

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : Taking Christ as Everything to Gain Him by Denying Our Self and Turning to Our Spirit

I. Overview:

God's heart's desire is that everything in the universe would express Christ; when everything is headed up in Christ, there will be absolute peace and harmony, and everything in the universe will express Christ. We exist for the expression of Christ, we preach the gospel for the expression of Christ, our work is for the expression of Christ, and the church is for the expression of Christ. The entire universe is a great painting drawn by God that describes Christ is for the expression of Christ. The greatest need for us today is to see that Christ is the Spirit indwelling our spirit; if we do not see this point, everything of Christ will be merely an objective doctrine to us. Paul took Christ as his living, expression, mind, and lived-out righteousness, goal, virtues, secret, and expectation. We gain Christ that He might gain us. Gaining Christ causes us to feel bright and clear inwardly. Because the Lord as the Spirit is in our spirit, we must learn how to set our mind on the spirit. The secret of being a Christian is to reject our self, lose our soul-life, and turn to our spirit. Prayer is the real denial of the self; our prayer testifies that we do not exercise our self-effort to deal with the situation; instead, we apply Christ in any situation.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that God's heart's desire is only Christ.

The desire of God's heart is entirely centered on Christ. God's intention is to work to such an extent that Christ will be expressed in all things, fill all things, and even be all things.

Rather, we should express Christ Himself even in matters related to food and clothing. God's heart's desire is that every person, every matter, and every thing in the universe would express Christ.

B. Expound that everything in the universe is for expressing Christ.

The Old Testament types and the Old Testament commandments are Christ is the reality of the Sabbath. God commands that we be holy, and Christ is the reality of holiness. Every sentence in the entire Bible points to the reality of Christ Himself. The entire universe, even every tree, flower, and blade of grass, speaks of Christ. Righteousness is Christ. Holiness is Christ. Purity is Christ. Power is Christ. Everything in the universe is an expression of Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Describe that Christ is our life in everything.

The Bible shows that when Christ enters into us, He not only wants to be our life, but also our everything. The Gospel of John speaks not only of the Lord as life but also of the Lord as the light of life, the breath of life, the water of life, and the bread of life. In order to sustain our physical life, we must have sunshine, air, water, and food.

B. Expound that the greatest need for us today is to see that the Lord Jesus is the Spirit.

We must see that Christ is the Spirit. Since the Lord is the Spirit, Paul said, "The Lord be with your spirit".

Furthermore, we are "joined to the Lord" and are "one spirit" with Him. If we would genuinely worship God, we must "worship in spirit". The greatest need for us today is to see that the Lord Jesus is the Spirit. This is the key to our spiritual growth and service.

Day 3 —

A. Explain what the living Paul has lived.

The main revelation in the New Testament, especially in Paul's Epistles, is the very Christ, whom God in His economy has prepared for us to be our experience. Paul took Christ as his living. He lived Christ. Philippians 1:20 says, "As always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death". This word shows us that Paul took Christ also as his expression.

B. Expound Paul longing to be found in Christ.

In experiencing Christ, Paul was found by others to be a man in Christ, not having a righteousness which was from his own keeping of the law, but having the righteousness from God through his faith in Christ, which is just Christ Himself lived out from him to be expressed as his righteousness. In such a way, Paul took Christ as the righteousness which he lived out. Paul pursued Christ diligently and took Him as his goal.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how to know we have actually gained Christ.

There can be proven by five points. First, we will have the presence of God; we will sense that God is like fresh air being breathed in by us. Second, we will sense that we are in the light and are shining inwardly. Third, we will feel that we are supplied within, having living water to quench our thirst and living bread to satisfy our hunger. Fourth, the demands inwardly will become higher and higher. Fifth, we will have an inward vitality and feel that we must be active in the meetings.

B. Expound that Christ being life to us is that we sense the presence of God.

Suppose after pray-reading the Word in the morning, we feel that we are in God's presence, we are in God, and we are mingled with God as one. God is like a cloud, and we feel as if we are under His covering; God is like a mass of air, and we feel as if we are full of God's consciousness, God's presence. This is the experience of Christ as life.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that the secret of the experience of God is in Romans 8:6.

Satan dwells in the members of our body, but God is in our spirit. Romans 8:6 contains a real secret. We must learn how to set our mind on the spirit. In other words, we must learn to trust in God and depend on the Lord. Although we must study the Bible with its narratives and instructions, the real secret is in Romans 8:6.

B. Explain we Christians' power is in our spirit.

Our power does not come from heaven; our power is in our spirit. We must learn to turn to our spirit. Those who minister the word should learn even more to turn to their spirit and not be affected by those who listen to them. Turning to the spirit is the secret of being a Christian. I hope that we will learn and earnestly apply this secret.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the way to enjoy the Lord's riches being to reject our soul and turn to our spirit.

We must see clearly that the way to follow the Lord, the way to spirituality, the way to victory, the way to sanctification, the way to life, and the way to enjoy the Lord's riches is to reject our soul and turn to our spirit. To reject our soul means to reject our mind, emotion, and will. We must turn to our spirit before we do anything. In matters both great and small, we must first turn to our spirit.

B. Expound the reason why the disciples could not cast out the dumb and deaf spirit.

The Lord's answer to the disciples' question: "This kind cannot come out by any means, except prayer." The Lord's word here indicates that the disciples failed to pray, and that was the reason they could not cast out the demon. To pray means that we realize that we are nothing and that we can do nothing. This implies that prayer is the real denial of the self...To pray is actually to declare, "Not I, but Christ."

III. Conclusion:

Suppose a brother comes to talk to you, and as you are listening, you must reject yourself. You must reject your natural thoughts, your emotions, and your will. You must live with Jesus in this special matter by turning to your Spirit, your deepest part, to feel all that is there. This is the proper way for us Christians to act, but most of us don't do this. Whenever a brother comes to talk to us, we use our own mind which is independent from the spirit. Sometimes we forget the Lord Jesus and having a spirit. However, the normal way of Christian action is to always deny the natural mind, will, and emotions and accept the Lord Jesus as his life. In everything, we should go back to the deepest part of the whole person and feel what is there.