

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Six : The Intrinsic Significance of the Purification of the Returned Captives**

### **I. Overview:**

We need Ezras and Nehemiahs to carry out a purifying work; in all the steps of the Lord's recovery, there is the need of purification. Ezra purified the recovery to separate "the holy seed" from anything that is heathen. In the local churches we must be thoroughly purified of all mixture; anything common and anything contradictory to the heavenly nature of the Lord's recovery must be purged out. Babylon is a mixture of the things of God with the things of idols, and the principle of Babylon is the principle of mixing the things of man with the Word of God and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. In Acts 21 and in the book of James, there is mixture; James mixed the Old Testament with the New Testament; the great problem among God's children is the mixture of the self with the spirit. We need to deal completely with all the mixture in our spirit so that when our spirit is released, it will not be dangerous or cause trouble to others. If we want to have the real church life, we need the work of the cross to purge us and to purify us.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain that Ezra strengthened, enriched, and purified the recovery.

Ezra not only strengthened and enriched the recovery; he also purified it. Before he arrived, there was a mixture. Some of the Israelites had married heathen wives, and children were born of this mixture. The recovery is holy, but some of the things taken in are not so holy. Therefore, there is a mixture, and Ezras are needed to purify.

B. Expound that in the local churches we must be so pure without mixture.

In the local churches we must be so pure, so simple, with no mixture. The problem is that many of us who have come back from Babylon have brought our background with us. In the Lord's recovery there is the need of purification to separate the holy seed from anything that is heathen. We must be so pure that the holy seed will never be mingled with anything heathen.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what 2 Corinthians 7:1 says to cleanse ourselves from all defilement of spirit.

Indeed, 2 Corinthians 7:1 says to "cleanse ourselves from all defilement of spirit," but this defilement is not of the spirit itself but that effected by the soul and body. The spirit in our innermost part is pure and undefiled. However, surrounding the spirit are the soul and body, both of which have been mixed with the wicked elements of Satan and are thus filthy. Therefore, when the spirit passes through them, it becomes contaminated.

B. Fellowship regarding the experience of the dealing with the spirit.

Dealing with the spirit is not dealing with the spirit itself but with the passage of the spirit, that is, with the purpose of the heart, motive, aim, and intention. Whenever we are about to act, we must discern whether or not our inner intention is clean, our motive pure, and our aim wholly for God. Is there any selfish purpose behind our action? Is there any self-inclination?

Day 3 —

A. Explain how to be useful in the Lord's hand.

Whether in the church or the work, in addition to capacity, there must also be the proper heart. We should be pure in our heart and single for the Lord's recovery. Only then will we be a help to the recovery. I encourage you young ones to have ambition. But we still have to look to the Lord to give us the capacity as well as a pure motive. Only when we have all three can we become useful in the hands of the Lord.

B. Expound seeing God being a reward to the pure in heart.

To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, we shall see God. Seeing God is a reward to the pure in heart. If we have an open spirit and a pure heart, we shall see God. To see God is an experience and an enjoyment. When we see Him, He dispenses Himself into us, infusing Himself into our being.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what a pure conscience means and its application.

A pure conscience means that we are only seeking God and His will. Therefore, our heart is not pure, for it is not seeking God alone...When our heart is single, pure, and seeking only God, our conscience then becomes pure.

B. Explain the dealing of the heart and how to have a pure heart?

The heart includes the mind, the emotion, the will, and the conscience. A pure heart means that it is single to the Lord. Our mind has to be pure, our emotion has to be pure, our will has to be pure, and our conscience has to be pure. Every part of our being must be pure in order for us to have a pure heart. If we are going to have a pure conscience, we must first have a pure heart.

Day 5 —

A. Expound a problem among God's children is the mixture of the soul with the spirit.

A problem among God's children is the mixture of the soul with the spirit. Whenever their spirit is released, their soul is released as well. It is hard to find a person whose spirit is pure. Many people hope to have great power, yet they pay no attention to purity in the spirit. On the one hand, they build with power. On the other hand, they destroy with their impurity.

B. Explain the problem of mixture is the biggest problem among workers.

The problem of mixture is the biggest problem among workers. We often touch life in the brothers, but also touch death. If we want to be used by God, our spirit must be released, and this spirit must be pure...If our outer man is not destroyed, we will carry our own cargo with us when we serve as ministers of the word. The Lord's name will suffer loss on account of our mixture.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how our inner being can be transparent.

As a result of experiencing the Spirit living and working within us, we become righteous. Spontaneously, our inner being is transparent, crystal clear, and we know the heart of God. Immediately, without effort, we know the mind of the Lord and have a clear understanding concerning His will and work. Then what we do is according to the Lord's mind and will.

B. Explain that the pure golden street is like transparent glass.

The street of the holy city is pure gold. Gold signifies the nature of God. After we enter into the New Jerusalem, we must walk on the divine nature as our way. The pure gold of the unique street in the New Jerusalem is "like transparent glass," signifying without any opaqueness. The golden street is crystal clear, without any opaqueness.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The both books of Ezra and Nehemiah end with the return of Israelites who need to be cleansed, and the key of cleansing is God's Word. In the face of God's Word, we should have an attitude of trembling. When we come to touch God's Word, we cannot harden our hearts without feeling anything, our hearts need humility, repentance, fear, and trembling. We need to receive God's Word with solemn reverence and humble ourselves before God's Word. May God shine upon us and burn away our unfaithfulness, infusing and constituting us with His own faithfulness. We must be so pure that "the holy seed" will never be mixed with any Gentile things. When this restoration is holy, we will see the blessing of the Lord. May we separate the spirit from the soul through living and effective words, and wash away all spots and wrinkles by washing them with the water of the words.