

**Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying**  
**Message Four : Living a Life according to God's Heart and Will**

**I. Overview:**

The Old Testament contains a portrait of David, who is a man according to God's heart; it was in David's heart to build a house for God, which is to build up the Body of Christ of today. Now God is blessing us in every way for the fulfillment of His economy to build up the Body of Christ. God's great will, first, is to have a church for the enlargement and expression of Christ, the embodiment of the processed Triune God, to be the organic Body of Christ for the manifestation of His multifarious wisdom. Next, God's great will is to have Christ as the replacement for all the sacrifices and offerings in the Old Testament so that we may enjoy Him as our all in all. The third, God's great will is to have the believers in Christ practice the Body life, that is, to have the living of the Body of Christ; this living is a life of the highest virtues for the Body life.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound the living of a life according to God's will in the Old and New Testament.

The Old Testament contains a portrait of David, a man according to God's heart, who did the will of God and served his own generation by the counsel of God. In the New Testament, God's heart and will are revealed in the books of Ephesians, Hebrews, and Romans. Ephesians speaks of God's will, the counsel of God's will, God's good pleasure, the desire of God's heart, the mystery of God's will, and the economy of the mystery.

B. State and describe God's great will in Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:11 speaks of the purpose of the eternity, including eternity past and eternity future. The purpose of God made by Him in Christ is such an eternal purpose, and this is according to the counsel of God's will. God's heart and will in His New Testament economy, God's good pleasure, the counsel of His will, and His purpose are to have a Body for the enlargement and expression of Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the four points of church's spiritual divine things we must keep in mind.

First, we must go through the cross. In the church there is room for no natural person, but Christ is all and in all. On the cross both the Jews and the Gentiles were crossed out. Second, everything should be by the Spirit. Third, this is to dispense Christ to others. Fourth, everything is for the building up of the church.

B. Expound the purpose of God blending the Body together.

God has blended the Body together. The word blended also means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled." The Greek word for blended implies the losing of distinctions. In order to be harmonized, blended, adjusted, mingled, and tempered in the Body life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the 2nd aspect of God's will in having Christ as the replacement for all the sacrifices and offerings.

The sacrifices and the offerings meant everything to the Old Testament saints. However, Christ came to do God's will by replacing all the sacrifices and offerings in order that He could be everything to us. Hebrews 10:1-12 indicates that Christ is the fulfillment of all the offerings. He came to do the will of God, that is, to replace the sacrifices and offerings in His humanity as the unique sacrifice and offering for the sanctification of God's chosen people.

B. Explain the spiritual meaning of the word in Psalm 40:6-8.

In this prophecy Christ comes through His incarnation to terminate God's old economy and initiate God's new economy, His New Testament economy, by replacing the animal sacrifices and establishing Himself

as the unique sacrifice of the new covenant. As such a sacrifice, Christ is the factor that enacts God's New Testament economy that He may be its centrality and universality.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the word in John 4:24 and its application.

John's Gospel, truthfulness denotes the divine reality becoming man's genuineness and sincerity for the true worship of God. The divine reality is Christ (who is the reality—14:6) as the reality of all the offerings of the Old Testament for the worship of God. This divine reality eventually becomes their genuineness and sincerity in which they worship God with the worship that He seeks.

B. Explain the type of the meal offering with its experience.

The meal offering typifies Christ in His humanity as food for God. The meal offering was made of fine flour mingled with oil. The fine flour, with its evenness and fineness, typifies Christ's perfect humanity with its balance and fineness. The frankincense added to the meal offering signifies the fragrance of resurrection life. This is Christ typified by the meal offering, the mingling of humanity and divinity with the resurrection life to be our supply.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that the 3rd aspect of God's will is to have the believers practice the Body life.

For this we must first present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice to do the will of God, that is, to practice the Body life. We are not being conformed to this age but being transformed by the renewing of the mind that we may prove the will of God, which is that we practice the Body life. The saints who are practicing the Body life should live a life of the highest virtues.

B. State the spiritual meaning of 'in Christ' from Romans 12:5.

Two words 'in Christ' from Romans 12:5 indicate the organic union. We were born in Adam, but by being reborn we have been transplanted into Christ. In Christ always implies that you are organically one with Christ. This life unites us together not only with Christ but also with all the other members of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what the meaning of Bodies in Romans 12:1 plural, sacrifice singular is.

Bodies in Romans 12:1 is plural and sacrifice is singular. Although many bodies are presented, they become one sacrifice, implying that, although we are many, our service in the Body of Christ should not be many individual services, separated and unrelated. All our service should constitute one whole service, and this service must be unique because it is the service of the one Body of Christ.

B. Expound concerning the renewing of the mind.

The renewing of the mind, which results from setting the mind on the spirit, is the base for the transformation of our soul. As our mind is renewed, our will and emotion automatically follow to be renewed also. To be renewed means that a new element is wrought into our being. This produces an inward metabolic transformation, making us suitable for the building up of the Body of Christ, which is the practice of the church life.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Paul mentioned at the beginning of Romans 12 that in order to practice the Body life, we must first present our bodies to God. Next, we need to have our mind renewed for the transformation of our soul, and then we must be burning in spirit. In the latter part of chapter 12, we are talking about living a life of the highest virtue, in which we should treat the saints as verses 9-18 said, "Let love be without hypocrisy; abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.", "Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.", "Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.", "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.", "Repay no one evil for evil; take forethought for things honourable in the sight of all men.", "If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men."