

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy

Message One: The Church as the New Man Engaging in Spiritual Warfare to Defeat God's Enemy and to Bring in the Kingdom of God

I. Overview:

God's intention in His creation of man was to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him. The church as the new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and representing Him. The church as the corporate new man is the corporate warrior to defeat God's enemy and to bring in God's kingdom. In order to know God's economy, we need to see the spiritual struggle taking place behind the physical things. We need to realize that in the universe there are three wills; as the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy. "Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your warfare, in the splendor of their consecration"; we need an absolute and thorough consecration.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why is man the center in both the old creation and the new creation?

God created man in His own image and then gave man His dominion. In the God's creation of man in Genesis 1 is a picture of the new man in God's new creation. This means that the old creation is a figure, a type, of the new creation. In God's old creation the central character is man. It is the same in God's new creation. Thus, in both the old creation and the new creation man is the center.

B. What is the purpose of God giving man dominion in His creation?

God created a corporate man not only to express Himself with His image but also to represent Him by exercising His dominion. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, to recover the earth, which was usurped by Satan, and to exercise God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on the earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on the earth.

Day 2 —

A. What price must be paid to deal with Satan?

Preaching the gospel demands to pay a price, but a much greater price must be paid to deal with Satan. If we are to be men whom God will use to overthrow all of Satan's work, we must obey the Lord completely and absolutely. Satan will never be moved by us if self is preserved. We need to see that His purpose demands that we be wholly and absolutely for Him. A double-minded person can never deal with Satan.

B. Expound the church as the New Man needing to fight against God's enemy.

In Genesis 1, when God created the old man, He commissioned him to bear His image for His expression and to have His dominion for His representation to deal with the enemy. The new man in the new creation also has the twofold obligation. The church as the new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy, for the new man is now fulfilling God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's kingdom.

Day 3 —

A. What does Daniel 10 show us that the world people never see?

Daniel 10 shows us the spiritual world behind the physical. For us to know God's economy and to know that in God's economy Christ is the centrality and universality of God's move, we need to see the spiritual things behind the physical. What we see outwardly is the physical world, but behind the physical world is the spiritual.

B. Explain how we should do with the work of Satan and his power of darkness.

We know that what hinders the gospel is Satan. We know that what usurps men and causes them not to love the Lord is the satanic power of darkness. We know also that the reason for all the confusion,

striving, and corruption in the church is Satan. Therefore, through the position and authority of ascension, we deal with Satan with his power of darkness to bring in God's kingdom.

Day 4 —

A. Explain all warfare having its source in the conflict of these two wills.

In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. All warfare has its source in this conflict of two wills. Before the satanic will contradicted the divine will, there was no war in the universe. The controversy in the universe began with the rebellion of the archangel against God. That rebellion was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and in individuals.

B. Why doesn't God Himself cast Satan into the lake of fire directly?

God can do it, but He does not want to do it Himself. God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose. God wants the creature to deal with the creature. He wants His creature man to deal with His fallen creature Satan. God needs an authority in His creation, and He has chosen man to be that authority. We are on this earth not merely for man's need but even more for God's need.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the purpose of the church's spiritual warfare.

Today the church is a model of God's reign. What God desires today is to expand His reigning sphere according to this model and through this model. It is through the church that God will bind Satan and destroy his power. Thus, His name will be honored in the whole earth, His kingdom set up, and His will done. This is the commission of the church. This also is the purpose of the church's spiritual warfare.

B. Why does in the eyes of God the church occupy a very important place?

Its position is that of being joined to Christ, and its responsibility is to continue the warfare that Christ fought on earth. Christ the Head has ascended, but His Body is still on earth. The church, as the Body of Christ, is His propagation, continuing the victorious work that Christ has carried out against Satan. It is responsible for bringing heaven's will down to earth.

Day 6 —

A. What is the spiritual significance of God's kingdom revealed in the Bible?

The church's responsibility is spiritual warfare. It is a matter of the conflict between God's authority and Satan's power. Some people think that the kingdom of God simply concerns the matter of rewards. In Matthew, the Lord said, "But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." The kingdom of God is the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God.

B. How to be the splendor in Psalm 110:3, "... In the day of Your warfare."?

The day of His warfare is we are being now. As long as we are in the local churches, we are in the day of His warfare. This is the day when all His people are voluntary offerings. We all need to offer ourselves as voluntary offerings. Young lives offered in this way are exceedingly precious. When we consecrate ourselves voluntarily to the Lord, it is a kind of beauty, a splendor.

III. Conclusion:

In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. All warfare has its source in this conflict of two wills. Before the satanic will rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe. The controversy in the universe began with the rebellion of the archangel against God. Some may ask: Why doesn't God Himself cast Satan into the bottomless pit or the lake of fire? Our answer is: God can do it, but He does not want to do it Himself. God wants His creature man to deal with His fallen creature Satan in order to bring the earth back to God. The work of God requires that man exercise authority to have dominion over all things created by Him. God needs an authority in His creation, and He has chosen man to be that authority.