

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying Message Nine : The Full Ministry of Christ in Three Stages

I. Overview:

The unique teaching of God's New Testament economy is the teaching concerning the full ministry of Christ in three stages. In the first stage, the stage of His incarnation, from His human birth to His death, Christ accomplishing the three things, He brought the infinite God into the finite man; Christ united, mingled, and incorporated the Triune God with the tripartite man; Christ expressed in His humanity the bountiful God in His rich attributes through His aromatic virtues. In the second stage, the stage of His inclusion, from His resurrection to the degradation of the church, Christ accomplishing the following things, He was begotten in resurrection to be God's firstborn Son, imparting His divine life into us to make us His many brothers; the last Adam, the incarnated Christ, became the life-giving Spirit. In the third stage, the stage of His intensification, from the degradation of the church to the consummation of the New Jerusalem, because of the degradation of the church, Christ as the life-giving Spirit has been intensified sevenfold to become the seven Spirits; Christ intensifies His organic salvation, producing the overcomers, and consummating of the New Jerusalem.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Briefly describe what the Lord's recovery is.

The central revelation of God is God becoming flesh, the flesh becoming the life-giving Spirit, and the life-giving Spirit becoming intensified sevenfold to build up the church to issue in the Body of Christ and to consummate the New Jerusalem. The Lord's recovery is God becoming the flesh, the flesh becoming the life-giving Spirit, and the life-giving Spirit becoming the sevenfold intensified Spirit to consummate the New Jerusalem.

B. Expound to be serving ones, we must gain Christ by experiencing and enjoying Him in His full ministry of His three stages.

First, we need to know Christ; second, we need to experience and enjoy Christ, that is, to gain Christ. To gain Christ is to experience, enjoy, and take possession of all His unsearchable riches. These require us to pursue by forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before. Likewise, we need to gain Christ by experiencing and enjoying Him in His full ministry.

Day 2 —

A. Expound Christ expressing in His humanity the bountiful God in His rich attributes.

Our attributes are the characteristics of what we are. Our God has His attributes, and His attributes are rich because He is great and bountiful. He is love, light, holiness, and righteousness. These rich attributes were expressed by the Lord Jesus in His humanity to become the aromatic virtues in His humanity.

B. Explain the example in Luke 7:36-50.

The Man-Savior was very kind and patient, realizing that this woman had been convicted of her sins. He was also merciful. First, we need to have the divine forgiveness. God is the only one who can grant forgiveness of sins. In 7:50 the Lord Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." The giving of peace is also a divine attribute. God is the only one who can give inner peace.

Day 3 —

A. Expound in His resurrection His human nature was uplifted, and transformed.

Before His incarnation, Christ, the divine One, was already the Son of God. By incarnation He put on an element, the human flesh, that had nothing to do with divinity; that part of Him needed to be sanctified and uplifted by passing through death and resurrection. By resurrection His human nature was sanctified, uplifted, and transformed. Hence, by resurrection He was designated the Son of God with His humanity.

B. Explain Romans 1:3-4 we have Jesus as the prototype and Romans 8:29-30 there is the mass production.

With the prototype there is the Spirit of holiness, the flesh, and the designation as the Son of God. We also have the Spirit of holiness within, the human flesh without, and we shall be designated in full as sons of God. We were born the sons of man, but we have been reborn the sons of God. Therefore, in a sense, each one of us is the same as Jesus.

Day 4 —

A. Explain using the word inclusion in speaking of this second stage of Christ.

Because so many complications are involved in Christ's second becoming, His becoming the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit in resurrection, we may use the word inclusion in speaking of this second stage of Christ. The issue of this becoming was something compounded, that is, not just oil but the ointment signifying the life-giving Spirit. This Spirit is the pneumatic Christ, the Christ in the second stage—the stage of inclusion.

B. Expound that Romans 8:2 speaks of the life of the Triune God dispensing into our tripartite man.

Romans 8:2 speaks of the life of the Triune God. Verse 10 reveals that this life can be dispensed into our mind and can cause our mind to be life also. Ultimately, as verse 11 discloses, the divine life can even be imparted into our mortal bodies. The spirit is the center, the body is the circumference, and the mind is in between. From the center through the middle to the circumference, the life is being dispensed into our entire being.

Day 5 —

A. Why does Christ as the life-giving Spirit become the seven Spirits of God.

For His ministry in the stage of His inclusion, Christ became the life-giving Spirit. However, on the way of His ministry in the stage of His inclusion, before He had attained His purpose, the church became degraded; such degradation frustrates the accomplishment of God's eternal economy. Hence, Christ as the one life-giving Spirit was intensified sevenfold to become the seven Spirits of God.

B. State the sevenfold intensified Spirit saving the believers from the negative things.

As the sevenfold intensified Spirit, Christ saves the believers from the things related to the degradation of the church. The church in Ephesus had lost the first love toward the Lord, the shining capacity of the lampstand, and the enjoyment of Christ as life. The sevenfold intensified Spirit saves the believers from the formal church life, the loss of the first love to the Lord, the shining capacity of the lampstand, and the enjoyment of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain how we need the sevenfold intensified Spirit to supply us.

I would urge you to consider this matter of intensification and to pray desperately, saying, "Lord, I must advance. I need Your grace to bring me onward. I do not want to remain in the work of incarnation nor even in the work of inclusion. I want to advance from inclusion to intensification. I also will be intensified sevenfold to overcome the degradation of the church that the Body may be built up.

B. Expound that we are saved from degradation by the speaking of the sevenfold intensified pneumatic Christ. The seven Spirits' being the eyes of Christ indicates that They are one with Christ. At the beginning of each epistle, Christ is speaking, and at the end the Spirit is speaking. This shows that Christ is the Spirit. The overcoming of the degradation is by the saints who are living in their spirit. On the one hand, our overcoming is by Christ's speaking becoming the Spirit's speaking. On the other hand, it is by our living in our spirit all the time.

III. Conclusion:

In order to be a co-worker, an elder, or a serving person, one must firstly know Christ and secondly experience and enjoy Christ by the full ministry of Christ. You have to know first, then experience and enjoy. To experience and enjoy Christ in this way is to gain Christ. To gain Christ is to pay the price to experience, enjoy, and take possession of all His unsearchable riches. This requires us to forget the things which are behind and stretch forward to the things which are before. We should gain Christ by experiencing and enjoying Him by His full ministry. My burden is that all the serving ones in the Lord's recovery should see that we need to do the work of the full ministry of Christ in three stages. We should not only be able to do the work of the first stage of incarnation to save the redeemed people, but we should also be able to do the work of the second stage of inclusion to produce the churches. Furthermore, we should be able to do the work of building up the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem.