

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Nine : The Lamb Whom the Overcoming Firstfruits Follow

I. Overview:

The firstfruits are the living overcomers, who will be the first ripe ones in God's field; hence, they will be reaped before the harvest as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. The firstfruits will be caught up to the heavenly Mount Zion, to the place of God's dwelling in the third heaven, in order to be in the presence of God and Christ. The rapture is for defeating the enemy and satisfying God; the Lord needs the man-child to fight against His enemy, but He needs the firstfruits even more for His satisfaction and enjoyment. In order for us to follow the Lamb and go on to maturity to become the firstfruits, we must walk with God by faith, not to be presumptuous, not to do things according to our own concept and desire. Enoch continually walked upward with God day and night for three hundred years, becoming closer to God and more one with God each day until "he was not, for God took him". God has an economy, which is to dispense Himself as food to the members of His household for His expression. God has set faithful and prudent slaves over His household as household administrators, stewards, channels of supply, to give His people food at the proper time.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the firstfruits following the Lamb recorded in Revelation 14.

Revelation 14:1-4 reveals Christ as the Lamb whom the overcoming firstfruits follow. In the Old Testament typology the sheaf of the firstfruits of the good land was brought into the temple and offered to God directly for His enjoyment. In the New Testament reality, the one hundred forty-four thousand overcomers will be the firstfruits in God's new creation offered to Him directly in the heavenly Holy of Holies for His satisfaction.

B. Explain the difference between the rapture of the firstfruits and the rapture of the majority of the believers

The firstfruits in Revelation 14:1-5, will be raptured before the great tribulation, and that the harvest in verses 14 through 16, composed of the majority of the believers, will be raptured at the end of the great tribulation. These one hundred forty-four thousand firstfruits will not be taken to the air; rather, they will be taken to the heavens, even to the heavenly Mount Zion. The firstfruits are a small part of the harvest which ripens first.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the difference of the function between the man-child and the firstfruits.

In Revelation 12 the rapture of the man-child, who fights against God's enemy, is for a function before God. God needs the man-child to be raptured to the heavens to fight the battle with His enemy so that the enemy might be defeated and cast down to the earth for the fulfillment of God's purpose. In the same principle, the firstfruits in chapter 14 do not merely enjoy the rapture but satisfy God's need.

B. Expound that in order to be the firstfruits, we must love the Lord Jesus.

In order to be the firstfruits, we must love the Lord Jesus. We should spend our time in loving the Lord, saying, "Lord, I enjoy looking at You and talking to You. Lord, I want to satisfy You, to be one with You, and to stay in Your presence." We should learn to spend time loving the Lord Jesus in an intimate way. It is not adequate merely to be sinless; neither is it sufficient simply to be good or right. We must be in love with the Lord.

Day 3 —

A. State Enoch walking with God, then God taking him away.

The way to escape the ultimate issue of man's fall was discovered by the seventh generation, Enoch. Enoch lived in such a way that he was kept from death both literally and totally. Before Enoch was taken up by the Lord and while he was living and walking on earth, death had ceased to kill him. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years, and God took him away.

B. Explain the significance of walking with God.

We should not only call upon the name of the Lord but should also walk with God. To walk with God is not to override God, not to be presumptuous, not to do things according to our own concept and desire, nor is it to

do anything without God. To walk with God is to take Him as our center and everything, to do things according to His revelation and leading, and to do everything with Him.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the spiritual significance in Hebrews 11:6.

He who comes forward to God must believe that God is. This is very simple. God requires you only to believe that He is. The verb to be is actually the divine title of our Triune God. Moses asked God what His name was. God answered that His name is I Am Who I Am. Our God's name is the verb to be. He is I Am Who I Am. He is the only One.

B. Expound that Jesus is the great I Am.

Jesus is the great I Am. He told us, "I am the life, I am the resurrection, I am the door, I am the good Shepherd, and I am the bread of life." He is the real food, He is the breath, the living water, and the tree of life. He is God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. He is everything to us. We are today, but eventually, we will not be tomorrow.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words in Matthew 24:45.

The household spoken of in Matthew 24:45 refers to the believers, who constitute the church. To give them food is to minister the word of God and Christ as the life supply to the believers in the church. We all must learn how to minister the life supply to the household of the Lord at the proper time. In the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord will set the faithful slave over all His possessions.

B. Expound the meaning of ministering food at the proper time.

At the proper time we have to minister food, the life supply, to the Lord's people. Do not say that others have a gift of teaching to teach you the Word of God and minister spiritual food to you but that you do not have such a gift. All of the Lord's servants received the gift for their commission. Whoever serves food knows the proper time.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in Matthew 24:48-49.

Matthew 24:48 says, "But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays." Verse 49 says that the evil slave beats his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken. To beat the fellow slaves is to mistreat the fellow believers, and to eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things.

B. Expound what beating our fellow slaves is.

We should not be those beating our fellow slaves. You may not do your duty to perform your service, but instead you are criticizing and sometimes even strongly opposing the brothers. You are not doing the work but beating the fellow slaves. You pray for people, but about ten percent of your prayer is a kind of judging. This is beating.

III. Conclusion:

In order to walk with God, we must believe that He is and He is a rewarder. We must also believe His word, then we need to seek Him, living according to His Word to follow Him and walk with Him by faith.

Furthermore, a faithful believer, upon seeing a fellow believer's weakness, offers no criticism at all instead ministers food according to the gifts the Lord has given him. If his gift is prayer, then let him pray and if his gift is visiting, then let him go to render help to others. However, unfaithful ones immediately criticize their brothers who are weak, and beat them. The principle of beating the fellow believers is due to dissatisfaction and criticism towards them, whereas

ministering food at the proper time is according to one's own experience of grace and other's needs.

Therefore, whether one is faithful or unfaithful depends entirely on how one uses his gifts, and the use of the gifts relies on whether we supply or criticize the saints.