

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Two : Knowing and Participating in God's Great and Lofty Will to Head Up All Things in Christ

I. Overview:

To know and participate in God's great and lofty will to head up all things in Christ, this requires us to go through the dispensing of the abundant life supply of the Triune God, the transmitting of Christ the Head to the church, and breathing the breath of life into believers.

In order to be headed up in Christ, we need to grow up into Him in all things, including everything big or small in our daily life and in our work. The organic building up of the Body is the growth of the Body, which is the growth of God, the increase of God as life, in all the members. In order to grow up into the Head, we must hold to truth in love and acknowledge the authority of the headship of Christ. As we grow in life, our function will come out from the Head for the building up of the Body. To grow in life is to grow up into the Head, Christ, but to operate in the Body of Christ is to operate out from Him; first, we grow into the Head, and then we have something that is out from the Head for the building up of the Body; this is to participate in God's great and lofty will to head up all things in Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the corruption of Satan and the savings of God.

When Satan, the power of death, injected himself into man, Satan became death and darkness to man. Death brings in corruption, and darkness brings in confusion. Satan's goal is to corrupt God's creation and to cause confusion. But God came in to enliven, to impart life, and to bring in order. In this order all things are headed up in Christ.

B. Explain God's dispensation from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

God dispensed Himself into Abel, Enosh, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. He had an even greater dispensation with Moses and with the Lord Jesus, the dispensing continues in the New Testament Epistles. God's dispensation at the present time is even greater than it was at the time of the apostle Paul. This dispensation will continue through the millennium until the fullness of the times. This dispensation will be in eternity.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the heading up of all things in Ephesians 1:10 being the issue of all the items.

Ephesians 1:10 is the issue of all the items covered in verses 3 through 9; which items are selection, predestination, the praise of the glory of God's grace, being graced in the Beloved, having redemption and forgiveness, and having God's grace abound to us in all wisdom and prudence. Verse 9 speaks of the mystery of God's will. The infinitive to head up in verse 10 is related to all the preceding things in the foregoing verses.

B. Testify that we are headed up through the church life.

Once we were detached and in the heap caused by the universal collapse. But one day the factor of life came into us, and we rose up and became attached. This is the heading up in Christ. A number of times, however, the power of death made confusing even more in the church. Because the breath of life breathes into us, we rise up once more and experience being headed up.

Day 3 —

A. State as we want to build up the Body of Christ, we must hold to the truth in love.

When we want to build up the Body of Christ, we must love God, Christ, and the church in the love with which God loves us and in the love which He put within us. By this, we can hold to the truth in this love. As Romans 3:4 says, every man is a liar; only God is true. In this true God there are three things: the economy of God, the Christ of God, and the church. In the whole universe only this group of things is true.

B. Explain the meaning of holding to truth in holding to God's New Testament economy.

He arranged to create the heavens and the earth and to create man according to His image and likeness so that man would be like Him, be His vessel, and be prepared for the day when the Creator God would enter into man to be mingled with man, to become the many members of Christ, and to constitute the Body of Christ to express Christ, which is to express the Triune God in Christ. This is the economy of God.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what the meaning of growing into Christ the Head is.

The meaning of growing into the Head, Christ, is acknowledging the authority of the headship of Christ. We have to acknowledge Him as Lord and Head. He has the authority over us. In all things big or small we have to allow Him to

be the Lord. In your daily life you have to allow Jesus to be your Lord. Only then will you have the experience, and only then will you have something to say in the meetings.

B. Testify what is to allow Christ to increase and grow in all the inward parts of us.

Today our common problem is that we reserve a big part within us for ourselves and give the Lord only a little place. Therefore, it is impossible for Him to increase and grow within us. When He cannot grow, we cannot grow. We must allow the Lord to have the proper place in us. We must allow Him to increase, grow, and occupy our whole being, part by part.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what the revelation from Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17 is.

In 1:17 the apostle Paul prayed that the Father would give us such a mingled spirit of wisdom to understand and of revelation to see. We need the revelation and the enlightenment to see the mystery of God's economy. We also need to understand, to apprehend, what we see by the divine wisdom.

B. State what the revelation in Revelation 3:5 is.

Ephesians 3:5 tells us that the economy of God, which is so mysterious, has been unveiled to the apostles and the prophets in their spirit. This revelation was given not in their mind but in their spirit. If we are going to understand, to realize, the reality of God's mysterious economy, we must learn to discern our spirit from our soul.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what the two aspects is needed for the growth of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4:16.

The growth of the Body of Christ is first through the joints of the rich supply. These are the gifts described in verse 11: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the shepherds and teachers. Second, this growth is through the operation in the measure of each one part. Every member in the Body of Christ, whether great or small, has a measure. Because of its measure, it has an operation.

B. Explain the building up in Ephesians 4:16 is the building up of itself in love.

The building up of the Body of Christ is in love and by love. This love is not our natural love. Rather, it is the divine love. We are building up the Body of Christ in the element and sphere of the divine love. At the same time this is the direct building up of the whole Body of Christ by the many members of this Body. The Head does not build directly, nor do the gifted ones do the direct building work.

III. Conclusion:

If we want to be headed up in Christ, we must exercise to hold the Head. First, we need to acknowledge that only Christ is the Head, and to submit absolutely and fully to the authority of Christ's headship. Second, we must have a direct and intimate fellowship with the Lord that His riches may be dispensed into the members of the Body of Christ. Also we must grow up into Christ the Head in all things. In these aspects, firstly we need to take Christ as our all in all; for example, He is our breath, drink, food, life, clothing, dwelling place, and rest. Secondly we should be through the bountiful supply of the Spirit to live and magnify Christ. This requires us to love Christ and regard Him as the most precious One, pursue Christ and gain Him, enjoy Christ and partake of Him, exalt Christ and minister Him to other people.