

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Fourteen : The Growth and Maturity Required for the Formation of the Army to Protect God's Testimony and Fight for His Move on Earth**

### **I. Overview:**

The emphasis of Numbers is how the God's elects were formed into an army to fight for His move on earth. That only males who were twenty years old and upward were able to engage in warfare; this is related to growth and maturity. In the Lord's recovery today, there is an urgent need for the growth and maturity required for the formation of God's army. In order for the children of God to reach the spiritual age of twenty, they need to pass through the first three stages of the experience of life and enter into the fourth stage, the stage of spiritual warfare, where Christ is fully grown and matured in us. Engaging in spiritual warfare to deal with Satan and recover the earth for God requires that we be wholly and absolutely for God and obey Him completely. When we are dealing with Satan, self must be utterly abandoned to bring in the kingdom. The prayer at the incense altar issued in the numbering of the children of Israel for the formation of an army to fight for God's interest on the earth.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Exound that the numbering of the Israelites is based on three basic matters.

First is according to genealogy, which is related to life. Second is according to age, which is related to maturity. Third is according to the confirmation by Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the twelve tribes. Today the formation of God's people into an army is a matter of coordination, which is based on three matters: life, maturity, and confirmation. These three matters must be fulfilled in order for God's people to be properly formed.

B. What is the significance of the Numbers not mentioning the age for retirement?

Caleb fought when he was eighty years old, and Moses led the children of Israel in the wilderness until he was one hundred twenty years old. This signifies that those who are mature in life and are able to fight for God's testimony are not limited by age. God's army was strong, just as Caleb was able to fight and was strong before God in his eighties. This signifies that we must have both life and maturity in life in order to be numbered by God.

Day 2 —

A. Why will you sense the taste of the Lord as you touch a Christian who has a proper growth in life?

If a Christian has the proper growth in life, when you touch his thoughts, you will sense the taste of the Lord in it; when you touch his likes or even his dislikes, you will sense the taste of the Lord. This is because he allows the Lord's Spirit and the Lord's life to permeate from his spirit into his mind, emotion, and will. That is, he allows the Lord's life to spread and expand in him.

B. Exound the reason why we are not mature in life.

Our heart is often closed toward the Lord, and the Lord is detained in our spirit to the extent that He cannot come out. Although the Lord is within us, it is as if He is surrounded by signs that say, No Thoroughfare. Thus, the Lord is not able to move within us even a little bit, and He does not have an opportunity to come out of us. Although we have been saved and have the Lord in our spirit, the Lord cannot come out from our spirit to control our mind, emotion, and will.

Day 3 —

A. Exound the Song of Songs 4 that such a maturity is reached by the subduing of the will.

In 4:4 the Lord likens the seeking one's neck to the tower of David. The hair and neck both signify our will. Those who are rebellious toward God in the Bible are called stiff-necked. So we see that the tower of David illustrates how strong her will is in resurrection. First of all, our will must be subdued; then it must be strong in resurrection. The natural will must be dealt with, and then we will have a resurrected will.

B. Why are we not so much on the offensive but are defensive in spiritual warfare?

In spiritual warfare, we are mostly on the defensive, standing against all the devilish, subtle attacks of the enemy. Most of the items of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 are also defensive. There is really no need for us to fight; the Lord has won the battle already. We simply need to stand and resist all the enemy's attacks.

Day 4 —

A. Why do we say that the genuine church is a composition of the divine element mingled with humanity?

Anything natural does not have the divine element in it. To use our natural strength and ability is altogether against the basic principle of the church as the Body of Christ, because the church as the Body of Christ is altogether a composition of humanity mingled with divinity. The church as the new man must be full of the divine element. There is no development of the divine element there.

B. Explain why in our service we must do everything in the principle of incarnation.

The principle of incarnation is that the divine nature is wrought into humanity. When the Lord Jesus was on this earth, He did everything in His humanity full of the divine element. He did not do anything by the natural strength or the natural ability. He said that He could not do anything apart from the Father. The Father was within Him and one with Him in all His deeds, in all His words, and in all His works.

Day 5 —

A. Exound that we must first know the Body if we regard spiritual warfare.

A spiritual warfare is not an individual matter, but it is a Body matter. No individual believer can fight with the enemy; it takes the whole Body. If we wish to learn spiritual warfare, we must first know the Body. We must speak of the Body, because the Body referred to here is the mystical Body of Christ, the church.

B. Explain all our life is the life of the Body though we are members.

In the mystical body of Christ, when one member is joined to the Body or having fellowship with the Body, his life is the life of the Body, and the life of the Body is his life. It is this life that joins us together to become the Body of Christ; or, to say it more precisely and emphatically, it is this life that mingles with us to become the Body of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the relationship between the prayer at the incense alter and the formation of the army.

God's chosen people must experience all the aspects of the tabernacle until they arrive at the incense altar to intercede for God's interests and His move. In particular, God's people need to pray for the formation of the army of the Lord, an army to fight for God's move on earth. This is the reason the census and the propitiation silver are mentioned immediately after the description of the incense altar.

B. What will our desire be after we arrive at the incense altar and stay there to pray for a period of time?

Our only desire will be to pray for the Lord's move. We shall be burdened for His testimony throughout the earth. We may be so burdened to pray for the Lord's move that we shall not have the heart to pray for personal matters. We shall leave all these matters, including concern for our health, in the hand of the Lord. Our concern deep within is for the Lord's recovery, move, and testimony.

### **III. Conclusion:**

In the one of brother Nee's books, "The glorious church", mentions that we must distinguish the difference between the work of God and the work of saving souls. The work of God requires that man exercise authority to have dominion over all things created by Him; because this is God's need, He has committed the ministry of reconciliation to us. If we are to be men whom God will use to overthrow all of Satan's work and authority, we must obey the Lord completely and absolutely; when we are dealing with Satan, we cannot leave one bit of ground for ourselves. A double-minded person can never deal with Satan; this requires us to pay an extremely great price in the position of order in the Body. The prayer of Christ in the ascension and the prayer at the incense alter are the prayer of the church and the prayer in His authority, issued in the numbering of the children of Israel for the formation of an army, making them grow in life unto maturity to fight for God's interest on the earth.