

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Seven : The Lord Being with Our Spirit to Be Our Empowering Grace, Enabling Us to Minister the Healthy Teaching of God's Eternal Economy, Speaking with Healthy Words of the Grace of Life for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ

I. Overview:

Second Timothy begins with our God-given spirit fanned into flame and ends with the Lord being with our spirit to be our empowering grace as the unsearchably rich capital of our Christian life. The book begins with the wonderful Christ as our saving grace, continues with Him as our empowering grace, and ends with Him as our ever-present grace. The Lord as the Spirit with our spirit, the two spirits mingled together as The Lord as the Spirit with our spirit, the two spirits mingled together as one spirit, is the key to the spiritual fellowship of the believers with the consummated Triune God and the secret of God's organic salvation. Grace is the circulating Triune God working, flowing, communicating, transporting, transmitting, and dispensing all that He is into us for our enjoyment; the entire church life depends on grace. We need to be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus to be good stewards of the varied grace of God as the faithful ones and vessels unto honor. Second Timothy 1:13-14 reveals that we have to deposit the Lord's healthy words into our being, like we deposit money in a bank. To conduct ourselves means that we do not base our confidence on our natural human ability, but to be in the Grace of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain 2 Timothy revealing how we should be during the degradation of the church.

2 Timothy, which gives instruction on how to confront the degradation of the church, strongly stresses our spirit. In the beginning it emphasizes that a strong, loving, and sound spirit has been given to us by which we can fan the gift of God into flame and suffer evil with the gospel according to the power of God and the Lord's life-imparting grace. In the conclusion it blesses us with the emphasis of the Lord being with our spirit.

B. Expound that what is needed is the grace of God in the grievous days of the church.

In the grievous days during the worsening degradation of the church, what is needed is the eternal grace of God, which was given to us in eternity, and is appropriated by us in this age. This grace is nothing less than Christ the Son of God. We need to exercise this spirit to enjoy the riches of Christ as the sufficient grace.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the words in First Corinthians 6:17.

First Corinthians 6:17 says, "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." Because Christ today is the life-giving Spirit, and we have an inner part, the human spirit, these two spirits come together and mingle and become one spirit. He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Now we have a mingled spirit. It is rather hard to say whether this is the Holy Spirit or the human spirit because the two spirits are mingled as one.

B. Expound the words in Philippians 1:27 and how to experience it.

Philippians 1:27 says to "stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel." First, we need to be in one spirit. Then we all need to be with one soul. To stand together for the church life we need to be in one spirit, But when we go to preach the gospel, we need to be with one soul. "With one soul" is for the acting, the working, the striving together.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the truth concerning grace.

Mary's conceiving of the Lord Jesus was great because that was God's incarnation within her. This was not just Mary's finding favor of God. This was a matter of grace. The first case in the New Testament of grace is the case of God's incarnation. In the Old Testament He came out to visit people, but never in His visitation did He stay with the one who was visited by Him.

B. Expound God's incarnation in the New Testament.

His incarnation was not just His coming to visit Mary. Instead, He came to stay in Mary, to stay in her physical womb. Matthew 1:20 says that what was begotten in Mary was of the Holy Spirit. God came to visit Mary, and

He entered into her and stayed in her to be the very essence of her conceiving of a wonderful person, who would be both God and man, a God-man.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that we have faith and love in Christ because of grace of God.

If there were no grace of God, none of us could have faith and love in Christ. It is a wonder that we can believe in Jesus and love Him whom we have never seen. If we were threatened and persecuted unto martyrdom, we still could not deny that we believe in Jesus and love Him. This is a result of superabounding grace. To love Jesus is a wonder. To love Jesus is a miracle of the superabounding grace.

B. Fellowship what the two aspects of grace being abundant.

Grace is abundant in two aspects: in faith and in love in Christ Jesus. Originally, Paul as Saul of Tarsus had nothing to do with Jesus Christ. He was even full of hatred toward the Lord. But one day he received mercy and grace from the Lord not only to believe in Jesus but also to love Him. This is the greatest mercy, and this is real grace.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the deposit in 2 Timothy 1:14 and 2 Timothy 1:12.

The good deposit in 2 Timothy 1:14 is the deposit the Lord entrusted to us, in contrast to the deposit we entrusted to Him, mentioned in verse 12. According to verse 13, the deposit must refer to the deposit of healthy words, including the riches of life in His word, which the Lord has stored in us. Hence, for us to guard the good deposit through the Holy Spirit requires that we exercise our spirit.

B. Explain the words in Second Timothy 2:1-2 and how to apply them.

Today we need to be empowered in grace, which is the processed Triune God given to us, or dispensed into us, for our enjoyment to commit the healthy words we have experienced to faithful men, who will be competent to teach the same healthy words to others also. We are to be empowered in this grace, not to do miracles but to commit the healthy words that we have enjoyed to faithful men to produce many competent teachers.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the stewardship of the grace.

In our experience of the grace in God's economy, we carry out the stewardship of the grace of God entrusted by Him—dispensing the riches of Christ as the grace of God to His chosen people for the producing and building up of the church. Not only the apostles as stewards dispensed grace into people, but we also, in our living, should speak words for building up and thus give grace to people.

B. Explain the words in 2 Corinthians 1:12 and how to experience it.

In 2 Corinthians 1:12 Paul speaks of the singleness and sincerity of God. The sincerity of God is a divine virtue, a virtue of what God is. God is wise and almighty. But in a sense He is also single; He is very simple. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was wise; yet He was also simple and single.

III. Conclusion:

The source of chaos and division among Christians today is the complexity within believers. If Christians were all simple, there would be no trouble among them. The difficulty of a local church always arises from their complexity. If there is a difficulty in the place where you are, that difficulty must come from a person who is not simple and very complex. We can only be constituted as ministers of grace of Christ by living in singleness and sincerity of God. What is needed in the church today is people who are constituted in this way. Elders and all those who serve the Land must be such people. Only those who truly live in the singleness of God can help in the Lord's recovery. We must try our best to get rid of the net of complexity. We must follow Paul and live in the resurrection, that is, in the singleness of God.