

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Twenty-four : The Giver of Gifts and the Constituents of God's Armor**

#### **I. Overview:**

The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving, the dispensing, of the divine grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving of the gifted persons, such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers, who are constituted by the dispensing of the Divine Trinity, by Christ as the Head in His ascension to the Body of Christ. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the gifted persons' perfecting of the saints in the divine dispensing so that all the saints may be able to do the work of the New Testament ministry, that is, to build up the Body of Christ. The whole armour of God is for the entire Body of Christ as the corporate warrior, not for any individual member of the Body; we must fight the spiritual warfare in the Body, not as individuals. Christ as the breastplate of righteousness covers our conscience, signified by the breast; in fighting against Satan, our accuser, we need a blood-purified conscience, a conscience void of offense. The helmet of salvation is for covering our mind, our mentality, against the negative thoughts shot in by the evil one; such a helmet, such a covering, is God's salvation. Among the six items of God's armor, the sword of the Spirit is the only one for attacking the enemy. Prayer may be considered the seventh item of the armor of God, because it is the means by which we apply the other items.

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

Day 1 —

A. Fellowship Christ becoming the Giver of gifts by passing through the processes in the universe. In order for Christ to be constituted the Giver of gifts, He had to fill all things by passing through the highest and lowest places in the universe. In particular, through His death Christ conquered God's enemy Satan, and captured from Satan's hand God's chosen people. By His universal traffic, His victory over His enemy, and His triumphal procession He became qualified to be the Giver of gifts to His Body.

B. Explain how we became the gifts to the Body.

Originally these captives were all God's chosen people. Yet through the fall they became the captives of God's enemy, Satan. Through His descending and ascending, however, Christ defeated Satan and recaptured these captives of Satan, and made them His captives in His triumphal procession, a procession celebrating His victory. Christ then gave them as gifts to the Body for its building up.

Day 2 —

A. Explain every saint, great and small, being a gift to the church.

Every saint, great and small, is a gift to the church. Every member of the Body is a gift to the Body. We should never consider ourselves as too small to be a profitable gift to the Body. According to the biblical revelation, however, all the believers should be living, functioning members of the Body of Christ.

B. Expound the intrinsic building of the church.

These Head-given gifts perfect the saints in the local churches. When they are perfecting in the meetings, they are watering the members of the Body of Christ. The perfecting of the saints by the gifts is unto the work of the ministry—the building up of the organic Body of Christ. This perfecting should go on and on until all the members of Christ arrive at three things.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the revealing of Ephesians 6:10-20.

Ephesians 6:10-20 reveals that Christ is the constituents of God's armor. In this portion of the Word, the church is revealed as the warrior to defeat God's enemy. As the warrior, the church needs might and the whole armor of God. The church is a corporate warrior; only the corporate warrior can wear the whole armor of God and no individual believer can. We must fight the spiritual warfare in the Body, not individually.

B. Explain having girded your loins with truth in Ephesians 6:14.

For us to gird our loins is to strengthen our entire being. Our whole being needs to be strengthened with truth. This strengthening is for standing. According to the way the word truth is used in chapter 4, truth here refers to

God in Christ as reality in our living, that is, God realized and experienced by us as our living. This is actually Christ Himself lived out by us. Such truth, such reality, is our girdle.

Day 4 —

A. Explain engaging in spiritual warfare, we must have a conscience void of offense.

We need to deal with our conscience in order to have a conscience void of offense. In addition, we need to put on the breastplate of righteousness to cover our conscience. Revelation 12:11 says, “They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb.” To be covered by the blood of the Lamb is mainly to have upon us the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is in the blood, and the covering of the blood is the breastplate.

B. Testify under the cleansing of His blood, He becomes our righteousness.

The righteousness that covers our conscience and that guards us from Satan’s accusations is Christ Himself.

In experience we cannot separate

the blood from Christ. Under the cleansing of His blood, He becomes our righteousness. Whenever we are about to take part in the spiritual warfare, we need to pray, “Lord, cover me with Yourself as my righteousness. Lord, I hide under Your blood.”

Day 5 —

A. Explain the shield of faith to shield our entire being.

We need truth to gird our loins, righteousness to cover our conscience, peace as the standing for our feet, and faith to shield our entire being. We

certainly are not to have faith in our own ability, strength, merit, or virtue. Our faith must be in God. God is real, living, present, and available. We need to have faith in Him. We also should have faith in God’s heart.

B. State along with faith in God’s heart, we should have faith in God’s faithfulness.

Along with faith in God’s heart, we should have faith in God’s faithfulness. We may change, but God does not change. As James 1:17 says, with God there is no variation or shadow cast by turning. Furthermore, God cannot lie, but is always faithful to His word. God is not only faithful but also able. Therefore, we need to have faith in God’s ability.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the sword of the Spirit being for attacking the enemy.

Among the six items of God’s armor, the sword of the Spirit is the only one for attacking the enemy. With the sword we cut the enemy to pieces. However, we do not take up the sword first. Rather, we must first put on the girdle, the breastplate, and the shoes, and then take up the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. When we are entirely protected and have salvation as our portion, we may receive the sword of the Spirit.

B. Differentiate the logos from the rhema.

The Word is the Bible. But if this Word is only the printed letters, it is neither the Spirit nor the sword. The Greek word for word in Ephesians

6:17 is rhema, the instant word spoken at any moment by the Spirit in any situation. When the logos, the constant word in the Bible, becomes the rhema, the instant word, this rhema will be the Spirit.

### **III. Conclusion:**

In order to become the gifts of the body to exercise function, we must first be conquered by Christ and defeated by Him. It is only when we are willing to be taken captive by Christ that He has the right and position to use us as His gifts for the body. We must earnestly pray to the Lord from the depths of our hearts, surrendering to Him, being defeated by Him, and being taken captive by Him. At the same time, we must also grow in life. The more we grow in our lives, the more we will receive the supply of life, and this supply of life will enable us to fully utilize our gifts within the body. To effectively engage in spiritual warfare, we must experience Christ as the components of His divine armor, as corporate warriors, we must experience Christ inwardly as the heavenly motor generator that gives us strength, and we must put on Christ outwardly as the components of the armour of God; in other words, we must be in mingling with Christ.