

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Four : Blending and the Reality of the Body of Christ**

### **I. Overview:**

1 Corinthians 12:24, "God has blended the body together". The word blended means "adjusted," "harmonized," "tempered," and "mingled," implying the losing of distinctions.

Blending means that we should always stop in order to have fellowship with others. To be blended means that we are going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake. John 12:24 speaks of a grain of wheat that fell into the ground and died and bore many grains. The grains are to be ground and blended into flour to make a loaf, which signifies the Body of Christ. Paul's thought of the church was blended into one bread, one Body. We need to be in the local churches as the procedure to be brought into the reality of the Body of Christ. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can really, practically, and actually carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism. The corporate living of the perfected God-men as the reality of the Body of Christ will close this age, the age of the church, and bring Christ back to take, possess, and rule over the earth with these God-men in the kingdom age.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound that God has blended the Body, and what means of the word for blended.

God has blended the Body, adjusted the Body, harmonized the Body, tempered the Body, and mingled the Body. The Greek word for blended implies the losing of distinctions. One brother's distinction may be quickness, and another's may be slowness. But in the Body life the slowness disappears, and the quickness is taken away. All such distinctions are gone.

B. Explain in order to be blended in the Body life, what kinds of control we need to.

In order to be harmonized, blended, adjusted, mingled, and tempered in the Body life, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ. The co-workers and elders must learn to be crossed out. Whatever we do should be by the Spirit to dispense Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the type of the blending.

In the Old Testament there is a type of the blending for the fulfillment of God's economy. Paul's thought of the church being one bread was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament. The meal offering in Leviticus 2:4 consisted of cakes made of fine flour mingled with oil. That is blending. Paul tells us that the church is a bread, a cake, made of fine flour. This fine flour comes from wheat grains, and the wheat grains come from the one grain of wheat, which is Christ.

B. Expound what the two kinds of form the meal offering could be.

The meal offering could be in the form of fine flour mingled with oil or in the form of a cake. The former signifies the individual Christ and the individual Christian, whereas the latter signifies the corporate Christ, Christ with His Body. The church life is a corporate meal offering. It is a life of humanity mingled with the Holy Spirit and having the Holy Spirit poured upon it, a life that involves the cross (salt) and the resurrection (frankincense) without any sin (leaven) or natural affection (honey).

Day 3 —

A. Expound the relationship between the local churches and the Body of Christ.

The local churches are not the goal but the procedure God takes to reach the goal of His economy. The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ. I treasure the local churches, as you do. But I treasure the local churches because of a purpose. The local churches are the procedure to bring me into the Body of Christ.

B. Explain what the four steps the church work today consist of.

The procedures of the church work today consist of four steps: begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building. Begetting is to have sinners saved and regenerated to become the members of Christ; nourishing is to feed the new

believers for their growth in the divine life and teaching is to perfect the saints that they may mature to be built. The steps of begetting, nourishing, and perfecting are all for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Briefly state what the reality of the Body of Christ is.

In brief, the reality of the Body of Christ is a kind of corporate living, not a living by any individual. This corporate living is the aggregate of many saints who have been redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, and transformed by the processed and consummated God within them. By this indwelling consummated God, these redeemed saints have been made actual God-men.

B. Describe the Lord Jesus' God-man living on the earth.

That little Jesus in the manger was a God-man, but who could realize this? He lived not only a life of man but also a life of God. Thus, His life was a life of a God-man. He appeared to His disciples and to the people as a genuine man. They wondered how a man could do these things, displaying the top virtues among mankind.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what kind of life being the reality of the Body of Christ.

Only that which is lived out of a God-man living is the Body of Christ. This God-man living is a living of being conformed to the death of Christ through the cross. This conformation to the death of Christ is through the power of Christ's resurrection. We must be those who live a crucified life continually by taking Christ's death as the mold of our life. It is only by living this kind of life that we can have the reality of the Body of Christ.

B. Expound what kinds of life we should live.

We were already put on the cross. I have been crucified. I am finished. I am through. But there is a new man with me. That is the resurrected God-created man uplifted with God's divinity in him. That man is actually God Himself. Now I live by that man. But if I do not practice to keep my old man on the cross, I can never live the new man.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that the reality of the Body of Christ will bring Christ back.

The reality of the Body of Christ is the aggregate, the totality, of such a living by a group of God-men. This kind of a living, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, will close this age, the age of the church, and will bring Christ back to take, possess, and rule over this earth with these God-men in the kingdom age. They were perfected, completed, and consummated in the church age.

B. Explain the overcomers in the church life today.

Today in the church age, the God-men who were perfected and matured are Zion, the overcomers, the vital groups within the churches. But in the new heaven and new earth the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion. Zion is the very spot where God is, that is, the Holy of Holies. In Revelation 21 there is a sign signifying that the New Jerusalem will be the Holy of Holies.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The mingling of the churches is not an outwardly practical matter. It is not merely a matter of the churches gathering together; the real blending is in the Spirit. If we visit a church, have fellowship with that church, or speak in that church, we should avoid focusing on the outward ways but on our experience of the Lord. The less we talk about outward practices, the better. We should fellowship with one another concerning the spiritual experience of Christ as revealed in the Bible so that we may be blended with one another. We should see that the vision of the golden lampstands seen by the Apostle John in the book of Revelation signifies the local churches. The church is the Body of Christ. The seven lampstands placed together are the same in their positive aspects, including their essence, constitution, and expression. Their difference is in their negative aspects.