

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Two : Living in the Divine Trinity (1) Abiding in Christ as the True Vine

I. Overview:

We need to see the practical experience of living in and with the Divine Trinity. The Gospel of John is a book on living in and with the Divine Trinity. In the Epistles we can see all the practicalities and details of living in and with the Divine Trinity. The Lord Jesus told us in John 15 that He is the vine and that we are the branches of the vine. As the branches of the vine, we should abide in Him; then He will abide in us. The true vine with its branches, Christ the Son with the believers in the Son, is the organism of the Triune God in the divine economy. The Father as the husbandman is the source and the founder; God the Son is the center, the embodiment, and the manifestation; God the Spirit is the reality and realization; and the branches are the Body, the corporate expression. We abide in the Triune God by the teaching of the anointing. Christ as the Head is the anointed One and the anointing One, and we are His members enjoying Him as the inner anointing. The anointing anoints God into us so that we may be saturated with God, possess God, and understand the mind of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound in John 15 revealing that He is the vine and we are the branches of the vine.

As the branches of the vine, we should abide in Him. Then He will abide in us. To abide in Christ is to live in Christ, and to live in Christ is to live in the Divine Trinity. To have Christ abide in us is to have the Triune God living in us. This is to live with the Divine Trinity.

B. Explain that we can live in the Triune God.

Outside of the divine revelation of the Bible, there is no religion or philosophy that says that we can live in another person. But the Bible reveals that we can live in the Triune God. What a wonder and an honor it is to be those who can live in the Triune God! In the entire universe there is such a miracle that we can live in the Triune God.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that John 15 reveals the organism of the Triune God in God's economy.

In John 15 we see that Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God is the true vine. Christ the Son as the true vine with the believers as its branches is the organism of the Triune God in God's economy, the divine dispensing, to grow with His riches and express the divine life. As the organism of the Triune God, this vine is corporate and universal.

B. Explain the Spirit of reality in John 15:26.

In John 15:26 God the Spirit is called the Spirit of reality. This means that the Spirit is the reality. Whatever God the Father is in the Son and whatever He has centralized in Christ the Son will be realized by the Spirit. All that God the Father is in the Son is a reality in God the Spirit. Everything's centralized in the Son is revealed, testified, witnessed, and realized by the Spirit of reality.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the words in John 15:5 giving us what kind of revelation.

Christ and the believers, the vine with the branches, form the organism of the Triune God in the divine dispensing. The vine in John 15, therefore, is a universal vine comprising Christ and His believers as the branches. In this vine, this organism, the Triune God lives, expresses Himself, and dispenses Himself to the uttermost.

B. Briefly describe that as branches of Adam, we were transferred into Christ's branches.

By our fallen nature we are branches of Adam and even branches of the devil. The wonderful thing is that when we believed in the Lord Jesus, He branched out into us. This branching out has made us branches of this wonderful Christ. Therefore, Christ's branching out has made us branches of Christ as the vine.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how to maintain the fellowship between the branches and the vine.

If we see that we are already in Christ, we shall be able to abide in Him.

First, we must see that we are branches. Then we need to maintain the fellowship between us and the Lord. Nothing should be between Him and us. From experience we know that even a small thing can separate us from the rich supply of the vine.

B. Expound that our abiding in Him is the condition of His abiding in us.

As long as we abide in Christ, He will abide in us. His abiding in us depends on our abiding in Him. With us, however, because we are so fluctuating, there is the need of a condition. If we do not abide in Christ, there is no way for Him to abide in us. Although He does not change, we have many changes.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship that we also should be those who are abiding in the Father.

How good it is to have a Father! Our Father is all capable. Our Father is always living and never gets old. He takes care of us in every way and in everything. Thank the Lord that God is our Father and that we are not orphans but sons. We are not only abiding in Christ as the organism of the Triune God, but we are also abiding in the Father with all His care.

B. Why is our abiding in the Son abiding in the Father?

When we have the Son, we have the Father, because the Son and the Father are one. The Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father. When we abide in the Son, we abide in the Father. Our experiences confirm this fact. While we are abiding in the Son, we have the sensation that the Father is with us. We have the Lord, and we have the Father. We have the Son with the Father.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in First John 2:27 and how to apply them.

The anointing is the moving and working of the indwelling compound Spirit. This ointment is divine ointment, divine paint. In this divine paint are the element of the Father, the element of the Son, and the element of the eternal life. This divine ointment, this divine paint, is typified in Exodus 30 by the anointing oil, the compound ointment. The move of this ointment is the anointing.

B. Fellowship how to live according to the teaching of the anointing.

There is a divine paint moving within us. By this anointing, we are made clear concerning what we should be, what we should say, where we should go, and what we should do. If we are abiding in Christ, the Lord, the Son, the Father, and God, we will live according to the teaching of the anointing in all the affairs of our daily life.

III. Conclusion:

In First John we see that we need to abide in the Lord, in the Son, in the Father, and in God. This presents a complete picture of living in the Triune God. Abiding in the Lord is to be abiding in Triune God, who possesses, governs everything, and exercises His sovereignty to dominate all people and things; we are living in this universal Lord. Abiding in the Father, we have a Father who is always living, never gets old and takes care of us in every way and in everything. And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We need to have the faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and we need to have the love to love all the brothers. This is what it means to abide in God. This is a living that includes the main things of our Christian life.