

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message One : God's Eternal Purpose and the One New Man

I. Overview:

The eternal purpose of God is the eternal plan that God made in eternity past to produce a group of people who will be exactly the same as He is. God's purpose is accomplished by the divine life dispensed into His chosen and redeemed people; after that a metabolic reaction takes place within them to transform them, making them the same as He is. For God's eternal purpose, a council was held among the three of the Godhead regarding the creation of man. God created man in His image and according to His likeness because His intention is to come into man and to be one with man. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, and to recover the earth. The church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy for God's kingdom.

II. Truth and Enlightenment: into His people, a metabolic

r Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying in Message One : God's Eternal Purpose and the One New

I. Overview: The eternal purpose, the purpose of the ages, is the eternal plan that God made in eternity past. The purpose of God in the universe is to produce a group of people who will be exactly the same as He is. God's purpose is accomplished by the divine life dispensed into His chosen and redeemed people; a metabolic reaction takes place within them that causes them to be transformed and become the same as God. For God's eternal purpose, a council was held among the three of Godhead regarding the creation of man, being in His own image and according to His likeness. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, and to recover the earth. The church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy for God's kingdom. II. Truth and Enlightenment: Day 1 —

A. State the church as the expression of Christ and its intrinsic significance.

The Christ whom the church must express is the man upon the throne. If we would express Christ, we need to realize Christ today is still a man. We do not express merely God; we express God in a man. The church is the expression of Christ. This means that the church is an expression not merely of God but also of a man.

B. Expound Ezekiel 1 revealing three crucial matters concerning the four living creatures' bearing the appearance of a man.

First, God's glory is manifested upon them. The manifestation of God's glory depends upon their having the appearance of a man. Second, these living creatures are the means of God's move. When they move, God will move, for His move is with them. Third, the four living creatures, who bear the appearance of a man, are the means of God's administration.

Day 2 —

A. Explain human beings being pictures, figures, or photographs, of God in His attributes.

God is light; we also like light and hate to be in the dark. When we do something in darkness, we do not like to let people know. But when we do something in the light, we surely like people to see that we are bright and of the light. This proves that we have a copy of God's attributes. Hence, we bear God's image.

B. Expound the first item of God's positive intention in His economy.

The first item of God's positive intention in His economy is to have man in His image and according to His likeness for man to be one with Him that He may express Himself in humanity. Our birth caused us merely to participate in that creation. In the same way, Christ was created in God's image and according to God's likeness to be one with man and one with God.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the meaning of God creating man to exercise His dominion.

Dominion means having authority to rule and to form a kingdom. Dominion means having a kingdom as a sphere in which to exercise authority. God said, "Let man have dominion." Man was given dominion over all things.

Dominion means kingdom, authority. Man was given authority to represent God and to have dominion. We are God's representative.

B. How do we express God and deal with Satan in our home life?

Sometimes, when I saw Satan expressed in the members of my family, I did not say a word. I went to my bedroom, knelt down, and prayed, "Lord, bind the serpent." Do not deal with the husband or the wife; it is not their fault. We

must deal with the serpent that is behind them. The only way to deal with Satan is to go on our knees, pray, call on the name of Jesus, and ask Him to bind the serpent.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the second aspect of God's intention in giving man dominion is to recover the earth. Man is to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, and to conquer it. To conquer the earth means that the enemy is there already, that a war is raging. Therefore, we must fight and conquer. Every area of life is a battlefield. Even in the church life, Satan and all his messengers are busy. On the earth a warfare is raging. God's intention is to recover the earth.

B. How to exercise God's authority over the earth as God gave man dominion to bring in God's authority? Man must exercise God's authority in order that the kingdom of God may come to earth, that the will of God may be done on earth, and that the glory of God may be manifested on earth. This is the responsibility of the church today. In the church we have the kingdom of God. God gave man dominion over everything in the seas, in the air, and on the earth. God's intention is to eliminate the enemy, regain the earth, and manifest His glory.

Day 5 —

A. Explain in Ephesians 4:24, "...to put off the old man and to put on the new man."

Before our salvation we were living in the old man, in the old society, but now we are members of Christ, living in His Body. We should put off the old man with the old social life, and we should put on the new man, the church. In this new man there is nothing but Christ. He saturates our entire being.

B. Why does the new man in God's new creation fulfill the twofold purpose of God?

God wanted a man, and in the old creation He created a figure, a type, not the real man. The real man is the man Christ created on the cross through His all-inclusive death. This man is called the new man. The new man in God's new creation does fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with God's enemy.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that Ephesians 6 reveals the church as the new man needing to fight against the enemy of God. The church is the new man in the new creation, having the twofold obligation of bearing God's image to express Him and of fighting against God's enemy. Therefore, the church as the new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy, for the new is now fulfilling God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's dominion, God's kingdom.

B. Explain how to fight the warfare since the church as the corporate new man is the warrior.

The new man fights against God's enemy not only by being empowered in the Lord but also by putting on the various attributes of Christ as the whole armor of God. Only the corporate new man as the warrior can wear the whole armor of God; no individual believer can wear it. Therefore, we must fight the spiritual warfare not individually but in the Body, in the new man.

III. Conclusion:

God created man in His own image and then gave man His dominion. The image refers to God's positive intention, and dominion to God's negative intention. God's positive intention is that man would express Him, whereas God's negative intention is that man would deal with God's enemy, Satan, the devil. In the universe God has a problem, the problem of dealing with His enemy. Since God's enemy, the devil, is a creature, God will not deal with him directly Himself; instead, He will deal with him by man, a creature of His creation. God deals with His enemy through man. Hence, in God's creation of man there were two intentions of the positive one and the negative one. In the old creation the dominion given to man was limited to the earth. This means that in the old creation the dealing with God's enemy was restricted to the earth. However, in God's new creation the dominion has been enlarged to the entire universe.