

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Seven : The Spirit of Jesus

I. Overview:

We may experience and enjoy the resurrected and ascended Christ as the Spirit of Jesus. In Acts 16:6-7 the interchangeable use of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Jesus reveals both being the same. The Holy Spirit is a general title of the Spirit and is involved with the Lord's incarnation. The Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression of God and implies the divine elements, the Lord's humanity, human living, death, enduring its sufferings, and the suffering strength to withstand persecution. The Spirit was not yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified in resurrection. The move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel was by the Spirit of Jesus. The Spirit of Jesus is clearly portrayed in the first two chapters of Philippians; chapter 1 is concerned with the fellowship unto the gospel without envy or strife and chapter 2 requires us to be in one spirit with one soul.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. How can the things happen in Acts being the spreading in the Spirit of Jesus?

What is taking place in Acts is the spreading of Jesus as the wonderful Spirit to produce the Body of Christ, which is the church. This wonderful Christ mingled Himself with many human beings, including Peter, John, James, Paul, and believers in the early days. All the believers in the Acts were joined to Christ and made one with Christ as the Spirit.

B. What does the words in Acts 16:6-7 indicate?

These verses say, "They passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." The move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel was not according to their decision and preference but by the Spirit of Jesus.

Day 2 —

A. What does it involve in Acts 16:7 concerning the Spirit of Jesus?

The Spirit of Jesus is not only the Spirit of God with divinity in Him that we may live the divine life but also the Spirit of the man Jesus with humanity in Him that we may live the proper human life and endure its sufferings. Such an all-inclusive Spirit was needed for the apostle's preaching ministry, a ministry of suffering carried out among human beings and for human beings in the human life.

B. Explain what the Holy Spirit implies and what the elements involve.

The title the Holy Spirit was used for the first time at the conception of the Lord Jesus. It was when the time came to prepare the way for Christ's coming and to prepare a human body for Him to initiate the New Testament dispensation that the term the Holy Spirit came into use. This title indicates God's coming into man to be one with man in incarnation. In the New Testament, the title the Holy Spirit indicates that God is now mingling Himself with man.

Day 3 —

A. What elements is the pneumatic Christ constituted of?

After and in His resurrection Christ has become the pneumatic Christ. The pneumatic Christ is identical to the Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who is also the Spirit of Jesus, is the totality of this pneumatic Christ. The pneumatic Christ is constituted of certain elements: incarnation, humanity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension.

B. What a kind of Spirit for Paul being forbidden to speak the word in Asia?

Paul and Silas were forbidden to speak the word in Asia not by the Spirit of God nor by the Spirit of Jehovah, but by the Holy Spirit, who carried out the conception of the Savior. The Spirit was the Spirit of this Jesus. This Spirit is the totality and the full realization of the all-inclusive Jesus. These verses prove that the apostles were moving under the direction and guidance of such an all-inclusive Spirit.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the relationship of John 7:37-39 with the humanity of Jesus.

This Spirit, who is the living water flowing from within us, is constituted of the humanity of Jesus. Without the humanity of Jesus, there could never be such a Spirit. This is made clear by verse 39, which says that the Spirit was not yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified. This proves that the Spirit was constituted with the glorified humanity of Jesus.

B. Why's no human essence the God's Spirit couldn't be the flowing water of life?

Without the human essence the Spirit of God could not be the flowing water of life. If God would be a flowing river of life, He must be constituted with the human nature of Jesus. Before Jesus was resurrected, the Spirit of God was mighty, but He could not be the flowing life in man. If He would flow in man, He required the human nature of Jesus to be added into Him.

Day 5—

A. How can we possess a proper humility in our daily conduct?

We all must be one with Jesus in whatever we do by taking Him as our humanity. If we cannot take His humanity in any course of action, we'd better not do it. I don't mean we should not be a human being. We need the humanity of Jesus, and this humanity is in the Spirit of Jesus. We must be proper human beings by the Lord's humanity.

B. Expound what kind of work we do depends on what kind of Spirit guides us.

Paul was not constituted of the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Jehovah but of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Jesus. As a vessel containing the Triune God, Paul was fully constituted of the Holy Spirit, who was involved with the Lord's incarnation and birth, and of the Spirit of Jesus, who was involved with the Lord's humanity, human living, all-inclusive death, life- imparting resurrection, and ascension.

Day 6 —

A. Why is Philippians 1 very much related to the Spirit of Jesus?

Philippians 1 is concerned with the fellowship unto the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus without envy, strife, or rivalry. It is not simply a matter of clearing the past, consecrating ourselves, or caring for the inner anointing. That is not the way from the Body to the Head. In order to reach the Head of the Body of Christ, we really need by the Spirit of Jesus.

B. How can the Spirit of Jesus make us live out the virtue of Jesus?

It is impossible for us to imitate the Lord Jesus. The standard of His humility is too high for us. Hallelujah, the Spirit of Jesus is in us! By the Spirit of Jesus we can be just as humble as He was. By the Spirit of Jesus we can drop all our opinions and be one in spirit and in soul, and we all can think the one thing and have the same love.

III. Conclusion:

In the land of Africa, there have been many missionaries throughout the ages. Although they have received the Lord's calling and preached gospel with sacrifice, consecration, and labor, yet what they preached was mostly on the miracles expecting God's abilities and longing for good fortune. This message is concerned with the move of the apostle Paul and his co-workers for the spread of the gospel; which they have done was not according to their decision and preference or according to any schedule made by a human council but by the Spirit of Jesus. This Spirit becomes their constitution, then their work will be the expression of this Spirit, and they will do a work for Jesus as the incarnated One with humanity, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Lord's future expansion in Africa and other regions still need us believers to cooperate with Him by the Spirit of Jesus.