

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Five : Our Need to Walk in Newness of Life, to Serve in Newness of Spirit, and to Be Renewed

I. Overview:

Rev. 21:5a. "He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new". As believers in Christ, we have been made a new creation; a person regenerated with the life of God and living in the inner man, not in the outer man. As a new creation in Christ Jesus, we need to walk in newness of life, which means to live in the realm of resurrection and to reign in life. Our living should be in newness of life, and our service should be in newness of spirit. Walking in newness of life is the kind of living that deals with all that is of Adam in us until we are fully transformed and conformed to the image of Christ. Concerning our service, we should have the newness of spirit instead of the oldness of law and letter. The Christian life is a life of being renewed; our outer man is being consumed, but our inner man is being renewed day by day, that is, we need to pass through a process that involves suffering. All the sufferings that God has assigned to us have one unique purpose to new us. The sufferings that we pass through are a process to transfer us from the realm of the old creation to the realm of the new creation.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain to walk in newness of life means to live in the realm of resurrection.

We were buried with Christ into His death, and now we have been resurrected as He was. Resurrection is not only a future state; it is also a present process. To walk in newness of life means to live in the realm of resurrection and to reign in life. This kind of living deals with all that is of Adam in us until we are fully transformed and conformed to the image of Christ.

B. Expound the relationship between the Romans 6:4 and 6:5.

The newness of life mentioned in Romans 6:4 is the likeness of His resurrection mentioned in verse 5. We all should walk in this newness of life. We must see that we have grown together with Christ in the likeness of His death, that is, in baptism, and that we will grow together with Him in the likeness of His resurrection, that is, in the newness of His resurrected life.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the difference between newness of life and newness of spirit is.

We have to realize that in 6:4 we have the newness of life for our living; in 7:6 we have the newness of spirit for our service. Newness of life issues from our being identified with Christ's resurrection. Newness of spirit issues from our being discharged from the law and being joined to the resurrected Christ. Both newness of spirit and newness of life are results of the crucifixion of the old man.

B. Expound both newness of life and newness of spirit are related to the Spirit.

Both newness of life and newness of spirit are related to the Spirit. The newness of life is related to Christ Himself in His resurrection, who is the life-giving Spirit. Everything that is related to our regenerated spirit is new, and everything that comes out of our spirit is new. Our regenerated spirit is a source of newness because the Lord, the life of God, and the Holy Spirit are there.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the facts of the outer man and the inner man.

The outer man is our body and our soul, with the body as its organ and the soul as its life and person. The inner man is our regenerated spirit with our renewed soul. The regenerated spirit is its life and person, and the renewed soul is its organ. The life of the soul must be denied, but the functions of the soul must be renewed and uplifted by being subdued to be used by the spirit, the person of the inner man.

B. Expound how we experience the renewing of the mind in the church life.

In the church life we are experiencing the renewing of the mind and the uplifting of the mind. As our mind is subdued by the Lord, it is renewed. Then it can be used by our spirit, which is the person of the inner man. The outer man is being consumed. It is being worn out and put to death. But the inner man is being renewed day by day.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the difference between the two of old creation and new creation.

Anything created by God that does not have God in it as its life, nature, appearance, and expression is old, but anything that has God within it as its life, nature, appearance, and expression is a new creation. Before we were regenerated, we were the old creation. After we were regenerated, we became a new creation. To be regenerated is to be made a new creation.

B. Expound how to be renewed by God out of our old habit.

We have God doctrinally, but we may lack God as our life and nature in our daily life. We may be slow in our disposition, but many times God's nature is to do things immediately, especially in the meetings. We may be quiet in our nature, but God wants us to be a new creation to utter something in the meetings against our natural habit. We all have to be brought out of our old habit into taking God as our new habit.

Day 5 —

A. Expound how God consummates His renewing work in us.

It would be tragic if we would pass through many sufferings and still remain the same. In order to consummate His renewing work in us and with us, God becomes our life and nature within. In addition to this, God as the sovereign Lord controls the entire universe in order to renew us. God uses the environment in order to work His life and nature into us. Without the environment, we could never be renewed. We would remain the same.

B. Fellowship that we are brought to discipline our children according to God's nature.

We may discipline them according to our disposition and our habit. God, therefore, uses the environment to put us into "prison." Then we are reminded to pray, and the eventual outcome of our prayer is not merely that we get corrected but that we get renewed. Formerly, we disciplined our children with ourselves. Now God is in our disciplining of our children, and our disciplining them becomes a human-divine disciplining.

Day 6 —

A. Expound there being the renewing capacity in this divine element of God's life.

Within the divine life that we are enjoying today, there is a renewing capacity. In God's divine nature there is the ability that is energizing all day. Once the divine life with the divine nature gets into us, it energizes within us. The divine element is very active and it is organic in us; in which there is the renewing capacity. We need to enjoy the renewing capacity of the divine life day by day.

B. Explain 2 Corinthians 4:10, "the putting to death of Jesus".

This means that Jesus is always killing us. In many medicines today there is a healing element and a killing element that kills the bad germs and bacteria within us. In Jesus there is the killing element. In this dose there is the killing power. When we take Him as our medication, we enjoy the killing of Jesus, or the putting to death of Jesus.

III. Conclusion:

It takes our life time long for God to renew us. It requires us to contact God, to receive God, and to get God added into us. It also requires us to pray, confessing our sins and rejecting ourselves to take the cross of Christ. To take the cross of Christ is a killing, and this killing is death. This death brings in resurrection, and in this resurrection the divine life in us will carry out its renewing capacity. God in His sovereignty will arrange all environment and the circumstances in which our outer man is decaying to be consumed and renewed. At the same time, our inner man is being renewed day by day. Looking at the life of Jacob, it typifies the transforming work of the God Spirit in us. It will take a long time and much suffering to turn Jacob's holding hand into a blessing hand. What God did on Jacob will also be dealing with you and me.