

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Twenty-three : The Children of God Walking in Love and Light

I. Overview:

As the children of God, we are God-men, born of God, possessing the life and nature of God, and belonging to the species of God. The greatest wonder in the universe is that human beings could be begotten of God and that sinners could be made children of God. As the Father's children, having the Father's life and nature, we can be perfect as our Father is perfect. When the divine love appears to us, it becomes grace, and when the divine light shines upon us, it becomes truth. Grace is the expression of love, and love is the source of grace; truth is the revelation of light, and light is the origin of truth. The goal of the book of Ephesians is to bring us into love as the inner substance of God that we may enjoy His presence in the sweetness of the divine love and thereby love others as Christ did. We are not only children of light—we are light itself. If we walk as children of light, we will bear the fruit described. God the Father as goodness is the nature of the light. Righteousness refers to God the Son, for Christ came to accomplish God's purpose according to God's righteous procedure. Truth refers to God the Spirit for He is the Spirit of reality.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the word in Ephesians 5:1, how to experience it.

Paul's word in Ephesians 5:1 is an imperative, a command. He commands us to be imitators of God. What a glorious fact that since we are His beloved children, we can be imitators of God! As the children of God, we have His life and nature. We imitate God not by our natural life but by His divine life.

B. Expound the words in First John 3:1, and how to apply them.

The believers in Christ are children of God. First John 3:1 says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called

children of God; and we are." Surely it is the greatest wonder in the universe that human beings could be begotten of God and sinners could be made children of God. Through such an amazing divine birth we have received the divine life, which enables us to be God's children.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the relationship between truth with grace and light with love.

In the New Testament, light and love, like reality (truth) and grace, are a pair. Light is the source of reality, and love is the source of grace. Hence, light and love form a pair as the source of reality and grace; reality and grace form a pair as the issue of light and love. When light shines out, it becomes truth; when love is expressed, it becomes grace.

B. Fellowship love and light being actually God Himself.

Love and light are actually God Himself; they are God's being, His essence. Grace and reality come out of God the Father, but love and light are God the Father. First, we believe in the Lord Jesus and receive grace and truth. Then by enjoying grace and truth, we are brought back to the source of grace and truth, God the Father as love and light.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the relationship between grace with love and truth with light.

Grace is the expression of love, and love is the source of grace. Truth is the revelation of light, and light is the origin of truth. God is love and light. When God is expressed and revealed in the Lord Jesus, His love becomes grace and His light becomes truth. After we have, in the Lord Jesus, received God as grace and realized Him as truth, we come to Him and enjoy His love and light.

B. Expound that our walk should be in the love and light.

Love is the inner substance of God, whereas light is the expressed element of God. It is possible to sense the love of God inwardly, and it is possible to see the light of God shining out. Our walk in love should be constituted of both the loving substance and the shining element of God. These should be the inner source of our walk. They are deeper than grace and truth.

Day 4 —

A. Explain in Ephesians 5:2 Paul telling us to walk in love.

In Ephesians 5:2 Paul tells us to walk in love. An intimate relationship between a daughter and mother may illustrate what it means to walk in love. Such daughters love whatever their mothers love. Because of the love they have for their mothers, they are not willing to do anything opposed to their mothers' feeling. Rather, they walk in intimate love toward their mothers.

B. Explain the difference between love and grace.

It can be illustrated by the relationship between a mother and her child. Sometimes a child may want something from the mother. However, at other times the child simply wants to enjoy the mother's loving embrace. Receiving something from the mother that expresses the mother's love is grace. But resting in the loving embrace of the mother is an illustration of love.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the living in the love and light.

The church life according to God's desire must be in love and in light, both of which are the very elements of God Himself. In the inner substance

of God, we have love and light. Here we have the top church life, the church as the bride. The goal of the book of Ephesians is to bring us into God's inner substance to know Him as love and light.

B. Explain needing faith and love to experience Christ.

Faith enables us to receive and apprehend Christ, and love enables us to enjoy Him. Neither faith nor love are ours; they are His. His faith becomes our faith, by which we believe in Him, and His love becomes our love, by which we love Him. The love in which we are rooted and grounded is the divine love.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship the experience of light being deeper than the experience of truth.

In our experience we may often realize God as truth to us, as our reality. But sometimes when we get into God's presence, we sense that we are in the light. At such times, we are not only experiencing reality, but we are in the very light itself. Thus, the experience of light is deeper than the experience of truth. We should not simply be according to reality and by grace but in love and under light.

B. Explain in Ephesians 5:9 regarding the fruit of the light.

Paul inserts a parenthetical statement in Ephesians 5:9 regarding the fruit of the light. Goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; righteousness is the way or the procedure by which the fruit of the light is produced; and the truth is the reality, the real expression of the fruit of the light. The fruit of the light must be good in nature, righteous in procedure, and real in expression, that God may be expressed.

III. Conclusion:

Having been born of God and become children of God, we should be filled, saturated, and permeated by the dispensing of Triune God into us every day. We can only be drunk by God if we open ourselves up to the divine dispensing, allowing Him to flow through us, permeate us, and even carry us away. When we are drunk by God through His dispensing, we will be filled with joy and exultation. In our daily lives, we will truly enjoy the Triune God, and we will become children of light, filled with the Triune God, and act and live according to love and light. Within us there is a Person who loves us, and now, through this Person and with this Person, we can love others just like Him. We can take Christ as our pattern, and act and work according to love and light. God every day through the dispensation of the Spirit.