

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying

Message One : Fighting the Good Fight

I. Overview:

As revealed in 2 Timothy 4:7, a proper Christian life is threefold; it involves fighting the good fight, running and finishing the course, and keeping the faith. The believers fight the good fight by receiving the apostle's charge. To fight the good fight of the faith is to fight for the contents of the complete gospel according to God's New Testament economy. To fight the good fight of the faith in the Christian life, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life. We need to lay hold on the eternal life; then we will be able to fight the good fight of the faith. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the truth and uphold the absoluteness of the truth. For the consummation of the divine economy, we should be absolute for the present truth and the highest truth and the subjective truths. The churches should bear the responsibility to clarify our teachings in order to fight for the truth, care for the Lord's recovery, and take care of our testimony.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that we need to fight the good fight by receiving the apostle's charge.

First Timothy 1:18, Paul charged Timothy to fight the good fight according to the prophecies. On the positive side, this charge concerns the economy of God; on the negative side, it concerns the different teachings. Because of different teachings, the church had degraded and had deviated from the faith. Paul charged Timothy to fight against this deviation from the faith, which is to fight the good fight of the faith.

B. Explain the meaning of economy in 1 Timothy 1:4.

In Greek the words God's economy in 1 Timothy 1:4 also mean God's "household law," implying distribution. It denotes a household management, and, derivatively, a dispensation, a plan, or an economy. God's economy in faith is His household administration, which is to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen people that He may have a house to express Himself, which house is the church, the Body of Christ.

Day 2 —

A. State throughout the centuries the source of the degradation and decline of the church.

There is one source of teachings that differ from the ministry of the apostles. In Acts 2:42 we see that at the beginning of the church life, the believers continued in the teachings of the apostles. These teachings were the ministry. What the apostles taught and preached was nothing other than Christ and the church. This is the vital focus of the New Testament revelation, and this is God's economy.

B. Expound how we can get the faith.

We need to contact the Word and receive God by the Spirit through the Word. Then we will have faith. By coming to the Word, we are infused with God, and spontaneously, faith operates within us to bring us into an organic union with God. The more we enjoy God's infusion, the more we become one with Him.

Day 3 —

A. Explain fighting the good fight for the faith.

To fight for the faith means to fight for God's New Testament economy. In particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ. To fight the good fight of the faith in the Christian life, especially in the Christian ministry, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life.

B. State to fight the good fight, needing to lay hold on the eternal life.

We fight the good fight of the faith subjectively by laying hold on eternal life. We should not do anything apart from this life. As those who would fight the good fight, we need to lay hold on eternal life. Eternal life should be our life today, a life for our present daily living.

Day 4 —

A. Unveil the background and the way to be saved of the book of 2 Timothy.

When Paul was writing 2 Timothy, he was fully aware that the churches were declining. However, because he was one who laid hold on the promise of eternal life, he was not discouraged or disappointed. He had something within him that never changed—the eternal, uncreated, incorruptible life of God. No matter how the environment may change, this eternal life remains the same.

B. State what in 2 Timothy 1:1 mentioned all the eight basic elements of the inoculation.

The life mentioned in 2 Timothy 1:1 includes all the eight basic elements of the inoculation. This means that eternal life includes a pure conscience, unfeigned faith, the divine gift, a strong spirit, eternal grace, the element of incorruption, the healthy word, and the indwelling Spirit. If we have this life, which is actually the processed Triune God, we have a pure conscience, unfeigned faith, and all the other provisions of the divine inoculation.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that we, the believers, have to fight the good fight of the faith.

For the interest of God's kingdom, the believers have to fight the good fight against Satan and his kingdom of darkness. Paul charges the believers to fight the good fight of the faith, that is, to fight for the contents of the complete gospel according to God's New Testament economy. We should be God's soldiers, fighting the good fight, overthrowing the devil's strongholds and taking captive man's thought unto the obedience of Christ.

B. Explain the relationship between the divine light and the truth.

When the divine light shines, we see all the different truths, and these truths are realities. But when we do not have the divine light but are rather in darkness, we have the sense that everything is vanity and emptiness. I would ask you to consider your experience. When you are in the divine light, you can see the truth, the reality. For example, when you are in the light, God is a reality to you, and the divine life is also a reality.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the meaning of the word truth.

Truth is the Triune God. Truth is also the Word of God as the divine revelation, which not only reveals but also conveys the reality of God and Christ and of all the divine and spiritual things. Hence, the Word of God also is reality. The Word is the explanation of the Triune God. This means that the fourth aspect of what the truth is, the Word, is actually the explanation of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

B. Explain that every worker of the Lord must uphold the absoluteness of the truth.

Many brothers and sisters are not absolute to the truth; they are affected by people, things, and personal feelings. A basic requirement for being a servant of the Lord is to not sacrifice the truth. The Bible contains many ordinances and commandments, and God's servants need to preach and announce them. We cannot tamper with the truth in any way in order to justify our own deficiencies. This is what it means to be absolute to the truth.

III. Conclusion:

Paul said in 1 Timothy 6: 12, 10, "Fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life." He also made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. The good fight is against today's situation and against today's trend. Today's situation, whether Christian or non-Christian, does not live by God's eternal life at all, and does not even know what eternal life is. Today, many Christians do not run in their spiritual life, nor do they fight. They just live a muddle-headed life. Although we are in the Lord's recovery, we should not think that we can be at ease and take the Lord's recovery as a refuge. The same race and battle are before us. The way of meeting and serving revealed in the Bible is a battle and a race.