

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Four : Prayer to Absorb God and to Express God by Praying to God as a Friend So That We Can Co-work with God**

### **I. Overview:**

In Psalm 27:1 David says, "Jehovah is my light and my salvation"; we contacted God to absorb God and enjoy that God Himself is what we need. By the divine dispensing through the washing of the water in the word, He beautifies us as His beautiful bride for His beautification. To pray is to come to the Lord just as we are, even if we are weak we should come to the Lord. Colossians 2:6-7 reveals that Christ as the good land is the rich soil, in which we absorb the element from the soil to grow up, which is the building. The one who trusts in the Lord is like a tree planted by water, signifying God as the fountain of living waters; a tree grows beside a river by absorbing all the riches of the water. We need to take time to absorb Christ day by day by having a personal and private time with Him so that we will walk in Christ and live out Christ. The best prayer is to pray to God as a friend; in Genesis 18 the God of heaven humbled Himself in order to befriend Abraham. He was seeking an intercessor to intercede for Lot in order to protect Christ's genealogy through Ruth.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain the word in Psalm 27:1.

Psalm 27:1 says, "Jehovah is my light and my salvation." This verse does not say that God shines on us but that He is our light, nor does it say that God saves us but that He is our salvation. By shining on us and saving us, God is accomplishing something for us. But by being our light and our salvation, God Himself is what we need.

B. Why do we say that every spiritual need that we have is God Himself?

Electricity is the electric light in a lamp, the electric heat in an iron, and the electric power in a fan. Electricity is light to meet one need, heat to meet another need, and power to meet yet another need. Similarly, light is God, salvation is God, power is God, and grace is God. Every spiritual need that we have is God Himself. God has not given us anything besides Himself.

Day 2 —

A. Explain Colossians 2:7 the implications to "grow in life".

Colossians 2:7 there are implications that believers are to grow like plants rooted in the soil. This implies that, in God's eyes, we are plants. To grow in life is to grow with the growth of God. It is to grow with the increase of God. True growth is the increase of God, the addition of God. In Himself, God does not need to grow. He is eternal, perfect, and complete.

B. Expound the meaning of "holding the Head" in Colossians 2:19.

"Holding the Head" is equal to abiding in Christ. Of course, to hold the Head implies that we are not detached, or severed, from Him. Colossians had been somewhat detached from Christ by their culture. The words out from whom in verse 19 indicate that something is coming out from the Head to cause the Body to grow. Holding the Head is, therefore, equal to being rooted in Christ as the soil.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the meaning of prayer.

The first meaning of prayer is to absorb God, and the second meaning is to express God. These meanings are related. To express God means to let Him speak, that is, to let God be expressed. Prayer is not our speaking or expressing ourselves. Prayer is our letting God speak and express Himself. We are often like Martha in our prayer. Our only care is to express ourselves, not to let God express Himself.

B. Explain what the principle of Psalm 27:8 says.

We should speak when we pray; however, the question is, What do we say? In our prayer we should say what God is saying within us. God speaks within us, and to pray is to repeat what He has spoken back to Him. Such prayer is according to God's speaking within us. Therefore, the words we utter in prayer are an expression of the speaking within us.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the importance for us to contact God.

After we are saved, the most important thing is for us to contact God. If we do not know how to contact God and lack fellowship with Him, we cannot be proper Christians, no matter how much we try. If we truly want to contact the Lord, we need to see some principles in contacting Him in these cases.

B. Explain by the case of the Lord changing water into wine, that we must not direct the Lord as contacting Him. The major principle in the first case is that we must not direct the Lord when we contact Him. All authority must be in His hands. We cannot say, "Lord, do this," or "Lord, do that." If we say this, the Lord might say, "What do I have in this that concerns you?" This does not mean that the Lord does not want any contact with us, rather the Lord entered into us in order to be responsible for our affairs.

Day 5 —

A. Explain by the case of John 11 that the Lord does not heal man but resurrects man.

Instead of immediately healing Lazarus, the Lord waited for Lazarus to die in order to raise him, because the Lord only wants to raise man. Resurrection involves waiting until man comes to an end in order to give him a new beginning. The Lord must wait until we are hopelessly weak, until we are hopelessly weak, until we are an utter failure, and until we are completely dead before He can manifest His resurrection power in us.

B. Expound by the case of John 13 that we need to let Him do what He wills in us.

In John 13 the Lord washed His disciples' feet. The principle involved in this case is that we need to let Him do what He wills in us when we draw near to Him. We should not be like Peter, who humbly said, "You shall by no means wash my feet forever." Then, when the Lord said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me," Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head". This is our condition.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the inquiring prayers and how David inquired of the Lord.

When we pray by inquiring, we do not make our desire known to God; instead, God's desire is made known to us. Good prayers are inquiring prayers because they honor God. David knew how to pray. He often inquired of Jehovah. The best prayer is to inquire of the Lord step by step, according to the sense within. By inquiring in this way, we can easily receive God's leading.

B. Explain what God said to Abrahams as he's enjoying such sweet fellowship with Him.

At that time, Abrahams received revelation from Him regarding the birth of Isaac and the destruction of Sodom. The birth of Isaac is related to Christ, and the destruction of Sodom is related to God's judgment upon sin. Christ must come in and sin must go out. God intends to produce Christ and to destroy the "Sodom" in our home life, work life, and even in our Christian and church life.

### III. Conclusion:

The functions of prayer could be divided into two aspects, one is the prayer of fellowship, and the other is prayer of inquiry. The prayer of fellowship is to contact God, absorb God with our spirit, and turn our whole being back to the spirit to communicate with God. In this way, God has the opportunity to reveal Himself to us and infuse Himself into us. Second, the inquiring prayer is not initiated by us, it is initiated by God. First, God grants us the burden, then we pray. So, strictly speaking, we are not asking God for something, but God has something for us to ask for Him. When we pray by inquiring, we do not make our desire known to God; instead, God's desire is made known to us. Inquiring prayers honour God most. To learn this kind of prayer, we need to go deeper and deeper. In this way, our prayers are God's fellow workers. This is the purpose of prayer, and it is the highest point that prayer brings us to.