

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Four : Abiding in Christ as the True Vine**

### **I. Overview:**

This true vine (the Son) with its branches (the believers in the Son) is the organism of the Triune God in God's economy. This organism grows with His riches and expresses His divine life. As branches in the vine, we need to abide in the vine. Our abiding in Christ is the condition of His abiding in us. Apart from the vine, we are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Only when the branches abide in the vine can the vine be everything to them. We abide in the divine fellowship with Christ by experiencing the cleansing of the Lord's blood and the application of the anointing Spirit to our inner being. The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus. When we abide in the Lord, and His words abide in us, there will be a desire in us that comes out of His words; and if we pray according to this desire, then He will answer this kind of prayer.

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

Day 1 —

- A. Expound that we are to abide in the vine, we must see the fact that we are the branches in the vine. If we are to abide in the vine, we must see the fact that we are the branches in the vine. If we see that we are already in Him, then we will be able to abide in Him. We will not want to stay away from Him. Once we see the fact that we are branches in the vine, we need to maintain the fellowship between us and the vine.
- B. Fellowship the Lord desiring to spread His abiding within us, but we restrict Him. We need to let the Son abide in us. We abide in Him, and He abides in us. But many times we do not give Him the ground, the space, to He abides in us. But many times we do not give Him the ground, the space, to abide in us. The Lord desires to spread His abiding within us. However, we like to narrow down His abiding. We restrict Him. There is constantly a gentle struggle between the abiding Christ and us.

Day 2 —

- A. Fellowship a matter of anointing. The all-inclusive life-giving Spirit from the Holy One entered into us at the time of our regeneration and abides in us forever; by Him the young children know the Father and know the truth. As we abide in Christ, we enjoy the divine anointing, which is a wonderful person, the Spirit, moving and working in us. As this anointing abides in us and teaches us, we abide in Him.
- B. Expound that He is the anointed One and also the anointing One. Because He is the anointed One, He has an abundance of ointment with which to anoint us. Eventually, the anointed One becomes the anointing One. In fact, He even becomes the anointing. Christ has been anointed with the divine ointment, and the ointment that is upon Him now flows to us. This is pictured in Psalm 133, which says that the anointing oil runs down from the head of Aaron to his beard and even to the hem of his priestly garments.

Day 3 —

- A. State regarding how to abide in Him, Christ. But after I saw that Christ as the life-giving Spirit had entered into my spirit to be one spirit with me, I realized that the mutual abiding of the branches and the vine takes place not in our mind, but in our regenerated human spirit. These two spirits are one in the divine life and in the divine nature. Now that we have received the Lord, all we need to do is abide in Him.
- B. Explain the physical life's functioning with feeling or sensation. Anything related to the physical life that is functioning normally produces no feeling or sensation. We know that our stomach is well when we do not feel anything. Similarly, when we are abiding in the Lord, we may have no sensation. But once we are outside of Him, we know immediately that something is wrong. Whenever we sense that something is wrong, we need to stop whatever we are doing.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the Spirit of God and the spirit of man mingling together as one.

The regenerated spirit of the believers and the consummated Spirit of God are mingled as one spirit. Today the Spirit of God and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live a God-man life, a life that is God yet man and man yet God. Hence, the God-man life is a living of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man joined and mingled together as one.

B. Explain the relationship between abiding in the Lord and the two spirits.

Abiding in the Lord is a matter in, of, through, and with life; thus, it is an organic matter. Through our study of the Gospel of John, we discovered that the matter of abiding is related to the two spirits. John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 4:24 says, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit." Just as the divine birth involves two spirits, so also genuine worship involves two spirits.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the highest and most accurate meaning of prayer.

Prayer is not just man contacting God but also God contacting man...Every prayer that is up to the standard is one which is a mutual flow and contact between God and man. God and man are just like electric currents flowing into one another. According to the fact and experience, prayer is the flowing between God and man. Therefore, the highest and most accurate meaning of prayer is that it is the mutual contact between God and man.

B. Expound what results being produced from learning the secret of prayer.

If a brother or sister has really learned the secret of prayer, spontaneously there will be the following result: such a praying one will certainly cooperate with God, work together with God, and allow God to express Himself and His desire from within him and through him, ultimately accomplishing God's purpose. This is according to Romans 8:26 and 27, "... but the Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to God's purpose."

Day 6 —

A. Expound the words in John 15:7, and what the significance is.

John 15:7 can be divided into four points. The first point is, "you abide in Me." The second is, "and My words abide in you." The third, it says, "Whatever you will." Because of the Lord's speaking in us, this desire is something issuing out of the Lord's words. The fourth, it says, "Ask...and it shall be done for you." When we thus abide in the Lord, "will" becomes "ask." This asking will be answered by God.

B. Explain how a prayer should be of that can be counted effective before the Lord.

Once man abides in the Lord, spontaneously he touches God's feeling and understands God's desire. We need only to live in the fellowship, remain in His presence, and draw near to Him. Then spontaneously, we will be able to understand His temperament, His disposition, and the principles of His doings. It is as if in our spirit we catch a glimpse of the Lord's eyes and thus spontaneously touch His feeling and understand His desire.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The reality of the church is the processed and consummated triune God as the Holy Spirit to mingle with our human spirit corporately. We should forget everything, but only pay attention to our mingled spirit. When all the saints call on the Lord and enjoy Him, sisters will be excellent wives, and brothers will be excellent husbands, not by themselves, but by enjoying the mingled spirit. The result of this enjoyment is the church life. The life of a person who walks, acts according to the mingled spirit, will bring him to the goal of the church life. If we want our prayers for being effective, we must live in the Lord and have fellowship with Him. Living in the Lord and having fellowship with the Lord enable us to know the Lord's will. Our prayers must match to the Lord's will in order to be fulfilled. In order for our prayers to attain to the Lord's will, we must live in the Lord, and have fellowship with the Lord.