

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Four : God's Words — the Divine Supply as Food

I. Overview:

Jeremiah said, "Your words were found and I ate them." The divine concept concerning God's word is that it is food by which we are nourished. God desires that man eat, digest, and assimilate Him; with the result that Christ eventually become our constitution. God's word became the gladness and joy of the heart of Jeremiah. Romans 14:17 speaks of "joy in the Holy Spirit", which indicates that the Spirit is related to joy and joy is also a fruit of the Spirit. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; since the word of Christ can dwell in us, it must be a living person. This indicates that we should allow the word of Christ to dwell in us. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us so that we may experience the functions of the word of God operating within us, ministering the riches of Christ into our being. The word of God enlightens, nourishes, and waters us to quench our thirst. The word of God also strengthens, washes, and builds us up.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. How should we do since we first have God, and then we have God's speaking?

The Bible shows us God's speaking, God's word. Hebrews 1:1-2a says, "God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets, has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son." Thus, in the Bible we first have God, and then we have God's speaking, the word that proceeds out of His mouth. Christians need to daily contact the Lord, be touched by the Spirit, and receive more life.

B. Explain what the three elements composed of the word of God.

The word of God is actually composed of three elements; Christ, His death, and His resurrection. The basic ingredients of the Bible are not stories or doctrines but these three elements, so when we read the Bible, we should only pick up the three of them. Regardless of what chapter or verse we have read, we should always take in and enjoy the three basic ingredients; Christ, His all-inclusive death, and His resurrection.

Day 2 —

A. Describe what brings us in Jeremiah 15:16 indicating the word of God.

Jeremiah 15:16 indicates that the word of God is good for us to enjoy. God's word makes our heart joyful. What is crucial here is the revelation that God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us. Every kind of food has a nourishing element. God's word, the divine supply, surely contains the element of nourishment. This nourishment is related to the divine dispensing.

B. Fellowship the divine concept of God's Word as food.

The divine concept concerning the Word of God is that the word from the Lord is food for us to feed on for our nourishment. Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God." The divine concept concerning God's Word is that it is food by which we are not only taught but also nourished.

Day 3 —

A. Testify how to eat the Lord in our experience.

The Lord whom we eat as our food is the Spirit. Therefore, which organ do we use to eat Him? We use our spirit to eat Him. The Lord is Spirit, so we must use our spirit to eat Him. How do we eat Him? By calling, "O Lord! O Lord!" To call on the Lord is to eat Him. The Bible clearly shows us that the Lord is our food, and we must eat Him.

B. Expound the five characteristics of the Lord as the bread of life in John 6.

John 6 gives five characteristics of the Lord as the bread of life. He is the heavenly bread, the bread of God, the bread of life, the living bread, and the true bread. As the bread of life, Christ is the bread with eternal life. As the true bread, the real bread, He is the reality of the food we eat daily. Therefore, through the Word we need to feed on Christ as the living bread.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what effect it will have after we have eaten God's words.

When Jeremiah found God's words, he ate them as food. After he ate God's words, he was immediately supplied within and felt glad and joyful. The word of God not only has the ability to supply man but can also change him completely. Just as the food we eat sustains our life, makes us healthy, and changes our constitution, so also the word not only gladdens and satisfies us but also gradually transforms us to the Lord's image.

B. How do the words of God become the gladness and the joy in our heart?

If we do not know how to eat the word, we can not have the gladness and joy in our heart for the word and with the word. When we find the Lord's words, we should not only know them but eat them, so that they become both the gladness and the joy. Gladness and joy imply singing; we have joy within and singing as our rejoicing without.

Day 5 —

A. Explain a way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ.

A way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ is to eat the word spoken by Christ as spirit and as life. Christ speaks the word, the word is the Spirit, and the Spirit is life. After entering into us, this word becomes the Spirit, and the Spirit is life. Then, when we utter this Spirit out to others, the Spirit becomes the word to them.

B. Expound Colossians 3:16 and fellowship with some subjective experience.

In Colossians 3:16 Paul says that the word of Christ should dwell in us, inhabit us. This implies that the word of Christ is living. In order for something to dwell in us or to inhabit us, it must be living. The word of Christ is very much like a living person; the word of Christ is actually the living person of Christ. Moreover, according to the New Testament, the living person of Christ is the Spirit.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the meaning with experiences of dwelling and making home of the words in Colossians 3:16.

In Colossians 3:16 Paul charges us to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, make its home in us. If a certain place is to become our home, we must have the freedom to make all necessary arrangements. If the word of Christ is to make its home in us, we must give it the full liberty, freedom, and right.

B. Fellowship how to give the Lord's word adequate room in our daily living.

We all must confess that many times the Lord's word has come to us, but we did not give it adequate room within us. Instead, we limited the word of God and restricted it. Sometimes in a secret way we keep the first place for the self. Outwardly we may act as if the first place is reserved for the word of God. But secretly the first place is for us.

III. Conclusion:

Jeremiah was in a very difficult situation; however, God made him into a fortified city, into an iron pillar, and into bronze walls against the whole land, the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land, fighting against him but would not prevail against him because of God's being with him. He really knew what kind of battle he was facing. From the record of Jeremiah 15:16, we know he received the word of God, and he ate it, and the word of God became the gladness and the joy in his heart. We cannot live Christ unless we are nourished by the word every day. In order to be nourished by God's words, we must eat, digest, and assimilate the words every day, gaining the nourishment from the word. At the same time, we will experience joy, satisfaction, and blessings in every aspect of our hearts.