

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophecy Message Two : Finishing the Course**

### **I. Overview:**

Proper Christian life needs to run the race; Paul began to run the heavenly race after the Lord took possession of him, and he continually ran that he might finish it. Finally he triumphantly proclaimed, "I have finished the course"; for this he will receive from the Lord a reward—the crown of righteousness. We run the Christian race by "looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith". When we look away unto Jesus, He transfuses and infuses us with all that He is, so that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth. The last part of the journey ordained by God for each one of us is the most difficult part of the journey. We Christian need to seek out the journey that the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk in it. We should not grow weary, fainting and being without strength in our soul, everything seems to be in vain; rather, we should be those who run the race to the end. The one who falls down and rises again is the best runner. We should not give up, become weary, or faint in our soul but look away unto Jesus and run the race set before us.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound the Christian life being a race.

The believers experience the dispensing of the processed Triune God by running the course of the race. The Christian life is a race, and we are runners. We must not only run, but run successfully in order to obtain the prize, which is a reward as an incentive to us. First Corinthians 9 reveals that the Christian course involves preaching the gospel. To preach the gospel is to dispense Christ into others.

B. Explain what the race we are running is Christ.

The race we are running is actually Christ Himself. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way" in John 14:6. A race is a way, a course. Christ is the race because He is the way. The way we are walking is the race we are running. Although Christ is our way, we should not take this way simply as a way; rather, we should take the way as a race to run.

Day 2 —

A. State the significance of "looking away unto" in Hebrews 12:2, and how to practice it.

In Hebrews 12:2, "looking away unto" means "to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object." The runners in a race, such as the hundred yard dash, turn away from everything else and look at the goal with undivided attention. In this verse Paul seems to be saying, "Hebrew brothers, do not stand there considering and looking around, must turn away from everything other than Christ and look to Him with undivided attention".

B. Differentiate the witnesses of faith and the Author of faith.

The saints of the old covenant were only the witnesses of faith, but Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of faith. The Greek word translated “Author” may also be rendered “Originator,” “Inaugurator,” “Leader,” “Pioneer,” “Forerunner.” According to our natural man, we do not have any believing ability. We do not have faith by ourselves. The faith by which we are saved is the precious faith that we have received from the Lord.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Paul being an example in running the race.

Because Paul’s background was exactly that of the Hebrew believers, he was qualified to be an example in running the race. Galatians 2:2 and 1 Corinthians 9:26 and 27 show how he began to run the race. Philippians 3:5-8 and 12-14 show how he was still running the race. In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, written shortly before his martyrdom, he told us that he had finished the race.

B. Expound what Paul said “to look away unto the wonderful One”.

Paul told the Hebrew believers to look “away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith”. If we look unto Him as such a wonderful and all-inclusive One, He will minister heaven, life, and strength to us, transfusing and infusing us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth.

Day 4 —

A. Expound in the church life we having not by sight, by appearance, but by faith.

In order to regard the visible things, we do not need faith...To walk by faith means that we regard the invisible things. In the church life we are walking not by sight, by appearance, but by faith. We know that we are saved through faith. This faith causes us to experience the divine birth with the divine life.

B. Explain how we have the faith.

When we look unto Jesus, He transfuses us with Himself as the believing element, and He becomes our faith. Faith, the substantiating ability, is like a sixth sense. We acquired this substantiating sense through the preaching of the gospel. Proper gospel preaching is not merely a matter of teaching; it must also be a matter of transfusion.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how the sinners to have faith.

Naturally, we have no belief, only disbelief. But when the sinners come to the church and hear the proper preaching of the gospel, they are charged with God. Because God Himself is transfused into them in this way, they find that they have faith. This is the gift of faith, the nature and element of which is God Himself. If we would have faith, we must look away unto Jesus.

B. Fellowship that the faith we have is just Christ Himself believing in us and for us.

Once Christ has originated this faith within us, He will never let it go. Rather, He will complete, finish, and perfect it. Do not think that you can be a giant of faith on your own. No, we do not have the slightest amount of faith. All the faith we have is just Christ Himself believing in us and for us.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that the most important thing in the Christian life is to seek out the journey which the Lord has ordained.

The most important thing in the Christian life is to seek out the journey which the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it. Some, even though they have found it, do not walk on it. Each one of us has to put ourselves into God's hand in a quiet and obedient way and seek after His leading. We should pray that He reveal to us the journey He has designated for us. After this, we should pay any price to wholeheartedly walk on it.

B. Expound Mark 6:48, the Lord "intended to pass by them."

Since the Lord had commanded His disciples to go to the other side to Bethsaida, He descended the mountain and went forward to Bethsaida. If they had turned at a corner, the Lord would not have met them when He came. If they had gone on a wrong course, the Lord would not have gone on a wrong pathway to wait for them. This is very sobering! If you are not there, you will miss Him. Each one of us has to bear his own responsibility as to which way he should go.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Walking in the journey ordained by God practically, we established the carrying on of the proper gospel preaching, the home meetings with small group meetings, and the mutual fellowship meetings for the building up of the universal body of Christ with the local churches. All of us must learn to do these. We cannot graduate from these four things. We need to run this race throughout our lives. Today, we are on the last part of the journey, which is the most difficult part of the journey, and requires patience. The whole world is against us. Facing of everything around us, we have only two attitudes: one is to insist and the other is to letting it go. If we are not faithful right now, then we will never be faithful. Many children of God suffer for the sake of the Lord. How can we sit idly by? Each of us should serve the Lord faithfully and walk the journey ordained by God until the end.