

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Six : The Prayer of the Age to Fulfill God's Economy and the Sacrifice of Praise to Display Christ's Victory

I. Overview:

The prayer of the age is the prayer of the church as the Body of Christ, as the one new man, the prayer that exercises the authority of Christ as the ascended Lord and Head of the Body to fulfill God's economy; to enter into this kind of prayer, we need a heavenly vision to see the meaning of the ascension of Christ, the church's position, authority, and prayer; to enter into this kind of prayer, we must realize that we are members of the Body, must live, act, and move in the Body, and be renewed in the spirit of our mind to learn the prayer of authority, the prevailing prayer, and the prayer of the age. Praise is the highest work carried out by God's children and the highest expression of a saint's spiritual life. God's name and God Himself are exalted through praise, so we should offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God. Praise is the way to display Christ's victory and overcome spiritual attacks.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What does the ascension of Christ indicate to the spiritual meaning?

The ascension of Christ indicates that the Lord's redemptive work is fully complete. After the Lord ascended to the heavens, He sat down at the right hand of God. Here, to sit down means that everything he had to do has been finished and accomplished. The ascension of Christ also indicates that the lordship of Christ has been established. The lordship of Christ was established by the ascension of Christ.

B. Expound Ephesians 1:22, Christ be Head over all things "to the church."

Everything that the Lord has obtained and attained is not only for Himself but is also to the church. This means that everything that He has obtained and attained is being transmitted to the church. Christ has been exalted by God, established as Lord of the universe, and made Head over all things to the church. All things are under His feet, and everything that He has obtained and attained is being transmitted to the church.

Day 2 —

A. What is the prayer of the church as the Body of Christ?

This kind of prayer is not the prayer of individual believers but the prayer of the church as the Body of Christ. This is prayer that is based on the fact that we have the position and authority of Christ. In this kind of prayer we claim what the Lord has obtained and attained. Christ has obtained the lordship and the headship; He is the Lord, the Head over all things.

B. How do we have the prayer of the church as the Body when we become ill?

We need to learn to pray by claiming what the Lord has obtained and also to learn how to exercise what the Lord has attained, because the Lord has not only obtained to the highest extent but also attained to the highest height. Suppose you become ill and you pray, "Lord, You are transcendent; You have been exalted to the heavens. All things including this sickness also must be under my feet. I am now transcendent with You."

Day 3 —

A. How do we exercise having prevailing prayer in the negative environment?

If we have the vision of we all being the Body of the Head and that the Head has ascended to the heavens and is now transcendent, we will take the ground and claim what the Lord has attained. We will simply claim, proclaim, and declare to the sickness, "Do not trouble me; you are under my feet!" We can deal with sins, weakness, and worldliness in the same way.

B. What are the two things we must realize to fully enter into this kind of prayer?

First, we must realize that we are members of the Body, and we must live, act, and move in the Body. Second, in our daily life we must always put on the new man. We need to put off the old man, and to put on the new man. By living in the Body and putting on the new man, we will be able to exercise the authority given to the Body by the Head.

Day 4 —

A. Briefly describe the values of the spiritual work and the spiritual life.

Praise is the highest work carried out by God's children. We can say that the highest expression of a saint's spiritual life is his praise to God. God's throne is the highest point in the universe, yet He sits "enthroned upon the praises of Israel". God's name and even God Himself are exalted through praise. There is the firstborn Son's praising of the Father within us, many sons in the church meetings.

B. What kind of praise is most pleasing to God and blessed by Him?

Psalms contain chapters not only of praises but also of suffering. These psalms show us men led by God through shadows of darkness. They were rejected, slandered, and persecuted. Yet God perfected praises out of these ones. The loudest praise comes very often from the ones who are passing through hardships. This kind of praise is most pleasing to God and is blessed by Him.

Day 5 —

A. Explain in the eyes of God the nature of praise being an offering.

In the eyes of God the nature of praise is an offering, a sacrifice. In other words, praise comes from pain and suffering. A sacrifice is an offering. To offer up something does not mean to gain anything; it means to suffer a loss. When a person offers up his praise, he is losing something; he is offering a sacrifice to God. God wants His children to praise Him in the midst of their sufferings.

B. Explain how important the praise is in a spiritual warfare.

Praising is the way to overcome spiritual attacks. Satan's greatest attacks are not aimed at prayers; his greatest attacks are aimed at praise. This does not mean that Satan does not attack prayer. Prayer is a warfare, but praise is a victory. Prayer signifies spiritual warfare, but praise signifies spiritual victory. Whenever we praise, Satan flees.

Day 6 —

A. How did Jehoshaphat defeat the enemy in 2 Chronicles 20?

Jehoshaphat was a God-fearing person; he said that we should believe in God. He appointed singers to sing praises to Jehovah, then asked these ones to put on the beauty of holiness walking out before the army. And when they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the children of Israel to strike the Ammonites.

B. Why do we say that praise will last for eternity and will never cease?

In Psalm 50:23 God says, "Whoever offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies Me." Here, the word thanksgiving can also be translated as "praise." Nothing can glorify our God as praises can. One day, all the prayers, works, prophesying, and labor will be over, but praise will last for eternity; it will never cease.

III. Conclusion:

We need to see the vision of the ascended Christ and learn to pray the prayer of authority. We must realize the facts, take the ground, and claim what the Head has obtained and attained. This is the prevailing prayer of the church, the prayer of the age, and what in these last days the Lord is going to recover. Furthermore, we must see how the importance and values of the praise in a spiritual warfare are. The king Jehoshaphat appointed singers, asked them putting on the beauty of holiness to walk out before the army, and sing praises to Jehovah. And when they began to shout in song and was singing praises, Jehovah set ambushes for the children of Israel to strike the Ammonites, Moabites, and the people of Mount Seir. We do need to pray more; however, we can overcome many things only by praising.