

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message One : The Blessedness of Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart That We May Be
under
Christ's Heavenly Ruling as Our New King and That We May See God to Express Him in His Life
and Represent Him with His Authority

I. Overview:

To be poor in spirit is not only to be humble but also to be emptied in our spirit, in the depth of our being, not holding on to the old things of the old dispensation but unloaded to receive the new things, the things of the kingdom of the heavens. All spiritual progress depends on man's hunger. A little child, not filled with and occupied by old concepts, can easily receive a new thought. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. To have a pure heart means that our heart is single, seeking nothing but the Lord Himself, so that Christ may grow in us. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, our reward is that we will see God. We should aspire to have an enlarged heart. Solomon was competent to oversee God's people because he had wisdom and a large heart. In order to maintain the newness of our heart and our spirit, we need to be renewed day by day with the fresh supply of the resurrection life. We are renewed day by day through four items: the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the holy Word of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the meaning of being poor in spirit in Matthew 5:3.

The spirit referred to in Matthew 5:3 is our human spirit, not the Holy Spirit. To be poor in spirit does not mean that one has a poor spirit. To be poor in spirit is to have the best spirit. It is not only to have a humble spirit but also to be emptied in our spirit, in the depth of our being, not holding on to the old things of the old dispensation but unloaded to receive the new things, the things of the kingdom of the heavens.

B. Why is the first condition for the nine blessings in Matthew 5 to be poor in spirit?

It may be that our spirit is not empty for something more of the Lord to be deposited into us. The first condition for the nine blessings in Matthew 5 is to be poor in spirit. Our old experiences of Christ can hinder us from experiencing Christ in a new, fresh, and up-to-date way. Our spirit has to be emptied. This is the real humility.

Day 2 —

A. Explain Luke 1:53 showing us that God's grace is reserved for one type of person—a hungry one.

Luke 1:53 shows us that God's grace is reserved for one type of person—a hungry one. If a person who comes to the meeting with a pressing inward need and he who is determined to meet God will receive His blessing. We must realize that spiritual progress is based on our hunger.

B. Expound that we cannot go on without new knowledge of the Lord and a new vision of Him.

Everything ordered by the Lord in our circumstances is intended to create a need in us and make us realize that we cannot overcome by past experience. We have to realize that God does not want us to have yesterday's manna. With each new difficulty there comes a new need that we have never realized before.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that the reward for being pure in heart is to see God.

We must be pure in heart, seeking nothing besides Him. The reward for being pure in heart is to see God. God is our reward. We gain this reward by being strict, righteous, with ourselves, by being merciful toward others, and by being pure in heart toward God. To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory. This is for the kingdom of the heavens.

B. Expound seeing God in Matthew 5:8.

In Matthew 5:8, seeing God is a great reward in the kingdom. According to the clear view in the New Testament, to see God is to receive God into us. If seeing God is merely an objective seeing of God and

nothing else, that means very little. But seeing God is to receive God, and this means that God comes into us as our element to renew us, to transform us, because God's coming in adds the divine element into our being.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the world being very mixed, how God sanctify us.

But God's word of reality sanctifies us and makes us pure. The more a person is in the word of God, the purer he becomes. A man who is not in God's word but is in the world is complicated and impure. However, if we have God's word within, this word with God's reality will do a sanctifying work within us to separate us unto God, thus making us pure.

B. Expound the spiritual progress having two aspects of the negative and positive.

Spiritual progress is the increase of the element of God in us. Now let us look at the negative aspect of spiritual progress. Spiritual progress on the negative side is the shedding of certain things from us, that is, from our inner being. As soon as something is shed from us, we have spiritual progress. When something that usurps God's place is shed from us, we have spiritual progress.

Day 5 —

A. Why is that in God's design all of us who are His chosen people have to go through sufferings?

There is no exception to this because He wants us to be transferred from the realm of the old creation into the realm of the new creation. This transfer is a process of suffering. Then what shall we do? We have to be inwardly happy in our sufferings. The apostle Paul says that he rejoiced in his sufferings because he realized that all sufferings are the process to make us new.

B. Explain the afflictions we are appointed for in 1 Thessalonians 3:3.

In 1 Thessalonians 3:3 Paul says, "That no one would be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed for this." God has destined, appointed, that we should pass through afflictions. We have been appointed to sufferings. The reason I am calm in the midst of sufferings is that I realize that the real blessing is the actual renewing in our Christian life.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the holy Word of God as the means of being Renewed.

In addition to the cross, the Holy Spirit, and our spirit, we have the holy Word. The Head of the Body cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word. Because I have studied the Bible for such a long time, I can recall chapters such as Matthew 1 and Romans 8. When I just think about the contents of these chapters, I get washed.

B. Expound the matter of suffering.

No suffering is fair. The Lord could respond to us in this way: "Yes, the suffering itself is not fair, but My calling you to suffer is fair. I am fully right in placing you into this unfair treatment so that you can receive the renewing." Some of us may still be under a certain amount of suffering. We have to learn how to turn to our spirit.

III. Conclusion:

The pure in heart and the poor in spirit are the two primary conditions mentioned by the Lord in Matthew 5 as the nine blessings. Our spirit is the organ through which we contact God, while our heart is the organ through which we love God. The heart is for love, and the spirit is for service. We must love the Lord with our whole hearts for God. We must ask the Lord to give us a pure heart and a mind all the time turns to Him. We must seek a constantly functioning conscience, as we acknowledge our failures and sins before Him. We must be those who hunger for gaining more fresh experiences of the Lord. We should not remain unchanged; rather, we should continually empty our spirits. In this way, we will experience and enjoy Christ, and He will have the opportunity to grow within us. May the Lord grant us a right heart and a right spirit, enabling us to experience and enjoy Him as the Tree of Life.