

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Six : Gaining God to Be Transformed by God for the Purpose of God

I. Overview:

Job's experience was a step taken by God to carry out the consuming and stripping of him in order to tear Job down that God might have a way to rebuild him. God's purpose in dealing with His holy people is that they would be emptied of everything and receive only God as their gain. God's economy is God becoming a man in the flesh through incarnation that man might become God in the Spirit through transformation. These transformations are the Triune God becoming a God-man as a prototype for the mass reproduction of many God-men, making God become enterable, enjoyable. Hosea 11:4 says, "I drew them with cords of a man, / With bands of love"; God's love is divine, but it reaches us in the cords of a man through Christ's humanity. We can remain in the daily process of transformation by turning our heart to the Lord, beholding and reflecting Him. Ministry is the issue of revelation plus suffering; the ministry of the Spirit is for us to arrive at the high peak of the revelation by our ministering Christ, the ministry of righteousness is for us to enter into the God-man living by our ministering righteousness subjectively, and the ministry of reconciliation is for us to shepherd people according to God by our ministering the word.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the purpose of God's stripping and consuming being exercised over Job.

Job's three friends could not speak anything because they had no knowledge concerning the purpose of what had happened to Job. The scene here indicates that God's stripping and consuming were exercised over Job to tear him down that God might have a base and a way to rebuild him with God Himself that he might become a God-man, the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead, in order to express God.

B. Explain without Paul's Epistles, we wouldn't understand the purpose of God's dealing with Job.

Without the Epistles of Paul it would be difficult to understand the book of Job, because the conclusion of Job does not give us an explicit view concerning the purpose of God's dealing with His people. However, in the view of the New Testament it is very clear that God's purpose in dealing with His holy people is that they would be emptied of everything and receive only God as their gain.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what Triune God has gone through transformations.

What the eternal and Triune God has been become a man is the most marvelous and all-inclusive transformations. God is complete, perfect, and unchanging, but He has had many transformations. In my youth I was taught that the Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But after I got into the intrinsic depths of the Scriptures, I found out that God has been transformed. God became a man. Is this not a transformation?

B. Expound Christ bringing God to man and making God contactable, touchable.

The Triune God became a God-man, bringing divinity into humanity and mingling divinity with humanity as a prototype for the mass reproduction of many God-men. He became the embodiment of the Triune God, bringing God to man and making God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what the word in Hosea 11:4 has to do with us.

The phrase with cords of a man, with bands of love indicates that God loves us with His divine love not on the level of divinity but on the level of humanity. God's love is divine, but it reaches us in the cords of a man, that is, through Christ's humanity. The cords through which God draws us include all steps of Christ in His humanity that God's love in His salvation reaches us.

B. Fellowship that the love of God is the source of His eternal salvation.

This love is in Christ and has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Nothing can separate us from this love of God. In God's salvation this love to us has become the love of Christ, which does many marvelous things for us through the grace of Christ until God's complete salvation is accomplished in us.

Day 4 —

A. Testify how we open our heart to the Lord.

Whenever we have to make a determination, we should first say to the Lord, “O Lord, I love You. I am willing to please You.” This kind of prayer opens our will to the Lord. In addition, whenever we love or desire something, we should stop for a moment and say to the Lord, “O Lord, I love You. I want to please You.” This opens our emotion to the Lord. Similarly, whenever we begin to think about something, we should say to the Lord first.

B. Fellowship how our spirit will be when our heart opens to the Lord.

Whenever our heart opens to the Lord, this Spirit spreads out from within us into our mind, emotion, and will. One obvious proof [of this] is the freedom mentioned in 2 Corinthians 3:17. Once you have the Spirit of the Lord in your mind, your mind will have freedom. Once you have the Spirit of the Lord in your emotion, your emotion will also have freedom. And once you have the Spirit of the Lord in your will, it will surely be freed.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how to accomplish the transformations in us by His death.

Through regeneration, we all became a new man. Now outwardly we are old by our natural birth, but inwardly we are new. However, God is not satisfied to leave us in the old man. He wants our old man to be renewed by transformation. Transformation transfers us from one form, the form of the old man, to another form, the form of the new man.

B. Expound how His death is included in the all-inclusive, compound Spirit.

We should not forget that His death is included in the all-inclusive, compound Spirit, which was typified by the compound ointment in Exodus 30:23-25. This compound Spirit has God as the base, typified by one hin of olive oil. This oil is compounded with four spices—myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, and cassia. These spices typify the elements of Christ’s death and resurrection.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that ministry is the issue of revelation plus suffering.

Ministry is the issue of revelation plus suffering. Without revelation, one has nothing to minister. But though one may have revelation, if he lacks suffering, he still has no ministry. Ministry is something higher and deeper than teaching. Gift is superficial and costs little, while ministry is weighty and costly. If you have received revelation from God, He will put you into suffering in order that you may have ministry.

B. Explain what the two things we are able to minister to others depend upon.

The measure of life, the amount of reality, and the riches of Christ we are able to minister to others depend entirely upon two elements: how much revelation we have received and how much suffering we have undergone regarding that which has been revealed to us. Brother Watchman Nee was a person of the cross. The sufferings he received from all directions were just the working of the cross, and the revelation he received concerning the cross was wrought into him. I can testify from the depths of my being that what he did was a ministry.

III. Conclusion:

In the first message, the great answer to the great question in the book of Job is God's eternal economy and the divine dispensing. This message continues this spiritual burden; what we Christians experience is for us to gain God. If we have not gained God, what we experience is nothing but vanity of vanities. When we seek God, no matter what happens to us, whatever the source is, whatever the nature of the dealings is, no matter how it happened, all these are arranged by God's sovereign hand. All these arrangements in our environment are the disciplining of the Holy Spirit. The disciplining of the Holy Spirit is to destroy our natural man, and transform, constitute which a renewed man. Therefore, we should be prepared to cooperate with the indwelling Spirit, allowing Him to rule over His dealings through the outward circumstances.