

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message There : Dealing with Our Heart for the Growth of the Divine Seed of Life within Us unto Our
Maturity in Life for God's Building in Life

I. Overview:

We must deal with our heart in the light of the Lord's presence for the growth of the divine seed of life within us unto our maturity in life. The heart is the conglomerate of man's inward parts, man's chief representative. Our heart is a composition of all the parts of our soul; the mind, the emotion, and the will plus one part of our spirit, the conscience. We need to cooperate with the Lord by dealing with our heart, which has four characteristics: the heart being soft, pure, loving, and at peace. A soft heart is the good earth in which Christ can freely grow. To be pure in heart is to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory. A loving heart is a heart in which the emotion loves God, wants God, thirsts after God, and yearns for God, having a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with the Lord. A heart at peace is a heart in which the conscience is without offense, enjoying uninterrupted fellowship with God. We need to see the objective obstacles that God's life encounters in our heart; the first problem is that we do not realize the darkness of our human concepts, the second problem is hypocrisy, the third problem is rebellion, and the fourth problem is our natural capability. There are the subjective obstacles encountered by God's life in our heart; the first subjective problem is the problem of our mind, the second is our will, and the third is our emotion. We daily need to be strengthened into the inner man so that Christ as life can make His home in the main parts of our heart.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound a composition of our heart.

Our heart is a composition of all the parts of our soul—the mind, the emotion, and the will—plus one part of our spirit, the conscience. Our soul is our personality, our person, our self. The soul is the base of all psychological matters; it denotes our being as humans, that is, our personality. This indicates that a person is a soul, for the soul is one's person.

B. Explain the difference between the soul and the heart.

The soul is the person himself, but the heart is the person in action. This means that whenever you act, you act by your heart. Therefore, we may say that our heart is our representative in action. We have something in our inner being that represents us, and this representative is our heart. Thus, our heart is our representative, the acting commissioner or ambassador, of our inner being.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the good earth in Matthew 13:8.

The good earth in Matthew 13:8 signifies the good heart that is not hardened by worldly traffic, that is without hidden sins, and that is without the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches. Such a heart gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold.

B. Explain our heart having four great problems toward God.

Since the heart is so vitally related to life, God has no other alternative but to deal with our heart so that His life might be regulated out from us. Toward God, our heart has four great problems: hardness, impurity, unlovingness, and unpeacefulness. Hardness is a matter of the will, impurity is a matter not only of the mind but also of the emotion, unlovingness is a matter of the emotion, and unpeacefulness is a matter of the conscience. God deals with these four aspects so that our heart may be soft, pure, loving, and at peace.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the issue of our heart to be loving.

A loving heart means a heart in which the emotion loves God, wants God, thirsts after God, yearns for God, and has affection toward God. Song of Songs in the Old Testament says that we as the Lord's people, should love the Lord as a woman loves her beloved. This love is so deep, unchanging and as strong as death. Then in John 21 in the New Testament, the Lord asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" The Lord desired to lead the emotion of Peter to so love the Lord that he could be one who has a loving heart toward the Lord.

B. Explain the function of the heart being for loving the Lord.

The function of the heart is to love the Lord, for it is the loving organ of our being. This is proved by Mark 12:30: "You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart." The heart was created for the purpose of loving the Lord. Love is a matter of the heart. The heart is the only organ to exercise love. Everyone loves something, either the Lord Himself or something else. Every morning we must renew our heart so that we may love the Lord more and more.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the obstacles that God's life encounters in us.

We need to see the obstacles that God's life encounters in us. Everything we have, whether good or bad, can be an obstacle for God's life. It does not matter whether we are wise or foolish, all our human concepts are in darkness, and they keep us from knowing Christ as life in us. Our concepts are actually full of darkness and without life.

B. Explain that after being saved, we should fellowship with God for having light.

After we are saved, the concept of trying to be good is within us. However, when we pray and fellowship with God, the living Christ in us may touch us according to His constant operation in us. For example, we will see that some things we may have done in the past are inappropriate, such as mistreating our wives, blaming our husbands, and complaining about others. We will even have a sense that we should apologize. This is what Christ is doing in us.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the third problem that life encounters in us is rebellion.

Christ operates and moves in us in order to make us clear about His will and requirements for us and about His leading and dealing with us. However, if we do not obey but go against the feeling within, not accepting His leading or paying the price, this unwillingness and opposition are rebellion. We may have our freedom and choice, but we will not have the way of life.

B. Explain the fourth problem that life encounters in us is our natural capability.

Our natural being, disposition, and self are all problems that prevent God's life from coming out of us. However, the problem of our natural capability is even more serious, and it is a strong obstacle that prevents God's life from flowing out of us. Many brothers and sisters truly love the Lord and are very godly. Nevertheless, their greatest problem is the strength and greatness of their capabilities. Consequently, Christ has no way in them.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the problem of our mind although having the life of Christ within us.

An abnormal Christian is one whose mind, emotion, and will cannot cooperate with and even contradict his spirit. If the things you want to do originate from your thoughts, then they will not help people see and gain Christ, because they are merely religious activities. Although we have the life of Christ within, we do not cooperate with Christ's life, and so this life cannot be lived out from us. This is the problem of our mind.

B. Explain the problem of our will though having the life of Christ within us.

Even though our mind often understands the intention in our spirit, we are unwilling to submit and obey. Both a strong will and a weak will are hindrances to God's life. A will that has been dealt with is both strong and pliable. Being pliable means that one is not insistent or stubborn. However, when a need arises, one can be strong and bold. Only a person with such a will can carry out the Lord's command.

III. Conclusion:

When we feel that there is no light but darkness within us, this is a sign that we have a problem with God and need to deal with it. It is not only the way of dealing with sin and with the world, but also the way of dealing with the direction of our heart. Do you have a pure heart for God? Or is there something else of God that is still covetous, beware of the wrong direction, and immediately it will be dark within you. The heart must be right, and all parts of the soul and spirit must be dealt with. Conversely, if the mind is correct, the person is proper. The results of all our work need to be measured by life, and that which is of life is reckoned with God. We must learn to live in the life of the Lord, let the life of the Lord carry us to do His work. We should only have one desire, that is, to know and experience more of the Lord's life, and to be able to impart what we have known and experienced to others so that they may also receive it.