given to the members of the Body of Christ are not based on their natural status.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the problem of the spread of the church is limited by Judaism.

The believers in Judea were Jews who still kept the traditions of Judaism; they looked at the church from a Jewish viewpoint. The Jews believed that their law, ordinances, and rituals were from God and pertained to piety; therefore, they considered themselves as those best able to keep God's word. Satan used this thought to severely limit the church.

B. Explain workers not being in one accord weakening the spread of the church. Barnabas wanted to take Mark to visit the brothers; Paul didn't feel suitable. An argument arose between them, and this was the work of Satan. The spread of the church was greatly damaged because Barnabas and Paul could not be in one accord. When brothers who are co-workers have a difference of opinion, the spread of the church is limited.

Day 5 —

A. What are the three problems encountered in the spread of the church?

The first problem is outward, the second is between the workers, and the third comes from the self and old human feelings. The church should have spread to Europe much sooner, but these problems delayed its spread. The final problem in the spread of the church is the self, our old feelings and relationships. To break out of them, we need a vision. When we break through the three all, the church spreads.

B. Explain how Paul also once fell into Judaism to limit the spread of the Lord.

When Paul wrote the book of Romans, he was full of care for Rome, and the Holy Spirit wanted him to go. However, he was held back by the inward entanglement of his fleshly relationship to the Jews. Once Paul said, "I could wish that I myself were a curse, separated from Christ for my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh." He had not entirely abandoned his Jewish concepts.

Day 6 —

A. How can we say that Paul learned a deep lesson in Roman prison?

In spite of the inconvenience of his imprisonment, Paul learned a deep lesson and wrote many precious Epistles while in prison. Over the past two thousand years, if the servants of the Lord had always allowed the Holy Spirit to go forward, the church would have matured long ago. If the Holy Spirit has a straight way in us, the spread of the church would not be limited by us in any way.

B. What are today's four kinds of workers?

The first are the co-workers who match the need of the ministry of God in the present age. The second kind are the younger co-workers, who are willing to receive the direction of the older co-workers, to learn in humility. The third kind are those who are unwilling to submit to the senior co-workers, don't belong to the denominations, yet are happy to remain in fellowship with us. The fourth kind are the preachers and free evangelists among the denominations.

III. Conclusion:

In the book "The course of the church", the spread of the church is discussed: "If a local church does not spread, the nature of that church is too low, and it will lose its universal and eternal character. In principle, the church must spread, and the faster, the farther, and the more it spreads, the better. But when we speak of the spread of the church, we must be careful. This spreading is not promoted by human methods, nor is it worked out by human hands. The spreading of the church is brought about by the growth in the Lord's life." Meanwhile, we must receive the Lord's mercy and learn from the lessons, warnings of Barnabas, Apollos, James to be saved from Satan's schemes to frustrate the spreading and building up of the church, keeping ourselves in the flow of the age for the building up of the Body of Christ.