

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Six : Becoming a Reproduction of Christ as the Tree of Life for the Ministry of Life**

#### **I. Overview:**

In God's economy we are not only eaters of the tree of life, but we are also branches of this tree, and we may eventually become a small tree of life, a reproduction of Christ as the tree of life. In order to become a reproduction of Christ as our model, we need to experience Christ as the One living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in our hearts. As a reproduction of Christ as the tree of life, we have the ministry of life that we can minister this life to other members of the Body of Christ. To minister life is to impart life; when we have a surplus of life, we can minister from this supply to others. The life that we supply to others is in the Spirit, the Spirit is mingled with our spirit, and if we would supply the saints with life, we must release our spirit, for the divine life is in our mingled spirit. In order for life to be released from our spirit, our outer man must be dealt with and broken, we must be subdued in our soul, and let our spirit dominate and rule over every matter; then the Lord's life will be able to flow out. If we would minister life to others, we need to be aware of the attack upon the church by the gates of Hades. Satan's greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death. The eternal life within us can overcome death both in ourselves and in other members of the church.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound the two main ways to grow trees.

There are two main ways to grow trees. One way is to sow a seed. If we sow the seed of a peach, a peach tree will grow up. The second way is to plant the sapling of a peach tree into the earth. This sapling will grow to be a peach tree...The Bible tells us that God has sown Himself into our spirit as the life seed to grow a tree, a miniature of the tree of life.

B. Explain why we need to be sowers and planters.

We need to be sowers and planters, sowing and planting Christ into many vacant sinners. Today there are many sinners who do not have Christ. They may feel that their living on this earth is empty and is vanity of vanities. If they would receive Christ not only as a small seed but as a large plant planted into their being, they are no longer empty.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the words in First John 5:16, and how to experience it.

First John 5:16 is the only reference in the Bible to ministering life to someone. What does it mean to give him life? It means that I impart Christ to him. He has sinned because he is short of life. When we are short of the Lord Jesus, we commit sin. Only one person can overcome sin, and that is the Lord Jesus. If we lose our temper, that is an indication that we are short of the Lord Jesus.

B. Explain what you need most in your married life is Christ.

Husbands, do not rebuke your wife. You will simply make yourself and her miserable. Only Christ works. Only life helps. We husbands must minister life to our wives. Sisters, deep in your heart you may have the intention to subdue your husband. Husbands like to rebuke; wives like to subdue. You will never succeed in subduing your husband. What he needs is for you to minister life to him.

Day 3 —

A. Testify that we, being serving the Lord, shall know our service being life-supplying.

No matter what our service may be, we should be clear that our service is a means to supply life to others. The church is different from a society... In the church the point is not whether we do a good job but whether life is supplied. If the church were only for taking care of matters, not supplying life, the church would lose its nature and would be a society.

B. Explain how we can supply the life of God to others.

God's life is in His Spirit and dwells in the regenerated human spirit. The divine life is in the two spirits, the Spirit mingled with our human spirit. Initially, the divine life was only in the Spirit, but now the divine life dwells also in

our spirit. Hence, if we are to supply the saints with life, we must release our spirit, for the divine life is in our mingled spirit.

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Day 4 —

A. How come to be a pure flow of the life of God, we must be broken?

In order for there to be a pure flow of the life of God, we must be broken. In Galatians 2:20, the statement I am crucified and it is no longer I refers to the experience of being broken. Only those who are broken are crucified with Christ and can say, "It is no longer I." The statement but it is Christ who lives in me refers to the flowing out of the divine life. Christ being expressed through us is life flowing out of us.

B. Expound the spiritual experience of being broken of a man.

When we say that the soul needs to be broken, we do not mean that a person no longer uses his mind, emotion, or will. Our mind, emotion, and will still function, but they have been dealt with, subdued, and made submissive to our spirit. In other words, they have been broken. A person who can release his spirit has subdued his mind, emotion, and will. The three parts of his soul are under the ruling of his spirit and let his spirit dominate.

Day 5 —

A. Why do we say that in the Lord's recovery we need to experience of death?

The work of the apostles is the work of death operating in them so that life may operate in the believers. The result of this operation of death is wonderful—it is life in others. In the Lord's recovery we need to die so that life may work in others. Hence, our dying is our working. The Lord needs you to die. If you die, life will work in others. You will minister life to others by dying. Therefore, our work is to be put to death.

B. Explain with experience, how we can be used by God.

You ask me how you can be used to minister life to the Body. Not by setting out deliberately to do a lot, but simply by letting the Cross operate in the normal course of your walk with the Lord. It is an abiding principle of the Body. So you need make no special effort to bring increase to the Body in this way, for anything God takes you through by way of the Cross will spontaneously bring increase there.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that God's controversy with Satan has been on this issue of death and life.

All of God is characterized by life, all of Satan by death. Where there is life there is God. The great difference between Christ and all others is that, whereas others are dead, He lives. Death could not touch Him. And God who destroyed death through Christ, now uses the Church for the same purpose. Today she is God's vessel of life, called to reveal the risen life of His Son, and to bring men to the knowledge of that life.

B. Explain what John in 1 John 5:14-17 showed us.

John's intention in 1 John 5:14-17 is to show us that the eternal life within us can overcome death both in ourselves and in other members of the church. Eternal life swallows up death within us and death within other members. Because the church is the Body, we live with the fellow members of the Body.

### III. Conclusion:

Praise the Lord that the tree of life has been planted in us. What we need is to release Him. We must learn how to exercise our spirit. In this way, we will enjoy Him as air, water, food, light, and fully enjoy Himself as the tree of life. This is what we Christians need today. Our work in the Lord's recovery is not for the work of man, but to the manifestation of Himself through us. We should not give the impression that we care about human good deeds, It is not only to give the impression of labor and service, but to have the abundance and richness of life as a channel for the supply of life to other members, so that the Lord may express Himself through us. This requires that we be grafted and abide in Him, that the Spirit be released, that man be broken, the soul be subdued, and all things let the spirit dominate.