

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message
Twenty-One : Moses desiring that all Jehovah's people would be prophets

I. Overview:

Our God is a speaking God; God is a mystery, but this mystery has been revealed by God's speaking. The old creation came into being by God's speaking; the new creation was brought into being by the entire God speaking as the Word. The living God imparts and infuses light, life and power into us by speaking; and the speaking God desires to have a speaking people. The word in Numbers 11:29 was a great prophecy uttered by Moses that he desired all Jehovah's people being prophets. The word that Moses spoke was promoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14. Deuteronomy 18:15 indicates that Christ is the Prophet promised by God to His people, the children of Israel. In the New Testament the anointing of the Holy Spirit has replaced the prophets of the Old Testament. Today God wants us, the regenerated and saved ones, to prophesy as prophets. If we are going to prophesy, we need to live a prophesying life and need to be revived every morning.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that God is mysterious, but it has been revealed by His speaking.

God is mysterious. He is altogether a mystery. But this mystery has been revealed by God's speaking. Without the divine speaking, God would remain forever unknowable. But our God no longer is mysterious. The book of Hebrews begins with God speaking. God has spoken to reveal Himself in His speaking. Now He is the revealed God.

B. How does God speak in the Old Testament and New Testament from the view of the book Hebrews?

Hebrews 1:1-2 says that God in ancient times, in the Old Testament times, spoke through the prophets, but now in the New Testament times, God speaks in Christ. In the entire New Testament age, God speaks in the person of the Son. Today we have to realize that the Son has been made a corporate One. Therefore, God is still speaking through the Son, that is, through the church.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that prophets are God's spokesmen.

Exodus 3 and 4 when Moses was called by God, he told God that he was slow of speech and of a slow tongue. So God gave Aaron to Moses to be his prophet. In the whole Bible, to prophesy is mainly to speak for God and to speak forth God. Prophets receive God's revelation directly; through the speaking of the prophets, God Himself and His intention are explained.

B. Expound that Moses uttered a great prophecy in Numbers 11:29.

In Numbers 11 two of the seventy elders, who were not with the others around the Tent of Meeting, also prophesied. Joshua was jealous for Moses, and he charged Moses to forbid them. But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake?" then Moses uttered a great prophecy: "Oh that all Jehovah's people were prophets, that Jehovah would put His Spirit upon them."

Day 3 —

A. Who is the prophet in Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses spoke concerning Jehovah God's raising up of a Prophet? The prophet pointed to the coming Christ. Christ is the Prophet promised by God to His people, the children of Israel. This indicates that Christ as the coming Prophet would be human as well as divine, that He would be God incarnated to be a man, the God-man. Moses told the children of Israel that they were to listen to this Prophet.

B. How are the many sons of God like the firstborn Son of God through prophecy for the spreading of God?

As the firstborn Son of God being the Word of God is God's oracle for the speaking and dispensing of God to carry out His eternal economy. The many sons of God being members of the Word of God are also God's oracle, speaking and dispensing God for the spreading of God and the increase of Christ. All the sons are God's oracle so that God may have a spread and Christ may have an increase.

Day 4 —

A. Expound how the prophets and law in the Old Testament were replaced by those of the New Testament.

In the Old Testament the representatives through whom the Holy Spirit gave revelations were the prophets. Today the Spirit of revelation, typified by the prophets, is in us, and the Spirit gives us revelations directly. Today the law of life within us has replaced the law of the Old Testament, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit has replaced the prophets of the Old Testament. Now we are keeping an inward law, not an outward law.

B. Why do we say that we can not be a prophet to others in a practical way?

If a saint wants to go to a certain place, he may come to us for fellowship or asking something about it. It is not right for him to ask us, because we are not his prophet. Instead, he should seek the leading of the Spirit as the anointing ointment within him; the Spirit anointing within him is the Prophet. The responsible brothers in the church are not our prophets, the coworkers are also not our prophets, and we even are not others' prophets.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what are the benefits for the building up of the church with prophesying in 1 Corinthians 14.

In the New Testament 1 Corinthians 14 is a chapter that especially speaks concerning prophesying. Verse 1 says, "...desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy". Because prophesying is the excelling gift, we should pursue the Lord to such an extent that we can prophesy, speaking for the Lord, speaking forth the Lord, and speaking the Lord into others, that we may minister Christ for the building up of the church.

B. Explain how we should do as the speaking Spirit of God is earnestly expecting that we would speak.

In the New Testament, God operates through the principle of incarnation. God does not do anything by Himself, especially in the matter of speaking. He prefers to speak through us and speak within us. When we speak, the very Lord whom we speak forth is speaking with us and within us. If we do not speak, God has no way to speak.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the three constituting elements of prophesying.

First, possessing a knowledge of the Word of God, the human element of learning; second, having the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the divine element of inspiration; third, having a vision concerning God's interest and economy, concerning the church as the Body of Christ, concerning the local churches, concerning the world, concerning the individual saints, and even concerning ourselves, the view through the enlightening of the divine light.

B. Expound that if we are going to prophesy, we need to live a prophesying life.

First, we need to be revived every morning. Every twenty-four hours there is a new start. This is according to the natural law in God's creation. We must also live an overcoming life every day. After the morning revival we should not stop contacting the Lord. We can live a victorious life by fellowshiping with the Lord. We also need to walk according to the spirit and also speak the word of the Lord all the time.

III. Conclusion:

In 1937, brother Watchman Nee found out how the meeting with one person speaking all others listening was unbiblical and in 1948 he said this meeting was to follow the custom of nations; until 1984 brother Witness Lee went back to Taiwan for leading the New Way. In 1987 all the church's meetings practiced prophesying to one another. In the Old Testament,

Numbers 11:29 Moses uttered God's intention; in the New Testament, Paul responded it in 1 Corinthians 14:31. But throughout two thousand years, there is no any church putting it into practice yet. According to the truth, the word in 1 Corinthians 14 will be fulfilled before the Lord's coming back. The goal of prophesying in the church meetings is to build up the church as the Body of Christ. In other to put this matter into practice in the churches' district meetings, we need to have much fellowship among all the saints to realize that prophesying is the excelling gift and desire it earnestly, learning prophesying from other's examples, being trained, perfected then exercising to speak for God, speak forth God, and speak God into others.