

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Three : Praying for God's Will to Be Done on Earth

I. Overview:

God will not act independently, and He will not accomplish His will alone; instead, He will accomplish His will only when His people agree with Him and are one with Him. God's people must pray before God will move on earth to accomplish His will. Prayer for God's will to be done on earth consists of four steps; 1)God intends to do something according to His will, 2)He reveals His will to us through the Spirit for us to know His will, 3)we return and echo His will back to Him through prayer, 4)God accomplishes His work according to His will. God needs us to exercise our spirit with our resurrected will to pray according to His divine will for Christ to be manifested and enjoyed by us, for the Body life to be practiced by us, and for the Body of Christ to be built up through us. Effective prayers for God's will to be done on earth are the expression of God's desire and intention and are the issue of our abiding in the Lord and of His words abiding in us.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound in the universe what the three wills are.

There are the divine will, the satanic will, and the man's will. First, God's will, being self-existing, is eternal, uncreated. Second, as created beings, the angels also have a will. Because of his high position and his beauty, an archangel became proud. This pride gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will. Third, God wants man's will to be joined to Him.

B. Explain the responsibility of the church on earth.

God wants man to join Him in dealing with Satan. God has His will, Satan has his will, and man also has his will. God wants man's will to be joined to Him; He does not want to destroy Satan alone. We do not fully understand, but we know that God wants to do it this way. He does not want to act alone; He wants man to cooperate with Him. This is the responsibility of the church on earth.

Day 2 —

A. Why do we say that God is doing what He wants to do through the church?

All of God's moves are limited by the church in time because the church represents man in eternity future. The church is standing on the earth today for God's will. If the church comes up to the standard of God's will, He will not be limited. But if it does not come up to the standard of His will, God will be limited. God is doing what He wants to do through the church.

B. Describe God must have man's will in harmony with His will, then He does His work.

We have to see that God works according to a law. God is in heaven. Yet all His works on earth can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that agrees with and decides to do the works. Everything related to Him can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that cooperates with Him. God must have man's will in harmony with His will. This harmony in will is a great glory to God!

Day 3 —

A. Why is there no work more important than the prayer?

The first step in carrying out His will is to pray out God's will and utter His will through our prayer. From this we see that prayer is a work. There is no work more important than this work because prayer is the speaking of God's will and the accomplishment of His will.

B. Explain what a prayer in the nature of work or ministry is.

A prayer which is in the nature of work or ministry is one in which you stand on God's side, wanting what God wants. If a prayer is uttered according to God's will, it is the most powerful thing. For the church to pray means that it finds out God's will and speaks out this will. For the church to pray means that it stands on God's side to declare that man wants what God wants.

Day 4 —

A. Why is praying in sympathy with God more important than doing anything else?

Praying in sympathy with God is too important. He can only work on matters in which His children sympathize with Him. This union of the wills is real prayer. The purpose of prayer is that we be one with God's will so that God can work. When our will is one with God, even though we may at times ask amiss and our prayer is not answered, God still receives the benefit because He is able to work as a result of our sympathy with Him.

B. Explain the laws and principles of God's work.

God works according to certain laws and principles. Although He is so great and can act as He pleases, He acts according to laws, and it seems as if He has voluntarily placed Himself under law and is willing to be governed by law. What are the principles of God's work? One main principle of God's work is the need for man's prayer. He wants man to cooperate with Him in prayer.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the two kinds of prayers and what kind of prayer being important.

Some prayers originate from our needs. Sometimes God answers these prayers, but He does not gain anything through them. There is another kind of prayer that originates from God's needs. It comes from God and is initiated by God. This kind of prayer is valuable. Those who have this kind of prayer must be in God's presence continually, and their desires and thoughts must be mingled with God's desires and thoughts.

B. State why Daniel's prayer touched God's heart desires.

Daniel joined himself to God's thoughts; he touched God's desire and will, and they became the desires of Daniel's heart. When Daniel prayed according to these desires, crying out or groaning because of these desires, they became God's desires. We must have this kind of prayer, a prayer that touches God's heart desires.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what the four points of the words in John 15:7 can be divided into.

The first point is, "you abide in Me." The second is, "and My words abide in you." The third is, "Whatever you will." and this desire is something issuing out of the Lord's words. Fourth, it says, "Ask...and it shall be done for you." When we thus abide in the Lord, His words abide in us, and there is the desiring in us that comes out of His words; finally, "will" becomes "ask. Hence, this asking will be answered by God.

B. Why does once man abide in the Lord, he touches God's feeling and understands God's desire?

In the Old Testament, because Abraham continually remained before God, God could not refrain from telling Abraham of His intention. Psalm 32:8 says that God guides us with His eyes. If you live in the fellowship, you will understand what God guides us with His eyes. It is as if in our spirit we catch a glimpse of the Lord's eyes and thus spontaneously touch His feeling and understand His desire.

III. Conclusion:

God is omnipotent and He is so great, but in the acting of His will, He does not want to work alone; He wants man's cooperation with a man's will that is one with Him and that echoes Him. God acts according to His preordained laws and principles. God is above all laws and principles; what are the principles of God's work? One main principle of God's work is the need for man's prayer. He wants man to cooperate with Him in prayer, and He wants man's will to become one with His will. There was once a Christian who was very experienced in prayer. He said that all spiritual work consists of four steps. In the first step, God intends to do something; there is God's will. In the second step, He reveals this will to His children through the Spirit so that they know His will, His plan, His desire, and His aspiration. In the third step, God's children return His will back to Him through prayer. Prayer is the echoing of God's will. If our heart is in tune with God's heart, spontaneously we will speak forth God's will. As a result God will accomplish His work in the fourth step.