

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Four : Experiencing the Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity by Breathing the Spirit, Drinking the Water of Life, and Eating the Bread of God

I. Overview:

The Gospel of John reveals that Christ became flesh to be the Lamb of God and that in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit; it is as the Spirit that He was breathed into His disciples, that He can live in the disciples and they can live by Him and with Him, and that He can abide in them and they can abide in Him. The consummated Spirit as the breath is everything to us in living the Christian life; only the breath can be a Christian, and only the breath, the Spirit, can be an overcomer. If we would experience the divine dispensing of the divine Trinity, we all need to drink the same spiritual drink, Christ as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit. God's economy is that we eat Christ as the bread of God and become constituted with Him in order to express Him and represent Him. John 6 unveils Christ as our bread—the heavenly bread, the bread of life, the living bread, the true bread, and the bread of God. To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us that He may be assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life. Eating is the way to experience God's dispensing.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the Lord breathing into the believers in John 20:22.

The Spirit was breathed into the believers by the Son in resurrection. The Holy Spirit in John 20:22 is actually the resurrected Christ Himself, because this Spirit is His breath. The Holy Spirit is thus the breath of the Son. The Greek word for Spirit in this verse is *pneuma*, a word that is used for breath, spirit, and wind. On the day of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed Himself into His disciples as the holy breath. The Spirit is for our breathing.

B. Explain the works of the two aspects of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit in John 20:22 was the Spirit of the promised. Hence, the Lord's breathing of the Holy Spirit into the disciples was the fulfillment of His promise of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. This fulfillment differs from the one in Acts 2:1- 4, which was the fulfillment of the Father's promise in Luke 24:49. In Acts 2 the Spirit as a rushing, violent wind came as power upon the disciples for their work.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the word in John 20:22 and how to experience it.

In John 20:22 the Greek word for Spirit, *pneuma*, also means "breath." This indicates that the Lord Jesus was telling the disciples to receive the holy breath. The Gospel of John begins with the Word and goes on to speak of the Lamb and the vine. On the one hand, He breathed out; on the other hand, the disciples breathed in.

B. Explain the meaning of the Word, the Lamb, the tree, and the breath in John.

The Word, who became flesh is the Lamb of God. On the one hand, He is the Lamb for accomplishing redemption; on the other hand, He is the tree for imparting life. Therefore, we may speak of Him as the Lamb-tree. In our experience we have Christ as the Word, the Lamb, the tree, and the breath. The Word is for expression, the Lamb is for redemption, the tree is for the impartation of life, and the breath is for our living.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that the living water in Exodus 17 came out of a rock.

The water which came out of the rock is the water of life in resurrection. Resurrection denotes something which has been put to death and which is alive again. It also denotes life which springs forth out of something that has passed through death. The living water in Exodus 17 came out of a rock. How could Christ, who is God, become a rock? This implies Christ's incarnation, human living, and death.

B. Expound that the water of life we enjoy today is in resurrection.

In His flowing the Triune God passed through incarnation, human living, and death, and then He entered into resurrection. Now in resurrection He is the living water for us to drink. Therefore, the water of life we enjoy today is in resurrection. Nothing can overcome this water or subdue it, for it is resurrection and it is life.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the word in 1 Corinthians 10:4 and how to experience it.

As the spiritual rock, Christ follows the believers to give them the spiritual drink. The spiritual drink in 1 Corinthians 10:4 refers to the living water that flowed out of the cleft rock, typifying the Spirit, who flowed out of the crucified and resurrected Christ, as our all-inclusive drink. In His crucifixion Christ, as the living, spiritual rock, was smitten by the authority of God's law in order that the water of life in resurrection could flow out of Him for them to drink.

B. Expound the kernel of the divine revelation in the Bible.

The kernel of the divine revelation is that God created us and redeemed us for the purpose of working Himself into us to be our life. We in the Lord's recovery need to see a fuller vision of this revelation. If we have such a full vision, our concept of worship will be regulated by it.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship by our eating of Christ who making His home in our heart.

By our eating Him, Christ will make His home in our heart. This means that He will work Himself into our entire inner being. The Lord Jesus desires to saturate our mind, permeate our emotion, and take over our will so that our whole being is possessed by Him. When we eat, the food taken into our body is digested and assimilated so that it becomes our body's constituent.

B. Explain the words in John 6:27 and how to apply them.

In John 6:27 the Lord Jesus seems to be saying, "Do not seek for food that perishes. Instead, you should seek for eternal food, for food that abides forever." The eternal food is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He came from the heavens not only to be our Saviour, but also He came to be our food. How much we need the Lord Jesus to be the bread of life to us.

Day 6 —

A. Expound regarding the matter of eating in the New Testament.

When the Lord Jesus came, He presented Himself to man not as doctrine but as the bread of life. In the New Testament, when the churches were established, they were "eating churches." We need to see that Acts contains the principle and reality of eating. To eat is to receive something that is outside of us into our being so that it may be digested and assimilated to become our element, our constituent.

B. Explain in Revelation 2 and 3 the Lord promising the overcomers regarding eating.

In Revelation 2 and 3 the Lord promised that the overcomers will be given to eat of the tree of life and the hidden manna, and will dine with Him at a feast full of His riches. The tree of life in Revelation 2 points back to Genesis 2, which concerns God's ordination regarding eating, and the hidden manna in Revelation 2:17 refers to the Israelites' eating of the manna in the wilderness. It is significant to the matter of corresponding.

III. Conclusion:

We need to change the concept that not only can we pray-read two verses in the morning, but we can always call on the name of the Lord throughout the day. As soon as we touch the Lord's Word, or call on His name, the supply comes. By always calling on the name of the Lord, breathing of Him, drinking of Him, eating of Him through the Scripture, abiding in Him, and receiving His supply, we also grow in the life of God. Through this divine dispensing, there will be five issues. First, we will flow out the rivers of living water from within. Second, we will bear the fruit of the life. Third, we will feed the lambs of the flock. Fourth, we will become the bride of Christ, the Body of Christ as the enlargement of Christ. Fifth, we are the organism of the processed Triune God. This is our Christian life and also the church life.