

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Five : The Factor of the Genuine One Accord

I. Overview:

The genuine one accord in the church is the practice of the oneness of the Body, which is the oneness of the Spirit; our practice of the oneness is based upon the attribute of the oneness of the church, that is the seven one. In John the Lord emphasized oneness, but in Acts the one accord is emphasized. The landmark that divides the Gospels and the Acts is the one accord among the one hundred and twenty. The one accord is the heart, the kernel, the nucleus, of the oneness; in our mind and will. Acts 1:14, the one accord denotes a harmony of inward feeling in one's entire being. In Matthew 18:19 the Greek word means to be in harmony, or accord and refers to the harmonious sound of musical instruments or voices, just like a harmonious melody. The holding factor of the one accord is the apostles' teaching; the practice of the oneness, the one accord, is according to the apostles' teaching. When we practice the one accord, we must learn to be in one spirit with one soul; if we would have the factor of genuine one accord, we need to be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion. The one accord is the master key to every blessing in the New Testament; God's blessing can come only upon a situation of one accord.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why do we say that in the Body we need oneness; in the churches, one accord?

The one accord is for our practice; the oneness is primarily for the actuality, for the fact. In John 17 the Lord Jesus prayed for such a fact, and on the day of Pentecost, by pouring out Himself as the consummated Spirit, He accomplished His prayer. That was the actuality of the oneness. After the accomplishment of the actuality of the oneness, there is the need for the practice of the oneness. When the oneness is practiced, it becomes the one accord.

B. Explain how to test of whether we are practicing the oneness or not.

As a test of whether we are practicing the oneness or not, we may check to see whether there is one accord in our prayer meeting. When certain ones pray, we may shake our head as an indication of our displeasure, and when others pray, we may nod our head as an expression of our agreement. Such a shaking and nodding of our head is strong evidence that we do not practice oneness, because we do not have the one accord.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the proper one accord in the church is the practice of the genuine oneness of the Body.

In Matthew 18:19, before the Lord prayed for the oneness in John 17, He trained His disciples to practice the one accord.... To be in the one accord is to practice the oneness. A little more than forty days after the Lord's prayer in John 17, the one hundred twenty disciples practiced the Lord's direction in Matthew 18 by praying together in one accord.

B. Expound the relationship between building up the vital groups and the one accord.

To build up the vital groups, we need to keep the oneness of the Spirit, that is, the oneness of the Body, in the one accord according to the Lord's desire with much and thorough prayer. Without the one accord we cannot keep the oneness. The one accord is the heart, the kernel, of the oneness. If we do not have the one accord, God cannot answer our prayer.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Matthew 18:19 the Greek word meaning "to be in harmony, or accord".

In Matthew 18:19 the Greek word *sumphoneo* is used to signify the one accord. It means "to be in harmony, or accord" and refers to the harmonious sound of musical instruments or voices. The one accord, or the harmony of inward feeling among the believers, becomes like a melody, like music. When we have the one accord, in the eyes of God we become a melody to Him.

B. Expound what the key of the one hundred twenty's one accord was.

In the three and a half years of His earthly ministry, the Lord passed on many teachings to the disciples. Then He went away through His death and came back within three days to stay with them as the life-giving Spirit. After

breathing Himself into His disciples, He ascended to the heavens, leaving the disciples on this earth. The key of the one hundred twenty's prayer was the one accord.

Day 4 —

A. Why do we say the apostles' teaching being the holding factor of the one accord?

If you expect to have one accord in any kind of society, group, or movement, you need the same kind of thinking that comes out of the same kind of knowledge. Therefore, Acts tells us that, on the one hand, there was one accord among the disciples, and on the other hand, all those who were one in one accord were continuing in the teaching of the apostles. The teaching of the apostles was the very holding factor of the one accord.

B. Explain the practice of this oneness being according to the apostles' teaching.

The apostles taught the same thing to all the saints in all the places and in all the churches. At the same time, the practice of this oneness is also according to the same speaking of the Spirit to the churches. All the churches have the same Bible, and everyone is practicing oneness according to the same speaking. Finally, the practice of oneness indicates that the seven churches as the seven lampstands are completely identical.

Day 5 —

A. Explain practicing the one accord, we must be in the same mind with same opinion.

To be attuned in the same mind is to practically be one in our soul. When the thoughts in our mind are expressed in our speaking, they become our opinions. When the opinions remain in our mind, they are simply our thoughts. When our differences in thinking are expressed as opinions, that may cause a problem.

B. In John 11:9-10, the word to His disciples indicates that their opinion was a sign that they were walking in darkness.

Opinions are a sign of darkness because to utter an opinion is to speak nonsense. The Lord Jesus is fully in the light, and He Himself is the light. Furthermore, whenever the Lord is present, there is day. In these verses the Lord Jesus seemed to be saying, "... I say that we should go into Judea. But if you say that we should not go, you are expressing a contrary opinion, and you are in darkness."

Day 6 —

A. Explain the landmark that divides the Gospels and the Acts.

The landmark that divides the Gospels and the Acts was not the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The landmark was the one accord of the one hundred twenty. If you want to experience the baptism in the Spirit, you must have the one accord. If all the members of a local church have the one accord, the baptism in the Spirit will be there. The one accord is the "master key to all the rooms," the master key to every blessing in the New Testament.

B. Expound that the blessing and grace of God can only come upon a situation of one accord.

We must all realize that the blessing and grace of God can only come upon a situation of one accord. This situation is the practice of oneness. In the Old Testament, Psalm 133 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!... For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever." God will only bless the one accord, that is, the practice of oneness.

III. Conclusion:

In principle, the saints in the church all know the importance of one accord. The question is how to practice and maintain one accord, The key lies in the vision. Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; though many people love the Lord and serve God, each one of them has his own vision, so that there is no way to have one accord among them. Today we could practice one accord because we have only one vision, only one view. In this one vision, we speak the same thing with one mouth, a same mind, a same tone to serve God. Learn to be in one spirit with one soul, have the same mind and opinion, and show harmonious one another. This means that there is only one Head Christ, the mind of Christ speaking through the mouth of Christ. We should also be reminded that the greatest destructive factor in the Lord's work, in the church life, and in the spiritual life is our opinion.