

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Four: The Significance of Eating and the Defeat of Death

I. Overview:

To eat, in Leviticus 11, is to contact things outside of us that could affect us inside. Eating is not merely contacting, receiving, digesting, assimilating, uniting, and mingling something into us but also becoming our constituents, that is, our being, our constitution. By eating Christ we are cleansed, to be an overcomer, and this being a matter of life or death. Death is more defiling and abominable than sin; the only One who can overcome death is the Lord Jesus Christ. Because the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit dwells in us, we can reign in life over death. For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to minister life; we experience and enjoy the resurrection life within and then minister this life by being a channel through which this life can flow into other members of the Body.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why's to eat not only to contact food but also to become our constituent?

To eat is not merely to contact something but also to receive something into us. Once a thing is received into us, that thing can be digested inside to become our constituent, that is, our being, our constitution. We all are a constitution of the food we eat and digest. Eventually, what we digest becomes us; it becomes our constitution.

B. What's the spiritual significance of eating the bread of the Lord's table?

Eating the bread of the Lord's table indicates taking in the Lord to digest and assimilate Him that He may become life to us. Whenever we come to the Lord's table, we see a loaf. That loaf is not merely for display but also for us to eat. When the Lord Jesus instituted His supper, the bread is for us to take in as our life supply.

Day 2 —

A. What do we get from our spiritual eating?

If we eat Jesus all the time, we will be composed with Jesus. God made man as His container with His image, and then He put this living container before a tree symbolizing Himself as life. There man was to take God in by the way of eating. eating. The only way to take anything into us in order that it might become us is by eating.

B. How can we do God's will in the kingdom?

There is no other way but to take Jesus in. Jesus is the kingdom of obedience. We simply need to take Him in, to eat Him as the children's bread. We may be the Gentile dogs, but we all have our portion under the table (Matt. 15:22-28). We all can eat King Jesus and take Him into us. All the kingly elements are in this bread.

Day 3 —

A. How can we be cleaned from within?

In order to be cleansed from within, something must get into us, and the only way this can take place is by eating. As the nourishing food, the Lord Jesus is the best cleansing element. When He comes into us as food, He not only nourishes us, but also inwardly cleanses us. It is a matter of the inward cleansing that comes from eating Jesus. We all need such an inward cleansing from the Lord.

B. How do we overcome death in our meeting?

Today our meeting does not depend on a bigger number that we can think that we have better meetings. The important thing is that we have to overcome death in our meetings. We have to swallow up death and release life. In God's eyes death is the most ugly thing, while life is the most precious thing. What is life? Life is not a doctrine, is not excitement or good feelings. Life is just Christ Himself.

Day 4 —

A. Why is death more serious than sin in the eyes of God?

Leviticus 5 reveals that through the trespass offering any sin shall be forgiven immediately. From this we see that to deal with sin, to have sin forgiven, is easy. We simply offer the trespass offering, and then we are forgiven. A person touching the carcass of any animal shall be unclean until the evening, which means until the end of one's daily life. This indicates that it takes time for us to be cleansed from the defilement of death.

B. Explain that apart from God, death is the greatest power in the universe.

Death is an exceedingly great power in the universe. Apart from God, death is the greatest power in the universe. When death comes, no one can withstand it. Throughout history man has been searching for ways to overcome death, but no one has ever overcome it. Rather, all have been taken captive by death. Death is the last enemy that God will abolish.

Day 5 —

A. How do we do with death, a weapon Satan uses to attack the church?

The ultimate weapon Satan uses to attack the church is death. Death is not easily identifiable; it can creep secretly into the church. This does not mean that Satan will not use the world and sin to attack the church, but means that Satan can use refined and moral things, and the things filled with death to attack the church. This requires us to beware.

B. How can we overcome death?

How can we overcome death? We can never overcome death in ourselves, because Satan has injected death into us. The only One who has overcome death is the Lord Jesus Christ. The goal of the Lord's work on the cross was to put Satan to death. Satan ruled the world through death, but Christ destroyed Satan through death.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the meaning of "nullified death" in 2 Timothy 1:10.

In 2 Timothy 1:10 Paul tells us that through His work in His death Christ nullified death. The Greek word translated "nullified" also means make of none effect, bring to naught, do away with, abolish, annul, discard. Through His devil-destroying death, Christ nullified death, making it of none effect. Death will not be removed until it is cast into the lake of fire after the millennium.

B. How couldn't Christ be held by death, but overcame and rose up from it?

Christ abolished death on the cross, and He overcame Hades in His resurrection. Although death tried its best to hold Him, it was powerless to do so (Acts 2:24). Christ is both God and resurrection, possessing the indestructible life. Because He is such an ever-living One, death is not able to hold Him; instead, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it.

III. Conclusion:

Leviticus 11 apparently speaks of the things ones eat being clean or unclean; actually its intrinsic significance is God's people should be careful with what they contact. The fact that Leviticus 11 speaks of death in relation to diet indicates that our diet, our eating, is a matter of life or death. By eating the kingly Christ as the all-inclusive bread, we are not only cleansed inwardly but also experience of overcoming. In Matthew we see the Lord Himself as food for feeding us, making us have the reality of kingdom; in John He reveals Himself as life and true living bread out of heaven, so whoever eats Him shall live because of Him. Death is an exceedingly great power; apart from God, death is the greatest power in the universe. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is the overcoming of death. Because the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit dwells in us, we can reign in life over death.