

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Two : A Grafted Life

I. Overview:

As believers in Christ, we should live a grafted life—a life in which we are one spirit with the Lord and live in an organic union with Him. In grafting, two similar lives are joined and then grow together. Grafting can be effective only if the lives to be grafted are similar. Grafting requires cutting; two branches cannot be grafted together unless both are cut. Christ was cut when He died on the cross. After Christ was cut on the cross, He was resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit. By becoming such a Spirit, Christ was ready for grafting. Once we repent and receive the Lord, in this death and resurrection we are grafted together with Christ. After we have been grafted into Christ, we should no longer live by ourselves; rather, we should allow the pneumatic Christ to live in us. The Christian life is not an exchanged life but a grafted life—the mingling of the human life with the divine life. In the grafted life the divine life discharges the negative things, it works to resurrect God's original creation and the functions given us at creation are restored, strengthened, and enriched.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the words in 1 Corinthians 6:17.

“Joined to the Lord” refers to the believers’ organic union with the Lord through believing into Him. This union is illustrated by that of the branches with the vine. Such a union with the resurrected Lord can only be in our spirit. “One spirit” indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Our spirit has been regenerated by the Spirit of God, who is now in us and is one with our spirit.

B. Expound the relationship between God and us illustrating by grafting.

It is that God and we may have a union in life. The divine life and the human life join together to become one life. In the plant kingdom a branch that is not doing very well may be cut off the parent tree and attached to a healthier, more productive tree. This procedure, known as grafting, illustrates the union between God and us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound for one kind of life to be grafted to another, the two lives being similar.

For example, it is not possible to graft a branch from a banana tree to a peach tree. However, it is possible to graft some branches from a poorer peach tree to a healthy, productive peach tree, for the lives of these two trees are very close to each other. Because our human life was made in the image of God and according to the likeness of God, it can be joined to the divine life.

B. Explain in the matter of grafting, there being cutting and joining, or uniting.

Without the cutting, there cannot be any grafting. If the branch from one tree is to be grafted into another tree, the branch must first be cut. After the cutting occurs, the joining, or union, takes place. This union is organic. Therefore, in grafting we have the cutting, the joining, and the organic union. The cutting corresponds to the death of Christ, and the uniting, to the resurrection of Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Expound when a branch is grafted, both it and the tree must be cut.

The wound of the Lord Jesus is waiting for sinners on the cross. His side has been pierced; the blood shed. When is the sinner cut? He too has been cut on the cross. He experiences this cutting when he repents and receives the Lord. At the site where the wound of the sinner meets the wound of the Lord Jesus, they are grafted together. The Lord begins to live and grow in this newly grafted branch to supply him.

B. Explain the words in Romans 6:5 and its practical application.

The first aspect of grafting and growing together in Romans 6:5 is in the likeness of His death and refers to our being grafted into Him. The second is in the likeness of His resurrection and refers to His coming into us to grow in us. When He was crucified, He was thoroughly cut. Now His cut wound is waiting for the repentant sinners. We have no choice but to believe in the Lord and ask Him to save us.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the words in Galatians 2:19 and how to experience it.

The organic union with Christ takes place spontaneously when we believe in Christ. Galatians 2:19 indicates that we have died to law so that we might live to God. If we are not actually organically united with Christ but are in ourselves, then we are neither dead to law nor are we living to God.

B. Expound the words in Galatians 2:20 that not being an exchanged life.

No longer I does not indicate an exchanged life, a life in which Christ comes in and we go out. As regenerated people, we have both the old "I," and a new "I," concerning which Paul said, "I live." The old, terminated "I" was without divinity; the new "I" has God as life added to it. The new "I" came into being when the old "I" was resurrected and God was added to it.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the relationship between God's life and man's life.

When the divine life enters into the human life, the divine life becomes the content, and the human life becomes the container and the expression. But there is no exchange, or trade, of lives. The divine air, the heavenly pneuma, is dispensed into us, but it is not exchanged for our human life. Rather, it is dispensed into us and mingled with us.

B. Expound regarding the matter of reigning in life.

There are two main elements in our natural life of the old creation, sin and death. Through one man, Adam, sin entered into the world, and through sin, death. Thus, sin reigned in us through death, and death reigned over us through the offense of the one, Adam. It is through the all-inclusive death of Christ that we allow the life of Christ to reign in us instead of sin and death; rather, it is grace and life that reign in us.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how to get changed of these two lives by the grafting.

According to the natural law ordained by God, it is not the poor life that affects the richer life but the richer life that affects the poor life. In fact, the rich life will swallow up all the defects of the poor life and thus transform the poor life. In the same principle, when we are grafted into Christ, Christ swallows up our defects, but He does not eliminate our own life. On the contrary, as He swallows up our defects, He uplifts our humanity.

B. Fellowship what the results of the grafting are.

When the fatness of the better tree supplies the grafted branch, all the negative things are taken away. Then the original function of that branch is restored and strengthened. We are the problem branches that God has grafted to Christ. The fatness of His life comes into us, carrying away all the poor elements in us. He uplifts the original function that God had for us, strengthening and enriching it.

III. Conclusion:

The divine life is a heavenly antibiotic. Quarrelling with our husband or wife is like having a "cough." The death of Christ is the only antibiotic that can eliminate the bacteria that cause this disease. This heavenly antibiotic not only nails us down but also raises us up and renews the functions of our minds, emotions, and wills.

When we see the vision of transformation and conformation through grafting life, we die with Christ by the operation of the divine life within us, dying with Christ becomes our daily experience. We believe in the Lord Jesus, and after grafting into His all-inclusive life, many different elements of this life have been working within us. The corrupted elements of our human life are nailed down and buried, but the positive elements are raised up in resurrection.