

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Four : The Prayer Needed for the Reality and Practicality of the One New Man

I. Overview:

The prayer needed for the reality and practicality of the one new man, this matter could be seen from the point of view of "substantiation". This includes seeing the governing principle of the prayer, which always brings us into God. The experience of genuine prayer, we touch the reality of the one new man. Because of the opposition and obstruction of the enemy, we need to persevere in prayer in order to fight against Satan. In terms of "condition", there must let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and live a life in union with Christ. From the perspective of "reflection", Christ, the Head, is working in heaven by interceding, ministering, and administrating, we, the Body, are working on earth responding to the heavenly ministry of Christ and reflecting what He is doing. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth and aspire to be one with the Lord in His heavenly ministry.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What is the meaning of the Man-Savior's teaching on prayer in Luke 11?

In Luke 11:1-13 we have the Man-Savior's teaching on prayer. If we read this section carefully again and again, we shall see that prayer means that we pray ourselves into God. Apparently, this matter is not found in 11:1-13. Actually, in these verses we see that to pray is to pray ourselves into God.

B. Explain what the governing principle of our prayer should be.

The prayer that always brings us into God is the right kind of prayer. As we remain in Him, we receive His riches. When we receive the Holy Spirit as our life supply signified by the loaves, the fish, and the egg, we can feed ourselves, and we can also feed all those under our care.

Day 2 —

A. Testify how we can enjoy Lord's presence and fellowship with Him.

We all love the Lord's presence and anointing, and we all love to have fellowship with Him. But how can we enjoy the Lord's presence and have fellowship with Him? The only way is to pray. When we pray, we enter into fellowship with the Lord and become conscious of the fact that we are truly one spirit with Him and that He is actually one spirit with us.

B. Explain what the main hindrance of the genuine prayer is.

The main hindrance from genuine prayer is not sin or worldliness; it is cultural opinion. Whenever we experience genuine prayer, we are outside of our culture; in particular, we are outside of our cultural opinion. During times of genuine prayer, we are in our spirit, and we are one spirit with the Lord. It is at this time that we live Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Why do we need to persevere in prayer according to Paul's word in Colossians 4:2?

We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight. Two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other. On the one hand, Satan is the enemy trying to defeat God; on the other hand, he is the adversary within God's realm seeking to cause damage. As the adversary, Satan opposes God from within God's realm, God's kingdom.

B. Explain the battle between God and Satan, the third party is involved.

This third party consists of God's chosen and redeemed people, the ones who will actually decide the outcome of the battle. If we take sides with Satan, God will lose, even though He is almighty; God will not lower Himself to fight against one of His creatures. Thus, it is necessary for another of God's creatures, man to fight against Satan.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the meaning of Christ's peace in Colossians 3:15 is.

Within us we all have something called the peace of Christ. This is the peace about which Paul speaks in Ephesians 2:15, where we are told that in Himself Christ created one new man out of two peoples. By creating the Jews and the Gentiles into one new man, Christ has made peace. This is the very peace in Colossians 3:15. The oneness of the new man produces genuine peace.

B. State Colossians 3:16 the word of Christ dwelling in you.

The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ. In His New Testament economy God speaks in the Son, and the Son speaks not only directly in the Gospels, but also through His members, the apostles and prophets, in Acts, in the Epistles, and in Revelation. All these may be considered as His word. The word of Christ includes the entire New Testament.

Day 5 —

A. Why do we say that Christ today is ministering in a higher and more extensive way?

As the High Priest, He intercedes for us and cares for all the churches, transmitting into them the heavenly supply. Christ is more busy now than when He was on earth. Not only does He intercede for us as the High Priest, but He ministers on our behalf as the heavenly Minister. Furthermore, according to Revelation 5, He as the heavenly Administrator is executing God's universal government.

B. Expound that to seek the things above is to correspond to Christ's heavenly ministry. According to Colossians 3, corresponding to Christ's heavenly ministry by seeking the things above is the first aspect of our Christian walk. A number of those in the local churches today have their receivers open and operating. When they sense that Christ is praying in heaven for a certain matter, they join Him to pray on earth for that very matter.

Day 6 —

A. Why do we set our mind on the things above to pray, then we become a reflection of heavenly ministry?

Through our prayer, Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth with the extension of God's kingdom. When we set our mind on the things above during our times of prayer, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens.

B. Explain prayer being the way to come forward to the throne of grace.

When we pray, approaching the throne of grace, mercy and grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us. How rewarding this is! Receiving the flow of grace in prayer is actually more important than having our prayers answered. This surely is a reward for persevering in prayer.

III. Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus is the first God-man; what He lived the God-man living on earth is the life of prayer. From the record of the Gospels, we see that He often went up to the mountain to pray, He withdrew to the wilderness to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer for the selection of the twelve apostles. For the fulfillment of the eternal purpose of God, for the reality and practicality of the one new man on earth, we need to pray. In terms of condition and circumstances among the prayers, it depends on our cooperation. There is a need for the peace of Christ to arbitrate in us to get rid of the suspicion between man and God, also have the Word of the Lord mingled in prayer, and live a life of God-man in union with God, being united with Him all the time, remaining in the fellowship with Him. This will make us His heavenly ambassadors on earth as the extension of the kingdom of God, and responding to the activities of Christ's heavenly ministry.