

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message One: Experiencing the Central Work of God and Taking Christ as Our Person in and for the Church Life

I. Overview:

God's central work is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on. We cooperate with God's central work by being poor in spirit and pure in heart, seeking the Lord with a single heart, turning to the Lord, caring for the sense of life, being willing to be enlightened, and opening our whole being to the Lord to be filled with God as our content. To take Christ as our person requires that we deny the self, deny our purpose, aim, and preference, letting Christ live in us and make His home in our heart so that we may be filled unto all the fullness of God in order to be the practical manifestation of the church as the Body of Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 --

A. What is the God's unique work in His economy?

God's unique work is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them. God became a man and lived a human life on earth. Then He passed through death and entered into resurrection and ascension, becoming the life-giving Spirit to regenerate our spirit. Now He is working in us to increase Himself in us and to build Himself into us.

B. Why is God's intention to work Himself into you by the preaching of gospel?

God has no intention that you merely preach the gospel or manage a church. God's intention is to work Himself into you through your preaching of the gospel and your managing of the church. His intention is to make Himself your inward elements. By doing this, He can accomplish the work, spread the gospel, and take care of the church through you. At the same time, through these works, He can have Himself added into you.

Day 2 --

A. Why is person more important than work in the church?

In the church the most important thing is the person. The importance of the person far exceeds that of any work. In the world it is just the opposite; there, the work is more important than the person. But for us the person is more important. During the span of time, God does many works. God's main goal, however, is not the works but to gain persons through the works. God does not work for the sake of working, but for the sake of gaining men through His works.

B. Why do we say that the person is the God's way and the Lord's work?

The service of the elders has to do with the person of the elder. It does not depend on the method but on the person. The person is the way, and the person is the Lord's work. If God does not gain a person, He will have no work, and He will have no way. A way is a course that a person takes. If God does not gain man, He will have no course to take. What you are is what you do. You cannot serve God beyond what you are as a person.

Day 3 --

A. From the view of II Sam. 7, how do Christ build up the church?

Christ builds the church by coming into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul. This church will become His habitation and our habitation. God needs to build

Himself in Christ into us as our life, nature, essence, and our intrinsic constitution.

B. What does II Sam. 7 the unveiling of a prophecy through typology show us?

There is no need for us to build something for God. We simply are not able to do this. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. As a result, we are not only changed, but we are transformed from one kind of person into another. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Therefore, we need Christ to be wrought into our being.

Day 4 --

- A. Before and after being saved, what is the difference between our soul's and spirit's function?

Every man is a soul with a body and a spirit as organs. However, when a man believes in the Lord and receives Him, the Lord becomes life to him in his spirit. Before believing, man's spirit did not have life; once the Lord Jesus enters into a man's spirit as life, his spirit is no longer merely an organ but also an inner man.

Formerly, the spirit was an organ, but now the soul is an organ.

- B. Explain what is the difference between outward man and inward man.

The outward man includes our body and our soul, with the body as its organ and the soul as its life and person. The inward man includes our regenerated spirit and our renewed soul with the regenerated spirit as its life and person and the renewed soul as its organ. The life of the soul must be denied, but the functions of the soul, the mind, will, and emotion, must be renewed and uplifted by being subdued to be used by the spirit, which is the person of the inward man.

Day 5 --

- A. How do we experience Christ as our person?

Our regenerated human spirit is not only an organ to know God's surpassingly great power but also the inner man with the indwelling Christ as its person. We need to live in our spirit as the inner man by taking Christ as our person. Our former person, our self, was in our soul, but our new person, Christ, is in our spirit. Therefore, we need to deny our self and take Christ as our person.

- B. How do we see the difference between life and a person.

Whereas life is the means by which we live, a person is a living being with a purpose, aim, choice, and preference. We should not only live by Christ as our life but also take Him as our person. In order to take Christ as our person, we need to deny our own purpose, aim, and preference and take His purpose, aim, and preference.

Day 6 --

- A. How do we experience Him as our life and our person?

When Christ is in our spirit, He is our life, but when Christ spreads into our heart, He becomes our person. As long as we are still the person living in our heart, our heart is the home of the self, not the home of Christ. For this reason, we need to pray for ourselves and for others to have the reality of taking Christ as our person.

- B. Why must we receive Christ as our person, then we can live in the church life?

Because we are all different according to our nature, we can never be blended together with others. If we take Christ as our person, allowing Him to spread into our heart, then the person living in our heart will not be the self but Christ. Those who want to have the church life must deny their soul life, their self, their old man. We should all cover our heads and take Christ as our person for the church life.

III. Conclusion:

God's central work, His unique work, in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them. For the fulfillment of God's eternal economy, God needs to build Himself in Christ into our being, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our constitution, to make us God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. God's intention in His economy is to work Himself into us not only as our life but also as our person. Our regenerated spirit is the inner man with the indwelling Christ as its person. In order to have the church life, we need to be strengthened into our spirit as the inner man so that Christ, a living person, may make His home in our heart. If we take Christ as our person, we will live Him out as the proper church life.