

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Nine : The Temple of God Filled with the Glory of God

I. Overview:

Glory is an attribute of God; glory is the expression of God, God expressed in splendor. The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle. God's eternal goal is to bring His many sons into glory. Through the gospel of the glory of God, God has called us by and into His eternal glory. In John 17:22 the Lord Jesus prayed, "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one". In the third stage of oneness, the believers, their self having been fully denied, enjoy the glory of the Father as the factor of their perfected oneness and thus express God in a corporate, built-up way. In Ephesians 3:21 to Him be the glory implies that the glory of God, which has been wrought into the saints, returns to God; this is the way in which God is glorified in the church. An outstanding feature of the New Jerusalem is that it has the glory of God, His expression. The entire city of New Jerusalem bears the glory of God, which is God Himself shining out through the city. In eternity all the sons of God will be fully saturated with God and will express God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Describe the situation of the glory filled the tabernacle in Exodus 40:34-38.

In Exodus 40:34-38 we have a record of the glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle. The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory filled the tabernacle. With respect to man, it was the Tent of Meeting. But with respect to God, it was the tabernacle. Those who only gather around the Tent of Meeting may have the cloud. However, we need to enjoy not only the cloud upon the Tent of Meeting, but also the glory within the tabernacle.

B. Expound the relationship between the cloud and the glory.

We may say that the cloud is the outer part, the "shell," of God's glory. By shell we mean an outer covering. Anyone who entered into the tabernacle would see not the shell, but would see the inward glory of the tabernacle. Anyone who intercedes at the incense altar is no longer in the cloud that covers the Tent of Meeting. Rather, this one is encompassed by the glory that is on the inside of the church life.

Day 2 —

A. Expound in First Kings 8:1-11 showing us that the tabernacle was filled with glory.

First Kings 8:1-11 shows us that the tabernacle was merged with the temple. The tabernacle was a portable precursor moving through the wilderness. The temple was a consummation of God's building in typology built upon Mount Zion, a peak of Mount Moriah. The glory of Jehovah filled the temple, bringing the God who is in the heavens to the earth and joining the earth to the heavens. This should be our situation today.

B. Explain whenever God is expressed, that is glory.

Whenever God is expressed, that is glory. But whenever God is hidden, concealed, there is no glory expressed. While the unseen God is God, the seen God is glory. God's glory was seen as the children of Israel journeyed from Egypt to the good land. During the day God was seen as the cloud, and during the night He was seen as the pillar of fire—that was glory.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the Father of glory being God expressed through His many sons.

The Father of glory is God expressed through His many sons. The title Father implies regeneration, and the word glory implies expression. We have been regenerated by God, and we are His expression. The regeneration of many sons and the expression of God are the consummation of the divine economy. The Lord Jesus accomplished redemption for us. As a result, we were regenerated to become sons of God the Father so that we may express Him.

B. State Hebrews 2:10, that God is leading many sons into glory.

The last step of God's great salvation is to bring His many sons into glory. Romans 8 tells us that God's work of grace upon us began with His foreknowing through His predestination, calling, and justification and will end with His glorification. And the whole creation eagerly expects the revelation, the glorification, of the sons of God, hoping that the creation itself will enter into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that the Spirit of glory rests upon the suffering believers.

The Spirit of glory is the Spirit of God. The Spirit of glory rests upon the suffering believers in their persecution for the glorification of the resurrected and exalted Christ, who is now in glory. Such a Spirit is the Spirit of God expressed through the suffering believers and the Spirit of the experienced God enjoyed by the suffering believers. The Spirit of glory certainly was upon Stephen when he was being martyred.

B. Explain that God's salvation is for leading us into His glory.

First Peter 5:10 says that God has called us into His eternal glory. According to 2 Timothy 2:10, God's salvation is with eternal glory. This indicates that eternal glory is the ultimate goal of God's salvation. God's salvation leads us into His glory. We have been ordained for God's glory and called to it. As believers, we are being transformed into this glory and shall be brought into it.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the three grounds of oneness in John 17.

According to John 17, the first ground of oneness is regeneration, receiving the life of the Father, and the second ground is sanctification. When we have been separated from everything outside of God to God Himself, then we are on the ground of sanctification. The third ground of this oneness is the oneness in the manifestation of the divine glory. We must live through the denying of ourselves and by Christ as our life.

B. Expound the four aspects of glory.

There are four aspects of glory; sonship, the Father's life, the Father's divine nature, and the expression of the Father in His fullness. These four things together equal the glory. The Father has given this glory to the Son, and the Son is privileged to express the Father in this way. This is the very glory which has been given to us by the Son. Today we all are in this divine glory that we are truly one.

Day 6 —

A. Expound an outstanding feature of the New Jerusalem being having the glory of God. The entire city of New Jerusalem will bear the glory of God, which is God Himself shining out through the city. Actually, the glory of God will be the content of the New Jerusalem, for this city will be completely filled with His glory. This indicates that the city is a vessel to contain God and express Him. The glory of God is actually God Himself being manifested.

B. Explain the way God is glorified in the church.

In his prayer Paul asked that the Father would strengthen the saints according to the riches of His glory. This implies that the glory of God is wrought into the saints. In the doxology Paul said, "To Him be the glory". This implies that God's glory, after being wrought into them, returns to Him. This is the way God is glorified in the church.

III. Conclusion:

Many times in our daily living, the flow of living water stops. This is because we are living a life that is not bound by God and not for Him. Even though we may preach the gospel, teach the Scriptures, and build up the church, it is not for God's glory alone, but for ourselves. This is why sometimes the river of the living water is not circulating in us. A life that is not absolutely for the glory and satisfaction of God becomes a hindrance, a frustrating, and a obstacle to the flowing of living water. This path requires a disciplined life for the glory of God. Rivers of life flowed from that man, Jesus, because He lived a life for God. Although he did many things for man, he did them for the glory of God. If we want to be one in divine glory, we must deny ourselves and forget ourselves.