

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight : Meeting to Know and Do the Will of God

I. Overview:

Our goal, our purpose, on earth is to do the will of the Father, and we do this by coming to the meetings of the church. We need to realize that nothing is as crucial, important, and profitable as the church meetings. The church is a gathering of the believers, a meeting of a collective people, and the Christian life is a meeting life. In the meetings God makes His will known to us. The will of God is in Christ, so we do God's will through exhibiting Christ in the meetings. We need to function in the meetings to exhibit Christ. Since the Father's eternal will and the desire of His heart are to build up the church as the Body of Christ, we do His will by functioning in the meetings according to the scriptural way to meet for the building up of the Body. In the practice of the scriptural way to meet and to serve, we emphasize prophesying, the excelling gift for the building up of the church.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the gathering of God's people being God's dwelling place.

Exodus 15:13, "In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed to Your holy habitation." Could you realize God's habitation being the meeting of His redeemed people? We have a term for Tent of Meeting; the tent refers to God's dwelling place, the meeting, the gathering of God's people. That indicates the gathering of God's people being God's dwelling place. In the New Testament, God's habitation is the church; the church is the "Tent of Meeting."

B. Expound the importance of the meeting towards us, even being a blessing to us.

We have to realize that today on the earth, besides our inner life, no other thing is so crucial, so important, so profitable as the matter of meeting. To miss a meeting means the real loss. We live on this earth, and our goal, our purpose, is to do the will of our Father. How could we know His will? There is no other way except by attending the meetings.

Day 2 —

A. Testify that we gain a lot of benefits we do not realize by participating in the meetings.

When we come together, our intention may be to pray, to worship, to serve, to hear a message, to be taught, to be exhorted, to be strengthened, to be comforted, and to be encouraged. This is our understanding. Actually, with our meetings there are so many wonderful things underneath the surface. We gain a lot of benefits and profit that we do not realize by participating in the meetings.

B. Expound what the sanctuary of God is in Psalm 73.

First, God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit. Second, God's sanctuary is the church. Thus, to go into the sanctuary of God, we need to turn to our spirit and then go to the meetings of the church. The sanctuary of God is the place where we obtain the revelation we need. Our spirit and the local church are the places where we receive divine revelation.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what concept affects us that we do not bear responsibility in the meetings.

We have the concept that we should attend a worship service which consists of singing hymns, praying, listening to the Scriptures, and listening to a sermon. Furthermore, due to the influence of Christianity we do not bear responsibility in the meetings. We know that there will be some brothers to lead the meeting. Therefore, we do not come to the meeting with a sense of responsibility.

B. Explain that the meetings are for all the saints to function.

Our meetings should not be led by some designated brothers, rather all the brothers and the sisters should bear responsibility for the meeting. As Christians, we are members of Christ, and our most important service is to meet. The meetings are the best opportunity for us to exhibit Christ. As Christians, we are commissioned to exhibit Christ in the meetings. We must know the meetings being the main place for Christians to function.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the two groups for the building up of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4:16 are.

The two groups are “every joint of the rich supply” and “each one part.” The joints are the gifted persons; the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers. The Body grows by being joined closely together through the joints and by being knit together through the operation in the measure of each one part. The Body of Christ is built up organically by causing itself to grow through the functions of the gifted persons and through the members who operate in their measure.

B. Expound how to participate in the organic building up of the Body of Christ.

First of all, we ourselves have to dive into the Word to learn how to perfect ourselves. As we are being perfected ourselves, we can go to visit the saints house to house, day and night, in order to nourish them, cherish them, and teach them one by one, sometimes with tears. This will consummate in the perfecting of all the saints. They will all be enabled to speak. Each one part will operate in its own measure.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what the spiritual meaning of the word ‘Has’ in 1 Corinthians 14:26 is.

‘Has’ used five times in 1 Corinthians 14:26, is a word widely used, with many meanings; to hold, to possess, to keep a certain thing, to have a certain thing for enjoyment, and to have the means or power to do a thing. This indicates that when we come to the church meeting, we should have something of the Lord to share with others; a psalm praising the Lord, a teaching ministering the riches of Christ to others, a revelation giving visions.

B. Explain how we prepare ourselves for prophesying in the meeting.

Before coming to the meeting, we should prepare ourselves with things of the Lord, through our experience of Him, our enjoyment of His word, and fellowship with Him in prayer. After coming into the meeting, we should not wait for inspiration, rather should exercise our spirit and use our trained mind to function in presenting what we have been prepared with to the Lord for His glory and to the saints for their benefit.

Day 6 —

A. Describe briefly the meaning of prophesying.

Prophesying in 1 Corinthians 14 does not mean predicting. It is to speak building up and encouragement and consolation to men. To prophesy in 1 Corinthians 14 is to speak for the Lord, speak forth the Lord, and speak the Lord into others, ministering the Lord to others. If we practice this every day, we will all have something to share when we come together for fellowship.

B. Explain for the building up of the Body of Christ, we all need to rise up to speak for the Lord.

With only one man speaking and the rest listening, a congregation can be built up, but the Body of Christ as an organism can never be built up. To build up the organic Body of Christ, all of us need to speak. Suppose that we meet together for ninety minutes, and everyone bears the responsibility to have something to speak for the Lord. This will be a refreshing meeting.

III. Conclusion:

Brother Lee witnessed from his many years of experience that we would like to know God's will, there is no other way except to attend the meetings. Whenever you start to lose the meetings, you just begin to miss God's will. It is our destiny to come to the meetings, because our Father has ordained this way for us; if we follow God's way, we will certainly be blessed by Him. Otherwise we are just like kicking against the goads, we must suffer. Only you come to the meetings, you are walking in His way, and the destiny of the blessing will be coming upon you. Meanwhile the blessing not only come to your generation, but even to the third generation, or generations after generations; you with your descendants are blessed by God. It is not a small thing to gather together, and at the same time, we understand God's will, practice God's will, and carry out His will to the end.