

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy Message Five : The Will of God—Our Sanctification**

### **I. Overview:**

The will of God is our sanctification to be sanctified, which is to be made holy, to be separated unto God and to be saturated with God as the Holy One. The results of the sanctification show that sanctification is for sonship; actually, sanctification is God's "sonizing" for bring us into glory. There are three aspects of sanctification in the Scriptures; these are the seeking sanctification, the positional sanctification, and the dispositional sanctification. The divine sanctification is the holding line in the carrying out of the divine economy to sonize us divinely; we say that sanctification is the holding line because every step of God's work with us is to make us holy. In order to live a holy life for the church life, we need the Lord to establish our heart blameless in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 reveals that by sanctifying us, God transforms us in the essence of our spirit, soul, and body. In order to cooperate with God to preserve our body in sanctification, we must present our body to Him so that we may live a holy life for the church life, practicing the Body life in order to carry out God's perfect will.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound the meaning of the sanctification and how God makes us holy.

Holy means not only sanctified, separated unto God, but also different, distinct, from everything that is common. Only God is different, distinct, from all things. Hence, He is holy; holiness is His nature. He makes us holy by imparting Himself, the Holy One, into our being, that our whole being may be permeated and saturated with His holy nature.

B. Explain the meaning of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4 using the 'sanctification' 3 times.

In verse 3 he says that the will of God is our sanctification; in verse 4, that we should know how to possess our vessel, our body, in sanctification and honor; and in verse 7, that God has called us in sanctification. According to 4:4, we should possess our body in sanctification and honor. Sanctification is before God, and honor is before man.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the seeking sanctification is.

God in eternity past made an economy, and in that economy He decided to have many sons. After He created man, man became fallen. Then God the Spirit came to sanctify man. We were lost in Adam, in sin, and in death. But the Spirit came to seek us out, and He found us. This seeking sanctification resulted in our repentance to bring us back to God.

B. Explain what the renewing sanctification is.

The renewing sanctification continues our dispositional sanctification by renewing our soul from our mind through all the parts of our soul. Ephesians 4:23 speaks of our being renewed in the spirit of our mind. This means that our regenerated spirit has entered into our mind to make us renewed entirely in our soul. This makes our soul a part of God's new creation.

Day 3 —

A. Expound in 1 Thessalonians 3:13 the meaning of establishing our heart.

Our heart is a composition of all the parts of our soul; the mind, the emotion, and the will plus one part of our spirit, the conscience. Our soul is our personality, our person, our self. As human beings, we have an outward organ, the body, to contact the physical, visible world. We also have an inward organ, the spirit, to contact God and the spiritual realm. The soul, located between these two organs, is our person, our self.

B. Explain the condition of our heart and how God's salvation is.

Because we are fallen and sinful, our psychological heart is corrupt and deceitful. According to Jeremiah 17:9, our heart is deceitful above all things and even to such an extent that it is incurable. But God in His salvation promises to give us a new heart. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

Day 4 —

A. Describe the conditions of our heart.

According to our natural birth, however, our heart is changeable. Our heart is changeable even in our relationship with the Lord. God is the unchanging One; He never changes. We are the ones who are changeable, and we are changeable in our heart. For this reason, Paul was concerned that the hearts of the new believers would be set, built up, and established.

B. Why do we say that our heart still needs to be established?

This is true both of the young and of the old. Actually, there is no one who, according to his natural, human life, is steadfast in his heart. Because our heart is changeable, a crucial need in our Christian life is the establishing of our heart. Although we need our heart to be established, we are not able to do this ourselves. Only the Lord can establish our heart. Therefore, we need Him to cause our heart to be solidly established and built up.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that spirit is composed of three parts (conscience, fellowship, and intuition).

Our spirit is mainly for us to have fellowship with God. When we have fellowship with God, we contact Him. Intuition denotes the direct sense and consciousness that come from God. Through this intuition we can know whether we are right or wrong. If we are wrong, we shall be condemned by our conscience. But if we are right, we shall be justified by our conscience.

B. Explain that the first way to preserve our spirit is to keep exercising it properly.

In order to preserve our spirit living, we should keep it through proper exercise. First Thessalonians 5:16-19 says, "Always rejoice, unceasingly pray, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit." To rejoice, pray, and give thanks are to exercise our spirit. When we exercise our spirit in this way, we cause it to be living. Exercising the spirit to keep it living is the first way to preserve it.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that our psychological heart has three main arteries.

These arteries are the three parts of the soul (the mind, the will, and the emotion). In order to unclog the artery of our mind, we need to confess everything that is sinful in our thoughts and in our way of thinking. We need to confess the germs of rebellion in our will. The artery of the emotion also needs to be unclogged because our joyfulness and our sorrow may be altogether natural.

B. Expound how to preserve our body.

Sin has damaged and ruined our body; Romans 6:6 says that our body is a "body of sin." To preserve our body first requires that we do not live according to our soul. To preserve our body also requires that we not present any member of our body to anything that is sinful. We need to keep our body from seeing and hearing things that will contaminate and ruin it. This is to preserve our body in sanctification.

### III. Conclusion:

First Thessalonians 4:3 tells us that God's will is our sanctification. This message is to show us the meaning, the process, and the result of sanctification. Ephesians 1:4 reveals that in the eternity past God has sanctified us; Revelation 21:22 explains that in the eternity future, God will make us a holy city, the New Jerusalem. Today, in the tunnel of time, God, as the sanctifying Spirit, is doing the sanctifying work in us, including the positional sanctification and dispositional sanctification to make our whole being, the three parts of spirit, soul and body, fully occupied, filled and saturated by the Spirit that we may become the same as He is in life and nature but not in Godhead, so that we may be God's expression.