

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Three : Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Giving Heed to the Prophetic Word as to a Lamp Shining in a Dark Place Until the Day Dawns and the Morning Star Rises in Our Hearts**

### **I. Overview:**

Prophecies are matters that God requires us to know, and believers should give heed to them. If the believers do not have the prophecies in the Bible, they will fall into darkness. Peter likens the word of prophecy in the Scripture to a lamp shining in a dark place. This indicates that this age is a dark place in the dark night, and all the people of this world are moving and acting in darkness. The prophetic word of the Scriptures, as the shining lamp to the believers, conveys spiritual light that shines in their darkness, guiding them into a bright day. Christ will appear as the bright morning star before the dawning of the day; He will appear privately to the overcomers who are watching, preparing, and waiting for Him. When we give heed to the word of the Scriptures as to a lamp shining in a dark place, the condition within us will be like the day dawning and the morning star rising in our hearts; we need to make ourselves ready for the secret appearing of the Lord as the morning star.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound what we should do facing the present age.

Although night is the time for sleep, "the night is far advanced". So, we should wake up, be watchful, and sleep no more. The present age is the nighttime. When the Lord Jesus returns, day will dawn. The next age will be the daytime. We need not only to wake up from sleep, but also to cast off the works of darkness and put on the weapons of light. This indicates a warfare.

B. Explain the knowledge we should have for prophecies.

There are those who think that the result of studying prophecies is merely the addition of knowledge and is not profitable for growth in spiritual life. These are all misconceptions. Prophecies are matters that God requires man to know, and believers should give heed to them Peter's word indicates that the word of the Old Testament prophets confirms and strengthens his testimony of Jesus Christ and is an inoculation for the believers.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the words in Psalm 119:105.

In Psalm 119:105 the psalmist says a practical word about light. This is not a matter of doctrine or teaching, but of experience in the daily life of the psalmist. Step after step in his daily life, the Word was his light. In a very practical way, to the psalmist the Word of God was such a lamp casting light on his pathway. The light is actually God Himself in the Word.

B. Explain how to gain the light through reading the words of God.

You do not have the sense that you are in light when you read a newspaper or magazine. But if you read the Word or pray-read some verses of the Scriptures with a sincere heart and in an attitude of humility, you will be conscious of having been brought into light and are in a sphere of light.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the words in 2 Peter 1:19 and how to apply them.

The Greek words rendered "dark place" may also be translated "murky place," a place that is squalid, dry, and neglected. This is a metaphor, illustrating the darkness in the apostasy.

Peter says that we do well to give heed to the prophetic word until the day dawns and the morning star arises in our hearts.

B. Expound the prophetic word as a lamp in the time of apostasy.

In the time of apostasy the believers do well to give heed in this matter so that the prophetic word, as a lamp, may shine through the darkness of apostasy until such a day dawns upon them. This will cause and encourage them to seek earnestly the Lord's presence and be watchful that they not miss the Lord in the secret part of His parousia, when He comes as a thief.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what experience we will have giving heed to the prophecies of the Bible.

If we give heed to the prophecies of the Bible, we will experience a lamp shining within us, enjoy the morning star rising in our hearts, and have a spiritual day dawning within us. We may remain in this condition until the actual time comes when the Lord Jesus appears as the morning star and there is the dawning of day with Him as the Sun of righteousness.

B. Explain what effect of the shining of the prophetic word will have.

First we have the shining of the prophetic word, and then this shining becomes a day dawning within us. Outwardly, we live in an age of darkness, but inwardly, we are full of light. We may continue to enjoy the morning star and the dawning of a spiritual day until the time the Lord appears as the morning star to the watchful ones and dawns as the Sun of righteousness.

Day 5 —

A. Why does a person who pursues an understanding of prophecies must have an intimate relationship with God?

Enoch was the first person to prophesy. When he was sixty-five years old, he had a son whom he named Methuselah. This name has a prophetic significance; it means “when he is dead, it will be sent.” Hence, this name was a prophecy of the coming judgment by the flood. The apostle John wrote the visions in the book of Revelation, because he was the disciple whom the Lord loved, and he had the experience of reclining on the Lord’s breast.

B. Expound the star in 2 Peter 1:19.

We have the prophetic word, the Bible. However, the prophetic word is not the star; the Bible is not the star. The star can be translated into English as phosphorous, bringing light in the darkness. The Word needs to be turned into living Christ; the written word needs to be turned into the living word. We should give heed to the prophetic word until it rises within us as Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the believers should have the morning star rising in their heart every day.

We love the Word, but not in the way of dead letters. We love the Word by giving heed to it until something within is dawning and rising in our heart— not the knowledge, not the written code, but the breaking through of day, the rising of the shining star. Day by day, we have the morning star rising in our heart.

B. Expound the three sources of light in 2 Peter 1:19.

In 2 Peter 1:19 three sources of light are mentioned— the lamp shining in a dark place, the dawning day, and the rising morning star. As the shining lamp to the believers, the words of the Bible convey spiritual light that shines. Today, in the church life, whenever we open the Bible, we are enlightened. Every page illuminates, every line enlightens, and even every word shines over us. Through such a shining, we are thoroughly exposed.

### **III. Conclusion:**

When we open our hearts by Giving Heed to the Prophetic Word, something shines within. When we pray-read the Word of the Lord, we feel light and illumination in the depths, and this illumination produces love for the Lord. How lovely we think he is. Many times because of this illumination, we even love the Lord to the point of ecstasy. That is Jesus coming to us as the day dawns and as the morning star rising in our hearts. With regard to the Lord's return, first of all, the attitude we should have is; 1) to love the Lord, 2) eagerly awaiting, 3) full of hope. Secondly, the discipline we should have is; 1) to watch and be sober, 2) to be careful, 3) to be on the alert at all times, always praying; 4) to keep the word of the Lord in endurance, 5) to keep the work of the Lord, 6) comforting one another. Finally, we should have holy living and godliness, looking forward to and hastening the day of God.