

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Five : The Secret of Living the Christian Life to Be an Overcomer—Taking the Way of Eating and Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life

I. Overview:

The secret of living the Christian life to be an overcomer is for us to take the way of eating and enjoying Christ as the tree of life. His only desire is to give Himself to us as food for our enjoyment; only those who take the way of enjoying Christ as the We can eat the Lord Jesus as our spiritual food for our enjoyment, receiving Him as the Spirit who gives life through eating His words of spirit and life by means of all prayer and by musing upon His words. We can eat Him by doing the will of the Father to satisfy the hungry and thirsty ones and by glorifying the Father on earth in living the life of a God-man for the glory of the processed Triune God. We can eat Him by contacting the proper people. The children of Israel and the New Testament believers could enjoy Christ as the produce of the good land in two ways: the common, private way was to enjoy it as a common portion at any time, in any place, and with anyone; the special, corporate way was to enjoy the top portion, the firstfruits and the firstlings, with all the Israelites at the appointed feasts and in the unique place chosen by God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain how to solve a problem of a couple's arguing in applying the tree of life.

To touch the tree of life is to touch God, and to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is to touch fire and death. For example, a couple may be arguing. If we are clear about the principle of the tree of life, we will lead this couple into life. Only those who touch the tree of life will see love and humility, but the love and humility that issue from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil end up in the lake of fire.

B. Expound to muse upon the Word being to "chew the cud," like a cow eating grass.

If we take in the Word too quickly, we shall not have very much enjoyment. But if we "chew the cud" as we take in the Word, our enjoyment will increase. When we muse upon the Word of God, we shall spontaneously pray.

Furthermore, we may converse with ourselves or begin to praise the Lord. Usually musing upon the Word will be slower and finer than pray-reading the Word.

Day 2 —

A. Explain after eating we also need a good digestion.

We need to eat Jesus by calling on the name of the Lord. But after we eat, we also need a good digestion. When we eat Christ, we also need to spiritually digest Him in a proper way. If you have a proper digestion, the food you eat can get into every part of your physical being. Indigestion means that there is no thoroughfare for the food; there is no thoroughfare for the Lord Jesus to get through.

B. Fellowship after you call the Lord, you must live according to the feeling of life.

While you are calling "Lord Jesus," this practical and living Jesus will touch your natural being. But many of you would say, "No, Lord. Don't touch me here. You are my guest, and You must stay in the living room." This means indigestion. There is no way for the Lord as the spiritual food to get through in you. There is no free course for the food to get into your inward parts, so you have indigestion.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the words in Ephesians 4:20.

The reality, truth in Jesus is the real situation of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels. In the godly life of Jesus there is truth, reality. Jesus lived a life always doing things in God, with God, and for God. God was in His life, and He was one with God. This is the truth in Jesus. We, the believers, regenerated with Christ as our life and taught in Him, learn from Him as the truth is in Jesus.

B. Why do we say that the life of Jesus according to truth is the pattern?

When we believed in the Lord Jesus and were saved, God put us into Christ as the mold. This mold is the life of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels, a life absolutely according to reality, truth. This life of Jesus according to truth is the pattern in which God has placed us. In this pattern we have learned Christ as the truth is in Jesus.

Day 4 —

A. Explain in order to live a holy life, we must be careful about our contact with people.

To eat is not merely to contact something but also to receive something into us. Once a thing is received into us, that thing can be digested inside to become our constituent, that is, our being, our constitution. If we intend to live a holy life as required by the holy God, we need to be careful about our contact with people.

B. Expound the animals in Leviticus 11 typifying different kinds of persons.

The animals mentioned in Leviticus 11 typify persons; they are figures that describe different kinds of persons.

When we eat, we contact something that is outside of us, something that has nothing to do with us. However, if we eat that thing, it can affect us inside. In Leviticus 11 the things we eat signify people, and eating signifies our contacting of people.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the aquatic animals having fins and scales signify.

Aquatic animals having fins and scales signify persons who can move and act freely in the world and at the same time resist its influence. Fins help fish to move, to act, in water according to their wishes. Because they have fins, fish may even swim against the current, and scales protect them from being salted. As believers in Christ, we should have fins and scales and therefore be able to act freely in the sea of the world without being salted by it.

B. Expound what birds that have wings for flying and eat seeds of life signify.

Those signify persons who can live and move in a life that is away from and above the world and who take things of life as their supply of life. We Christians should be like birds that have wings and that feed on the seeds of life. This means that we should live and move in a life that is away from and above the world and that we should take the things of life as our supply of life.

Day 6 —

A. Testify that the Christian life before God is a matter of enjoyment.

Our salvation is for us to enjoy God, and our spiritual growth depends on our enjoyment of God. Even our service and labor depend on our enjoyment of God. God has no intention for us to do something for Him; He only wants us to enjoy Him. Moreover, He is not outside of us. He has entered into us to be our enjoyment as our food and drink.

B. Expound what the two aspects of the enjoyment of Christ are.

There are two aspects of the enjoyment of Christ. The one is the common aspect. Wherever we are, no matter the time or the place, we may enjoy Christ. The other aspect of the enjoyment of Christ is the enjoyment of the top portion, the choice portion, the firstfruit or firstborn, of Christ. We can only have this aspect of the enjoyment of Christ in the proper church life.

III. Conclusion:

We need to chew and digest the Word of the Lord, just as we eat every meal. If each meal is taken only five to ten minutes, we will definitely get stomach problems. In the matter of eating, we need to make good use of teeth to chew, some food to slowly grind with molars, some to cut with incisors. In short, chewing is healthy. Likewise, when we read the Bible, we need to chew for at least half an hour. We are to meditate slowly, enter, and digest the Lord's Word in prayer. If you chew the Word so well every morning, you will be strong all day. In ancient times, the Israelites enjoyed ninety percent of the land's produce at any time. But for the sake of oneness, they must come to the place God has chosen and enjoy the topmost portion of the produce as worship of God. In type, the place is Jerusalem; In fulfillment, it is a matter of the Spirit.