

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Two : God's Good Pleasure

I. Overview:

God does not need "spiritual giants" any longer in this age; what He needs is the Body testimony, which is the reality of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem. The most difficult thing today is the fulfillment of Ephesians 4:15-16; as ministers of the present age, Brother Nee and Brother Lee are patterns to us saints so that we may be perfected to become functioning members of the Body of Christ. The church as the Body of Christ is brought forth when all the one-talented ones are functioning. God's good pleasure, God's heart's desire, is what makes God happy; which includes the creation of the earth, the incarnation, Christ's baptism, the resurrected and glorified Christ, His prodigal sons returning to Him, His Son being revealed in us, operating in us both the willing and the working, having a man of God, eating Christ in order to live because of Him, being strengthened into our inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts through faith, serving Him as a slave, worshiping Him in spirit, being one with Him in His ministry, being determined to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why do we say today God no need spiritual giants, but the testimony of the Body?

Today God is doing the work of recovering the Body testimony. The gifts that He has given are for the perfecting of the saints for the ministry. One or two specially gifted workers no longer can fulfill the task; all the brothers and sisters can preach the gospel, heal the sick, edify the saints, and save the lost. The church can beget, be established, be revived, be firm, and rise up to serve. It will be built up like the New Jerusalem and be strong.

B. Explain needing to recover in preaching of the gospel done by the whole church.

We do not need to invite people with big advertisements. Rather, we should ask all the brothers and sisters to invite people individually. In this way the whole church will be able to rise up to serve. This kind of service will be the whole Body serving together. If we have only a few serving today, we have not reached God's standard. Today God wants to bring in the ministry of the church and the service of the church.

Day 2 —

A. Explain God is recovering the most difficult chapter of Ephesians 4.

God is recovering the most difficult thing today. Ephesians 4 says that the work of the ministry is to arrive at the oneness of the faith. The church is the Body of Christ, and it builds itself up in love. We believe that there will be a day when God's recovery will reach the fulfillment of Ephesians 4. God is doing a recovery work everywhere. The ultimate work among all these works may very well be the recovery of the Body testimony.

B. Expound for two thousand years the church having been severely damaged by so-called "spiritual pursuit."

In the past two thousand years a few have been helped by spiritual pursuit. However, a great number have been hurt due to spiritual pursuit. This does not mean that spiritual pursuit in itself is wrong, nor does it mean that we should not have spiritual pursuit. Rather, it means that people have misused spiritual pursuit.

Day 3 —

A. Explain God's good pleasure being expressed first in the creation of the earth.

God's good pleasure was expressed first in the creation of the earth. God's kingdom will be set up on earth, not on any other planet. The eternal universe will be called the new heaven and the new earth. God's eternal kingdom will not be on the moon or on Mars. The earth is where His pleasure lies, even unto eternity. God loves the earth because it was prepared for this man in whom He delights.

B. Expound that God is happy with the incarnation.

As happened when the foundations of the earth were laid, the heavenly hosts rejoiced also at the incarnation. The angel of the Lord brought good news of great joy to the shepherds. What made God so pleased with the advent of the "Savior, who is Christ the Lord"? Before the incarnation the earth was the earth, man was man, and God was God. But at this point God made Himself one with man. Jesus is the mingling of God and man.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that the Christian life is a happy life.

Our life, the Christian life and the church life, is according to God's good pleasure. The Christian life is a happy life. We should be rejoicing day after day, not in ourselves but in the Lord. When we are happy, we are registering God's happiness within us. Our inward joy is an indication that we are living and walking according to His good pleasure.

B. Explain God's most pleasant thing is to have some people living Him on this earth. The most pleasant thing to God is to have some people on this earth who are living Him. This is His heart's desire. Even if you are young, God wants you to live Him before your family. Living Him means being one with Him. This is what makes you a man of God. It is not merely that you represent Him. God wants to be lived out of you.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what the spiritual meaning is of Father's pleasure being that we fall into the earth and die. The Father's pleasure is that we fall into the earth and die, that is, that we live a crucified life. When we die, the inner power of life will be energized. Death ushers in the resurrection power. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, open my eyes to see that my will and my glory have to be put aside. Then show me that You are the resurrection power within me."

B. Explain that God wants us to be persons in the spirit. Our soul is the natural man. Our spirit, regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is the inner man. It is this second person, the inner man, that is the object of God's good pleasure. In actuality, this person is Jesus Christ, mingled with you....The person in your soul is offensive and displeasing to God, but the One in your spirit is a sweet fragrance to Him.

Day 6 —

A. Why do we say God's New Testament economy being focused on our human spirit? God's New Testament economy is focused on our human spirit and is carried out by the divine Spirit and the human spirit being mingled together. Paul says, "To me, to live is Christ". Who is Christ? When the Word says that we are joined to Him in one spirit, we reply, "Hallelujah! I am a man, but I have a spirit! I am one spirit with the Lord!"

B. Explain the word in John 4:24 and how to apply it. We worship with our spirit. This indicates that our spirit serves as an organ. We see with our eyes, hear with our ears, and worship with our spirit. When we say we worship in spirit, we mean that we worship in the realm of the spirit. When we say we worship with our spirit, we mean that the spirit is the part of our being by which we worship. The spirit then has become not only the new person, but also the new organ with which we worship God.

III. Conclusion:

In 1984, Brother Lee returned to Taiwan from the United States to lead the churches in Taiwan to the God-ordained way. Under the framework of the gospel preachings, home meetings, small group meetings, district meetings, we need to practice of the begetting, nourishing, teaching truth, and the building. The purpose is for the perfecting of the saint unto everyone functioning, every member of the whole church serving, and the building up of the organic Body of Christ. In 1933, brother Nee fellowshiped with brother Spark, they mentioned that the most difficult word in the Bible to be fulfilled is Ephesians 4:15-16. Its key is on perfecting. Brother Nee's last ministry focuses on the knowledge of the Body of Christ; he saw that as many were saved, so many would be served. He said that the Body of Christ would be produced when all those who had received one talent were functioning. Brother Lee inherited the vision; in his lifetime, he would realize this vision, leading us to practice of a new way. After thirty-seven years, all the saints still need to strive to be laboring priests of the gospel.