

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Six : Going On with the Lord from the Tabernacle Church Life to the Temple Church Life

I. Overview:

The Lord within us is aspiring to go on from the tabernacle church life in the wilderness of the soul to the temple church life with Christ, the all-inclusive Spirit, as the reality of the good land in our spirit for the Building Up of the Body of Christ as the Temple of the Living God. The tabernacle was a portable precursor moving through the wilderness, whereas the temple was the consummation of God's building in typology. The tabernacle typifies God's church in the localities, whereas the temple signifies the church as the reality of the Body of Christ. The Gospel of John is the gospel of Christ as life for the building up of the church as the temple of God. The principle of life is to change death into life, and the purpose of life is to build the church as the house of God. David and Solomon typify Christ in two aspects for God's building; David typifies the suffering Christ and Solomon typifies Christ in His resurrection with glory. Every piece of stone used for the building of the temple was, in principle, already cut and dealt with in the mountains; thus, the sound was not heard, and the temple was built quietly. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house. Blessed is the man in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why do we go on from the tabernacle church life to the temple church life?

Surely it is good to have the tabernacle as God's building, yet the tabernacle lacked solidity; it was portable with no foundation. There was no stone, only wood, in its construction. Are we walking about in a spacious land, full of unsearchable riches? Is the church life built up, as solid as the temple?

B. Expound the temple being enlarged from the tabernacle.

We must see that not only was the temple larger, more stable, and more weighty than the tabernacle, but the furniture in the temple was also made anew, and their dimensions were increased. The altar, the laver, the table of the bread of the Presence, the golden lampstand, and the incense altar were all reconstructed, and in most cases their dimensions were increased, signifying the renewing and enlargement of the saints' experience of Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the relationship between the local churches and the Body of Christ.

We may think that the local churches are the goal of God's economy. However, they are not the goal but the procedure God takes to reach the goal of His economy. According to Ephesians 1:22-23, the goal of God's economy is the church, which is Christ's Body. We need to be in the local churches so that we can be ushered, or brought, into the reality of the Body of Christ.

B. Fellowship in the Bible there are two aspects related to God's habitation.

On the one hand, it is transitory and wandering, as typified by the tabernacle. The tabernacle typifies the church on earth, or the church in localities. The temple is different from the tabernacle. It was built for the kingdom. It was the center of the life of the people of Israel. As such, the temple is unique, eternal, and solid. Even when the nation was divided politically, the temple could not be divided.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the principle and the purpose of the life in Gospel of John.

In John 2 we first have the case of changing water into wine and then, following that, the case of dealing with the temple. Why does the dealing with the temple follow the changing of death into life? It shows that life is for God's temple. Life is for God's building. In the case of the dealing with the temple, we see the goal, the purpose of life, that is, to build the house of God.

B. Explain the words in John 2:19 and its spiritual meaning.

The Lord Jesus told His opponents that if they destroyed this temple He would raise it again in three days. The Lord was saying, "You may put Me to death and you may kill My body on the cross, but I will raise it up again in three days." After the Lord's resurrection, His Body, that is, the temple, was reared up on a much larger scale.

Day 4 —

A. Why did David and Solomon most adequately typify Christ?

Although there were numerous kings in Israel, only two, David and Solomon, most adequately typify Christ. David is a type of Christ in His suffering on earth. Also David was a fighting king who defeated the enemy and prepared materials for the building of the holy temple. Solomon is a type of Christ as the victorious King in resurrection who is building the church as the temple of God in peace.

B. Expound the design and the execution of the building of the church.

The Lord Jesus revealed the proper blueprint of the church to His disciples before His crucifixion. Even though the design for building the temple was revealed to David, the execution of that design was carried out through the hands of Solomon. This indicates that Christ revealed the blueprint of the church while He was on the earth, and now Christ is executing the blueprint of the church in resurrection in us.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that the temple was built quietly.

For the building of the temple, there was the need for a design and for consecration. Every piece of stone used for the building of the temple was, in principle, already cut and dealt with in the mountains. At the time of the building, there was only the need for the pre-cut and shaped stones to be placed one on top of the other. There was no need for additional work with an axe or hammer. Thus, the temple was built quietly.

B. State a person being dealt with then to have his function manifested for the building.

A person must be dealt with by God in order to have his function manifested and to be built up in the church. A brother is not qualified to be an elder merely because he has attained a certain level of seniority, knowledge, capability, morality, and reputation. He may be a good stone, but his sharp edges may not have been dealt with by God. If this kind of person becomes an elder, the church will be filled with the noise of the hammer and axe. If a church is not noisy, it is strong and healthy.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that God's only desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment.

As God's children, we need to change our concept and see that God's only desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment. The secret of the Christian life is not how much we work for Him, but how much we enjoy Him. We must learn this secret. We need to learn to simply turn our inner being to absorb Him and enjoy Him.

B. Fellowship what we should do before preaching the gospel.

If we want to preach the gospel, we should first spend half an hour or an hour contacting the Lord, beholding His glory, fellowshiping with Him, and praising Him. After absorbing the Lord and being filled with Him, we will not be the one speaking, but the Lord whom we have absorbed will be the One who is speaking through us.

III. Conclusion:

It is good to have a tabernacle for God's building, but the tabernacle lacks solidity. The tabernacle was movable and had no foundation. There was no provision in the wilderness to build the temple. Only in the good land were there materials suitable for building the temple. When we see the condition of the churches from this point of view, we may say that we are on the way to the good land, and we are not satisfied with that only remains in the tabernacle church life. The dissatisfaction we feel is not really out of us, but out of the Lord. He desires living the temple church life from us in the good land. On the one hand, we are very happy in the church life, whereas on the other hand, we should go advanced by what we have. We do have the ark in the tabernacle church life. Therefore, we can enter the higher level, the good land, where we can build the temple up, which is what God wants.