

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Nine : The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ through the Process of
Spiritual Metabolism according to the Believers' Inner Experience of the Indwelling Christ

I. Overview:

Second Samuel 7:12-14a is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us that we need God to build Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. God's intention in His economy is to build Himself in Christ into our humanity as our life, our nature, and our person. Ephesians 3:16-21 reveals that the Triune God has come into us to do a building work with Himself as the element and also with something from us as the material; this is illustrated by the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. The Lord sows Himself as the seed of life into men's hearts, the soil, to grow with the nutrients of the soil; if we exercise our spirit, the nutrients will be supplied and Christ will make His home in our heart to produce a building. The Triune God may be likened to a big machine, of which Paul was the operator; we have to learn to be the operators, to let Him entering into our spirit and spreading Himself into our soul and heart to occupy our entire being; we will be filled unto all the fullness of God, which is the church that God is glorified in the church. Paul's spirit, attitude, prayer, and faith fully depends on us believers to have the inner experience of the indwelling Christ, to build up the church as the organic Body of Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound 2 Samuel 7 what the intrinsic significance implied.

David wanted to build God's house, but in this chapter God wanted David to realize that he needed God to build Christ into him. We cannot build something for God with ourselves or with our knowledge of the Bible and theology. Second Samuel 7 simply indicates that God does not need us to build anything for Him. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Therefore, we need Christ to be wrought into our being.

B. Explain what David needed is the same as what we need today.

What David needed is what we need today. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity. We are not simply a man according to God's heart—we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. We today are not outwardly as high as David was, but we have God's life, nature, and constitution.

Day 2 —

A. Expound according to the Bible, what the building is.

The Bible tells us that God is working in us and that Christ is living in us. However, the Bible uses a building to denote God's work in us. In building a house, it is necessary to have the proper material. On the one hand, this material is Christ Himself as the element; on the other hand, this material includes something from us with our humanity.

B. Explain the growth of the seed depends on the nutrients supplied by us.

The seed is sown into the soil to grow with the nutrients in the soil. The produce of the seed is a composition of elements from both the seed and the soil. In order to grow, the seed must be sown into good soil. The seed is divinity, and the soil with its nutrients is humanity. We have within us certain nutrients created by God as a preparation for His coming into us to grow in us. God has created the human spirit with the human nutrients.

Day 3 —

A. State God wanted to build Himself into man, what is the three layers' relationship of man.

God is building Himself in Christ into our being is. Because Christ is the Spirit, He can dwell in us, and we can fellowship with Him in our spirit. We should look to Him, behold Him, and reflect Him, opening to Him the three layers of our being—our spirit, our heart, and our mouth. Then we will spontaneously reflect Him as a mirror and gradually be transformed into His glorious image from glory to glory.

B. Expound transformation being a metabolic process.

Transformation is a metabolic process that changes us by adding some new element into our being and discharging the old element. This is illustrated by one's having a healthy complexion through the eating, digesting, and

assimilating of food. We need to receive spiritual nourishment day by day. This nourishment will supply a new element and then cause the old things to be carried away. Gradually, we will grow, change, and mature.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how the church becomes the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19 reveals the apostle praying to the Father; the Father strengthening the believers through the Spirit; Christ making His home in the believers' hearts; and the believers being rooted and grounded in love, apprehending the dimensions of Christ, and knowing the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ. Eventually, we shall be filled with Christ to such an extent that we become the fullness of God.

B. Expound that the church should be a operator to move the machine as the Triune God.

The Triune God may be likened to a big machine, of which Paul was the operator. His prayer "turned the wheel." God wants to do something, but He will only be the "machine," and He needs someone to be the operator. The operator asks the "machine" to strengthen the operator. The Spirit as the channel does the work within us to strengthen every part of our being into the inner man so that the Son might make His home in our hearts.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the phrase "make His home" in Ephesians 3:18.

We are rooted in Christ so that He may make His home in our hearts. In Ephesians 3 the apostle prays that God the Father would grant the believers to be strengthened through God the Spirit into their inner man, that Christ, God the Son, may make His home in their hearts. The phrase make His home is only one word in Greek word, basically means to settle down to make a dwelling place. The prefix of this word, kata, means "down."

B. Expound how Christ may make His home in our hearts.

God the Father is exercising His authority through God the Spirit to strengthen us into the inner man, that God the Son may make His home deep down in our hearts. God the Father would grant the believers to be strengthened into their inner man. Christ gradually began to occupy our mind, take over our emotion and will, and possess our entire conscience. Christ desires to possess our whole being.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship how to spread Christ into every part of our being after we were saved.

When we were saved, Christ came into our spirit. Now we must give Him the opportunity to spread Himself throughout all the parts of our inner being. As we are strengthened into the inner man, the door is opened for Christ to spread in us, to spread from our spirit to every part of our mind, emotion, and will.

B. Expound seeing Paul's spirit, attitude, prayer and faith in Ephesians 3:26-21.

If we have truly seen the church and the materials that build the church, we will have this kind of spirit and attitude, and we will also have this kind of prayer and faith. This matter filled Paul's entire being; hence, what he saw, what he spoke, and what he cared about in his heart were related to this matter. The most precious point in this portion of the Scriptures is not Paul's prayer and faith but his spirit and attitude.

III. Conclusion:

This message is about the application of the wonderful and profound revelation of 2 Samuel 7. The building up of the church has been almost completely neglected and even misunderstood throughout the ages. Many Christian workers think that bringing into the organization by arrangement is building. In fact, the building material of the church must be Christ and Christ alone, who is everything. Today in the Lord's recovery, although we preach the gospel to save people, shepherd and perfect people, all that we do must be governed by a vision of infusing Christ into man, so that we can build up the Body of Christ. In all kinds of the meetings, we must endeavor to minister Christ into the believers as their spiritual food and drink. The more they receive Christ in this way, the more they will experience the intrinsic metabolism. This metabolism is transformation and it is building up.