

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Five : Natural Ability versus the Resurrected Ability of the Maturity of Life for the Building Up of the Church as the Organic Body of Christ

I. Overview:

Solomon took many pagan women and worshipped and built their idols, he lost his God-given wisdom and understanding; he became very foolish and brought in damage to his kingdom. Solomon, the very one who had built the temple according to God's desire on the ground of the oneness, took the lead to build up the high places once again. The nation of Israel is still suffering because of Solomon's failure; what a warning and an alarm this should be to us! Solomon was a wise man but not a spiritual man; a man of capability, not a man of life. Because of his small measure in the maturity of the spiritual life, he was cut off from the enjoyment of the good land; his wisdom was a shadow of the real wisdom, and it was altogether different from Paul's wisdom. The mysteries of God's economy were disclosed mainly to Paul; in order to know the highest wisdom in the universe, we must get into the crystallization of the truths in Paul's Epistles. We need to realize the insufficiency of our natural being and natural ability in the things of God. We must learn to reject our natural being and exercise our spirit in everything for the organic building up of the Body of Christ. Today we are kings who are reigning with Christ in life by receiving the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why did Solomon lose wisdom and understanding that became very foolish?

Solomon became a man of wisdom and also a man of understanding. However, because he took many pagan women and worshipped their idols, he lost his God-given wisdom and his God-given understanding. He became very foolish and brought in damage to his kingdom.

We should not forget that whatever we do is the sowing of a seed. There will be a result, an outcome, of what we sow.

B. Expound God being full of love, kind, grace, forgiveness, and also the righteous God.

It is true that God is loving, kind, full of grace, and full of forgiveness. However, He is also the righteous God, and He is righteous in a detailed way. If we do not act in the way God wants us to act, He will have no chance to make His home in our hearts. Our doing, our behaving, affects God in His dealing with us. We must learn to be careful, even in small things.

Day 2 —

A. Expound Solomon's God-given wisdom.

In 1 Kings 4:29-34 we see that Solomon's God-given wisdom made him great in the world in his days. Solomon's wisdom was absolutely in the physical realm, without any spiritual element. His wisdom was altogether different from the wisdom of Paul. Paul's wisdom was a spiritual wisdom concerning Christ making His home in our hearts, and our walking and having our being according to the spirit.

B. From seeing Solomon's asking Jehovah to let us know our real need.

Jehovah appeared to Solomon in a dream and promised to give him whatever he would ask. Solomon asked Jehovah to give him wisdom and an understanding heart to judge God's people. Wisdom is a matter in our spirit, and understanding is a matter in our mind. We need God's wisdom in our spirit and God's understanding in our mind.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the mysteries of God's economy being disclosed mainly to Paul.

The mysteries of God's economy were disclosed mainly to Paul. Today, if we would know the highest wisdom in the universe, we must come to Paul's Epistles. We must get into the intrinsic significance of the revelation of the Bible, especially the crystallization of the truths in Paul's Epistles. The real wisdom is God, and God is embodied in Christ, who has become our wisdom to be in us.

B. Explain that we can see Solomon's wisdom under the light of the spiritual life.

Under the light of the spiritual life, we can see that Solomon was a wise man but not a spiritual one; a man of capability, not one of life; a man whose wisdom was a gift, not a measure of life. The careers he accomplished were evidences of his capacity from the, not manifestations of the ability of the maturity of life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound service for the Lord on our own according to our natural strength and ability

In the church service we must reject our natural strength and ability, which are acquired by us either through birth or through learning. Any of our natural strength and ability is unprofitable to the church service in life. Because we have the strength and the ability, we feel that we do not need to pray, to wait on the Lord, to seek the Lord's will, or to look for the Lord's leading.

B. Why did our natural strength and ability needed to be dealt with by the cross?

To overcome our natural strength and ability is a great, subjective lesson; it is more subjective than dealing with sin. In a certain sense, our natural strength and ability equal our self, our natural constitution. The natural strength and ability are useful if they are dealt with by the cross. After being dealt with by the cross, they are in resurrection.

Day 5 —

A. Describe the way in which the kings of Israel had their being determining their enjoyment on the good land.

The way in which the kings of Israel had their being, how they behaved, lived, moved, and acted in their daily living, activities, and careers, paints a full picture of how the elect of God could partake of the God-promised and God-given good land and enjoy all its rights that they could become God's kingdom on the earth usurped by His enemy Satan.

B. Expound that the tragic result should be a serious warning to us.

The New Testament overcomers, that we may die to ourselves, and live to God in resurrection. A life of living Christ, magnifying Christ, and moving and acting with Christ by the bountiful supply of the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit, is indispensable for us. This may causes us in the church age to enjoy Christ as the good land in the fullest sense, and to be gloriously rewarded in partaking of Christ in the kingdom age.

Day 6 —

A. Explain every king having had a thorough realization to rule as a proper king.

Every king should have had a thorough realization that he should be a king who did not rule a nation for his own interest and prosperity but ruled for God's eternal economy that God could have a nation on the earth to keep the land of Immanuel for Christ's reign and a people for a lineage of the genealogy to bring Christ to the earth. For this purpose they had to be a Nazarite to take God as their Head to serve Him.

B. Fellowship the Bible's teaching urging and inspiring us how to live.

We should live in the spirit, to walk in the spirit, and to do everything according to the spirit. For instance, the way we style our hair and the way we speak with our spouse and children should be according to the spirit. When we visit others for the preaching of the gospel, we should contact them not according to our self but according to the mingled spirit. In church meetings our praying and prophesying should all be in the spirit and according to the spirit.

III. Conclusion:

God is gracious and merciful, full of grace and forgiveness. However. He is also the righteous God, and He is righteous in a detailed way. If we do not act in the way God wants us to act, He will have no chance to make His home in our hearts. Our doing, our behaving, affects God in His dealing with us. We must learn to be careful in our behaviour. Today we also are kings, reigning with Christ. Our intentions, desires, character, habits, and behavior affect our enjoyment of Christ. Because we are kings, for us to be cut off from the enjoyment of Christ means that we are cut off from the top enjoyment of Christ, and this will cause us to lose our kingship. Thus, we must be careful, even in the smallest thing. We should walk according to the spirit in everything.