

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Six : Being a Vessel Open to the Lord and Living Ordinary Days in the Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity

I. Overview:

God's procedure in fulfilling His purpose was to create man as a vessel to contain Himself as life. God created man as a vessel to contain Him, and out of the many vessels, He chose us to contain Him, the God of honor, that we might be vessels of honor. All of this is out of His mercy and according to His mercy. The summary of Paul's fourteen Epistles can be expressed in two words: open vessel. God wants believers as vessels loving Him and keeping themselves open to Him. An open vessel is doing nothing but keeping itself open to Him, giving Him every opportunity to do everything He wants to do. This is the proper and genuine Christian life. As believers in Christ, we need to learn to be satisfied with a life of ordinary days in the regular and normal experiences in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity. We need to receive the divine dispensing little by little, day by day, receiving this dispensing again and again in a slow, steady way. A life of ordinary days in the divine dispensing is according to the miraculous normality of the divine economy.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. State that God chose us to be vessels of honor to contain Him.

God chose us that we might be vessels of honor to contain Him. God created man as a vessel to contain Him, and out of the many vessels He chose us to contain Him, the God of honor, that we might be vessels of honor. Finally, He makes known His glory upon us, the vessels, that we might become vessels of His glory. All this is out of His mercy.

B. Expound what the real significance of man's fall is.

It is that first, man wants to know, and second, man wants to do. It is to know something and to do something.

These two aspects are the genuine significance of man's fall. The enemy's temptation was that man must be something. For man to be something, man needs to know something and to do something. This is the real meaning of man's fall.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that God wants us only to be a living vessel.

God does not want us to do anything; He wants us only to be a living vessel. If you were an inanimate vessel, a vessel without life like a jar, you would be easy for the Master to use because you would not have a will or a mind or an emotion. But God created a living thing, a living jar full of emotions, with a strong will, and with a mind. After the fall this living jar became a problem to God.

B. Expound Paul's fourteen Epistles being expressed in two words: open vessel.

You may say that the summary of these fourteen Epistles may be expressed in just two words: open vessel. God wants an open vessel. In Romans 9:23 Paul tells us that God created us as vessels of mercy unto glory. Then in 2 Corinthians 4:7 he says that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." These two verses may be considered as a basic secret to our experience of Christ and the church.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how to be the enjoyer of what the Lord is and of what the Lord does.

You just need to love Him and to keep yourself open to Him, giving Him every opportunity to do everything He wants to do. You become the enjoyer, enjoying Him and enjoying His doing. So whenever you would pray, thanks would come out of your mouth because you are so grateful to the Lord. You would experience that the Lord is your victory, your sanctification, everything to you.

B. Expound that we should love Him, but stop our doing.

You love the Lord, and you keep yourself open to Him all the time. Yet you would not do anything, but He would do everything. Not only is this possible, but this is also required by the Lord. The Lord requires you to stop your doing. But He does not want you to be sleepy or indifferent; He wants you to be very alert. Love Him and keep yourself open to Him, and stop your doing.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the One whom we believe has become the Spirit of dispensing.

Today the One whom we believe in and worship has become the Spirit, the ultimate consummation of the Triune God, for the purpose that we would partake of His divine dispensing. This is the mysterious economy of God, which is to dispense and to distribute to God's children all the rich elements of God. Now He is in your mouth and in your heart. He will come out of your heart and enter into your mouth.

B. Describe God's spirit operating and working in us.

This wonderful One is in us mainly to be our life, operating and working quietly and gently in us. This can be compared to our physical life. Every day, twenty-four hours a day, it operates quietly and gently in us. While we are sitting here, an operation is working within, which is our digestion. However, we do not feel it.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship all the spiritual and divine things being normal.

According to my study of the Bible and my Christian experiences, I realized that in my Christian life the things that I experience of Christ, of the Triune God, of the Spirit, and of the divine life with the divine nature are altogether normal to me. They are normalities. But I also found out that these normalizations are miraculous to the uttermost.

B. Expound the spiritual experiences being miraculous normalities.

Today, over half a century has gone by. The more I have experienced, the more I feel that these matters of spiritual life, which are matters in God's New Testament economy, do not have anything that may shock people outwardly; rather, they all appear to be normal occurrences. Now, I see clearly that as far as spiritual matters are concerned, the more normal they are, the more proper and real they are. And the more normal they are, the more rich they are.

Day 6

A. Explain that we call on the name of the Lord, being a miraculous normality.

When we call on the name of the Lord Jesus, we receive the processed Triune God. To open up our mouths and call is most normal. It is normal to call "O Lord Jesus." We can call on the Lord's name in any way, at any time, and in any place. But when we call "O Lord Jesus," we get the processed Triune God! This is miraculous.

B. Expound that regeneration is a miraculous normality.

Regeneration is a miraculous normality. Brother T. Austin-Sparks said that regeneration was to receive God's divine life in addition to our human life. I was happy when I read that definition. From that day I understood what regeneration is. To be regenerated is to be born of the Spirit in our spirit, thus obtaining God's divine life to become the sons of God.

III. Conclusion:

Since we have the Spirit in us as a seal, as a pledge, as a foretaste, we should call on the Lord as we breathe every morning when we wake up. We don't have to pay too much attention to feeling, just quiet and ordinary prayer and pray-reading a few verses of the Scripture. You do this every day, always in fellowship with the Lord, and do not do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Whatever seems right in you, and whatever pleases the Lord, do it. Whenever there is a meeting, you must come to the meeting. In the meeting, you don't have to be too happy, or to stand up and shout. If you have something to say, you can speak calmly and testify quietly. If we live this kind of smooth and normal life all the time, we are sure to be a healthy Christian, which is a miraculous normality. The New Testament reveals that God wants a vessel that loves Him and opens itself to Him.