

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Three : Maintaining the One Accord by the Three Substances of the Power
in the Lord's Recovery — Prayer, the Spirit, and the Word

I. Overview :

Prayer, the Spirit, and the Word are the three substances of the power in the Lord's recovery. We must pray that we might have the Spirit as the power to spread the Word. We must not think of taking a way other than prayer, the Spirit, and the Word; any other way will cause dissension and division; in order to maintain the unique one accord, we all must learn to do the same thing by the same way. Sanctification through the word of the truth issues in the genuine oneness, resulting in the oneness of the Body of Christ. To be sanctified is to move out of ourselves and into the Triune God and to allow Christ to live in us; in this way we are perfected into one. The book of Acts shows the prayer that we need is the prayer that brought in the outpouring of the Spirit, shook the earth, and empowered the disciples with the Holy Spirit to speak the word of God with all boldness. The prayer that we need is the prayer of the apostles to match the ministry of the word, and that brought in a great earthquake and shook the foundations of the prison house. The book of Acts shows that our working together with God to build up the church is a spiritual warfare and that prayer is the secret to accomplish God's work. In order to maintain the one accord, to practice the oneness, we need to stand against the sin of prayerlessness.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain by the three substances of prayer, the Spirit, and the Word to carry out the unique one accord.

The book of Acts begins with the one accord and stresses the one accord. The early disciples had maintained this one accord because they were entirely by three main substances—prayer, the Spirit, and the Word. Not only in Acts but also throughout the entire New Testament, prayer, the Spirit, and the Word were used for the carrying out of God's economy.

B. State how to labor in these three substances.

It may seem very awkward to take the genuine way. It takes time and patience; we have to labor and toil. Let us toil in the Word, labor in prayer, and be diligent in dealing with the Holy Spirit. This is worthwhile. We have to spend much time to get into the Word; we have to get ourselves soaked with the holy Word. We must also get ourselves constituted with our contact with the Lord.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the relationship between truth, sanctification and oneness in John 17.

John 17 indicates that truth, sanctification, and oneness are interrelated. This verse puts together truth and sanctification, for sanctification issues from the truth. When the truth works within us, the result is sanctification. This sanctification through the truth is for oneness. Truth sanctifies, and sanctification issues in oneness.

B. Expound needing to have the Triune God infused into us through the Word.

Our crucial need is to have the Triune God infused into us through the Word. This infusion works to sanctify us and transform us. To take the Word in this way is not a religious practice or ordinance. It is to experience the living Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—being wrought into us through the living Word. By contacting the Word in this way, God is added into us day by day.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the third cause of division being self-exaltation.

A third cause of division is self-exaltation, which usually accompanies ambition. Some people, however, are ambitious but do not seem to exalt

themselves. Others are ambitious and are consumed with the desire to have preeminence and to be exalted. Such self-exaltation is like a serpent; it causes division among the saints. Therefore, in order to keep the genuine oneness, we must learn not to exalt ourselves.

B. State living a crucified life.

Some have encouraged me to publish a book refuting that slanderous book called The God-Men. But when I brought this matter to the Lord, the Lord said, "Don't do anything. Let them oppose you. You should simply live a crucified life. The victory is not with outward fame; it is with the crucified life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that we are perfected into one.

When we are with the Lord in the Father and in the glory, we are one. But when we are in ourselves, we cannot be one with others. If we desire to be one with others, we need to move out of the self and into God the Father. When we move out of ourselves and into the Father and into the Father's glory, we are one and are even perfected into one.

B. Fellowship the meaning of our being sanctified.

Only by our being sanctified can we abide in Christ and can Christ live in us. To be sanctified is to move out of ourselves and into the Triune God and to allow Christ to live in us. The more we are sanctified, the more we are out of ourselves and in the Triune God. This sanctification takes place by the word, which is truth, and by the Spirit.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship in the book of Acts the prayer of the saints for building up of the Body of Christ.

The prayer that we need is the prayer that brought in the outpouring of the Spirit. One hundred twenty saints praying with one accord for ten days brought in the outpouring of the Spirit. God poured out His entire being, the Spirit, upon the disciples. Immediately, the disciples became one with God. Here is the principle of praying ourselves into God and of praying God into us.

B. Expound the prayer that shook the earth and empowered the disciples with the Holy Spirit for the speaking of the word of God.

Many times the environment is a lie. When we go out to visit people for the preaching of the gospel, there may be something within us saying that people will not open the door to us. This is a lie. Therefore, we have to pray to shake the environment. We need to open the doors by our prayer. To pray is to shake the environment, to change the environment. We should not believe in the environment. Instead, we have to believe in our prayer to change the environment.

Day 6 —

A. Explain God's redeeming ones being the key to the warfare of Satan and God.

We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight. Two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other. The meaning of the name Satan is "adversary." On the one hand, he is the enemy trying to defeat God; on the other hand, he is the adversary within God's realm seeking to cause damage. In a very real sense, God needs us. He needs us to carry on the actual work of warfare.

B. Expound that facing spiritual warfare, we need to be watchful.

We are engaged in a spiritual warfare. The foremost need on the battlefield is to be watchful and alert in order to know what the enemy is doing and what he intends to do. We must ask the Lord to resist our counter-prayers. In God's work, we must realize that we are engaged in spiritual warfare. We must fight and be watchful in everything we do and in every step we take.

III. Conclusion:

Preaching the gospel is the most sanctified work. We need to come to God and fully open ourselves to Him, allowing ourselves to be dealt, enlightened, exposed, verified, and humbled. We must open ourselves up to the Lord, allowing Him to enter and speak to us for at least ten minutes, illuminating us, pointing out all our shortcomings, sins, wickedness, and impure thoughts. We ask Him to bring us into His light, fully and completely revealing our true condition. Such prayers will empower us. Let us labor diligently in God's Words and prayers, and earnestly obey the Holy Spirit. We must spend a lot of time in studying the Word of God; we must be constituted by His Words. We must also be constituted by the Lord Himself. We do not do anything on our own or through our own efforts; when we contact with others in this way, our impact will be significant.