

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Twelve : Taking the Way of Life in the Lord's Recovery

I. Overview:

The three books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth present a clear picture of the two aspects of God's move; His move in His economical Spirit and His move in His essential Spirit. With Joshua, Caleb, and all the judges we see the move of God in power. In contrast, the book of Ruth reveals the things of life using Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz as examples. According to the divine and eternal nature of the life of God, God's life is the unique life; only the life of God can be counted as life. Life is the content of God, the flowing out of God, life is Christ, and life is the Holy Spirit. In order to take the way that leads to life, we need to enter in through the narrow gate and then walk on the constricted way. The way of the Lord's recovery is the way of life that leads to a living reward in life in the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age. We need to live by the sense of life—the feeling, the consciousness, of the divine life within us. We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. Faith in the Lord is the way for us to pass out of death into life; love toward the brothers is the evidence that we have passed out of death into life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the two aspects of God's move in the three books of history.

The three books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth present a clear picture of the two aspects of God's move; His move in His economical Spirit, the Spirit of power, and His move in His essential Spirit, the Spirit of life. With Joshua, Caleb, and all the judges we see the move of God in power, but with Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz we see the move of the Spirit of life.

B. Take Samson as an illustration of being in power without life, resulting in deplorable.

It is difficult to explain how a Nazarite under God's headship, one who was full of submission in being separated for and unto God and full of the divine power, could also be full of the indulgence of lust. Everywhere and with everyone he was powerful and at the same time fleshly in his fornication. Because he had nothing of life, he did not know how to restrain the lust in his flesh.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that Naomi feared God and regarded God though she was in difficulty.

Before going to Moab, Elimelech sold all his property. This left Naomi, a widow with two widowed daughters-in-law, empty-handed, not having any portion of land. As a godly woman, she returned to the Holy Land, that is, to the rest in God's economy, to participate again in the enjoyment of the God-promised land and to become related to Christ's genealogy.

B. Describe Boaz having full of life in his living manner and behavior.

Boaz altogether restrained, constrained, and controlled his lust. Upon waking up at midnight, Boaz found a woman lying at his feet. Boaz was not moved in his lust but instead addressed her as "daughter", and he acknowledged that as her kinsman, and according to God's ordinance, he had not only the right but also the responsibility to redeem the possession that was her father-in-law's and her husband's.

Day 3 —

A. Compare the characteristics of the two trees.

The tree of life is simple. With this tree, there is just one element, and that element is life. The tree of life issues in life. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the contrary, is complicated and also complicating. With this tree, we have good, evil, knowledge, and death. The Bible as a whole is a development of these two trees.

B. Explain the proper understanding of death.

The proper understanding of death is that it denotes separation from the enjoyment of God. This means that if we do not have the enjoyment of God, we are in death. Likewise, if we are separated from the enjoyment of God, we shall die. In Romans 8:6 death is separation from the enjoyment of God. Life is the opposite, for it is the enjoyment of God.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the narrow gate spoken of in Matthew 7:13.

Who can enter through the narrow gate spoken of in Matthew 7:13? Only the kingdom people with the nature described in the nine blessings in chapter 5. Only those with such a nature can enter through the narrow gate. Furthermore, those who enter through this narrow gate must be under the higher laws of the kingdom and should not have any anxiety about their living. They should not be lazy or idle, but diligent and industrious.

B. Fellowship that in the Lord's recovery we are taking a constricted way.

We all must be able to say that we are not taking the way of Christianity, but the way of constriction. All young people desire to be free to put off all restriction. When they graduate from high school, they are like caged birds wanting to be free. However, many are so free that they have no constriction, no restriction. We in the Lord's recovery, on the contrary, are taking a constricted way.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that the church today on earth is for expressing the resurrection.

Christ is the resurrection and the life. Since the church is the vessel of Christ on earth, it should express this life and resurrection. God intends for the church to manifest the life of Christ. Hence, the church must be full of life. In the church everything that issues from God is life, and everything that issues from Satan is death.

B. Fellowship about that today Satan uses death to attack the church.

The ultimate weapon Satan uses to attack the church is death. Death is not easily identifiable; it can creep secretly into the church. This does not mean that Satan will not use the world and sin to attack the and treacherous sins to attack Christians. Many refined and moral things are filled with death, and Satan can easily utilize these deadly things to attack the church.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the spiritual meaning of passing out of death into life.

Death is of the devil, God's enemy Satan, signified by the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which brings death. Life is of God, the source of life, signified by the tree of life, which issues in life. To pass out of death is to pass out of the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of death into the source, the essence, the element, and the sphere of life.

B. Use a fountain to illustrate the truth of life.

We may use a fountain to illustrate the difference between the source of life, the essence of life, the element of life, and the sphere of life. Water flows out of a fountain and becomes a river. The fountain is the source. We may say that H O is the essence of what comes out of the fountain. This essence then takes the form of water, and the flowing water becomes a river. The source of it all is the fountain.

III. Conclusion:

The focus of this message is to take the way of life. Here "take" means walking action, "life" means the Triune God and His dispensing, and "way" refers to the direction or approach. In the three books of history, God's move in His economy includes the two aspects of His move in His economical Spirit, the Spirit of power, and His move in His essential Spirit, the Spirit of life. The first aspect of that, there are Joshua, Caleb, and Samson, and on the second aspect, there are Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, who are walking in the way of life. In practicality, I John 3: 14 reveals that we know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. Faith in the Lord is the way for us to pass out of death into life; love toward the brothers is the evidence that we have passed out of death. Passing out of death indicates that we have come out of the tree of death, and entering into life is entering into the tree of life; the reality of living out is to love the brothers. But in the church life when we are in the soul with others, there will be friction, unhappiness, and hatred in lack of love, which in the eyes of God is killing people. When we have a bad feeling with others, others will feel it, but love can cover all the sin; as long as there is a negative feeling of people, it needs to be dealt with.