

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying**

### **Message Ten : Living a Godly Life**

#### **I. Overview:**

The book of Proverbs talks about a godly life and gives us five crystals. First, we should have a vision; where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint. In the Bible vision denotes an extraordinary scene; it refers to a special kind of seeing. In order to have a vision, we need revelation, light, and sight. Next, Proverbs 23:23a says, "Buy truth, and do not sell it". Truth is something that we have to buy, and buying requires the paying of a price. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the present truth. Third, we need to depend on the Spirit; the spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah and the Spirit of God is also a lamp, both enlightening the inward parts together. Fourth, we must keep our hearts; the soul is the person himself, but the heart is the person in action. Our spirit is the source of our being, but our heart is the entrance and the exit. Fifth, love covers sins; those who cover others' sins, defects, and shortcomings enjoy gain and receive blessing. We need to shepherd others according to God, with a love that covers all transgressions.

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

Day 1 —

A. Explain the words in Proverbs 29:18.

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint." This means that without a vision, the people will become loose, like wild horses in their untamed state. The clearest instance in the New Testament where the word vision is mentioned is in the case of Paul. In Acts 26:19, while he was defending himself before King Agrippa, he uttered this word: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

B. Expound what the vision is and how to gain the vision.

When the divine light shines over the divine revelation, the divine revelation becomes the divine vision. A vision is a view whereby we may see something. If a person's eyes are covered by a thick veil, there may be some wonderful scenery in front of him, but he is not able to see it. He cannot see because he has no vision, but when the veil is taken away, he can see.

Day 2 —

A. Why do you say that we have to buy truth and it has a price?

If we want to please the Lord and stand for the truth, we have to pay the price. If we are clear about the truth, we have to obey it all the way. Some Christians cannot pay the price because they want to please men; they try to dodge the truth. Truth is like a pillar in a house. A pillar cannot be moved; truth can never be changed.

B. Explain that every worker of the Lord must uphold the absoluteness of the truth.

This is possible only when a man is delivered from himself. Many brothers and sisters are not absolute to the truth; they are affected by people, things, and personal feelings. If a man is not absolute to the truth, he will, in the course of his work, sacrifice God's truth for man, himself, or his own desires. A basic requirement for being a servant of the Lord is to not sacrifice the truth.

Day 3 —

A. Expound man's spirit and God's Spirit being both lamps with what functions.

In fact, there is a sevenfold intensity to His shining. This is the meaning of the seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God. Man's spirit and God's Spirit are both lamps, together enlightening the inward parts. The Spirit of God today is the seven lamps shining on us in an intensified way. Even when we are off just a little, the Spirit is there as the light shining.

B. Explain what the three kinds of people who live according to the different ways.

There are some people who live according to the flesh. Their only concern is the pleasure of the moment. Others live according to their soul. The day you heard the gospel, and the Spirit of God touched your conscience, leading you to repent and confess your sins. Your spirit is now a lamp indwelt by the Spirit of

God to enlighten every part of your soul. By responding to the spirit's shining, you will be walking according to the spirit.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the importance of the heart in the relationship with God is.

The relationship that we have with God first depends on the heart, because the heart is the very organ by which we express ourselves and by which we make decisions to receive or reject things. The main entrance of a building is its guard, controlling what should remain outside and what should come in. In the same way, our heart is our guard. It is the entrance into ourselves.

B. Expound the words in Ezekiel 36:26, how to cooperate with God in our heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 says that at the time of our conversion, God renewed our heart. In verse 26 there is first the heart and then the spirit. The heart is the first thing God must deal with and touch, then we may have the fellowship of life, and we have the anointing of the Triune God within us. However, this requires our heart to cooperate with Him, that is, to be renewed in our mind, to have a loving emotion, to be right in our conscience, and to have a soft will.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the word of Proverbs 4:23 and its application.

Our heart is our representative. We should guard our heart above all because out of it are the issues of life. The heart is related to the sources of life, the springs of life, and the issues of life. First we have the source, then the spring, and then the issue. Out of the heart come all the issues of our daily life. As human beings, we have life, and this life acts through our heart.

B. Fellowship what the relationship between our heart and our spirit is.

To be a living believer involves both our spirit and our heart. The reason the exercise of the spirit may not work is that the heart does not act. The exercise of the spirit works only when our heart is active. If our heart is dormant or asleep, exercising our spirit to call on the name of the Lord will not be effective. This exercise cannot work if our acting agent, our heart, is dormant.

Day 6 —

A. Testify the true love being not provoked.

Love is not provoked. People are easily provoked because of the shortage of love. Regardless of how much we are rebuked, we will not be provoked if we are filled with the divine love. Love does not take account of evil. Some wives have a record, an account, of their husband's failures and defects. This record may not be written, but it is in their mind.

B. Fellowship that we have to cover others' sins in our shepherding.

We need to realize that in our shepherding, we have to cover others' sins, to not take account of others' evils. Love covers all things, not only the good things but also the bad things. Whoever uncovers the defects, shortcomings, and sins of the members of the church is disqualified from the serving ones. Love also endures all things and never falls away.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The original meaning of truth is reality, certainty, authenticity, truthfulness and sincerity. It refers to all the reality of the divine economy as the content of divine revelation transmitted and revealed by the Word of God. Truth is something that we have to buy, something that has a price. The divine truth is absolute. If we want to be absolute for the truth, we must set aside our feelings, disregard our personal relationships, not stand for the self, and even stand on the side of the truth to oppose ourselves. Especially we have to be absolute for the present truth which believers have already received and now possess. It includes God's economy, the Divine Trinity, the person and work of the all-inclusive Christ, the life-giving Spirit, the eternal life of God, the church as the Body of Christ, the New Jerusalem, and the high peak of the divine revelation. We should highly value the Ministry's speaking of seven times a year and closely follow the living stream of the church, which requires us to pay a price and spend time to buy the truth.