

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Six : The Bride as the Corporate Warrior

I. Overview:

When the overcoming lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem; however, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners. Banners indicate a readiness to fight and also are a sign that the victory is won; a terrible army signifies that the overcomers of the Lord terrify God's enemy. This army fights the battle for God's kingdom in the degradation of God's people to become the overcomers who answer the Lord's call; eventually, the overcomers will become a bride collectively to marry Christ; after their wedding, this bride will fight alongside Christ. The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ; ultimately, we will be conformed to be the wonderful Shulammitte, who, as the duplication of Solomon, is the ultimate figure of the bride. The fact that we need to be empowered in the Lord indicates that in the spiritual warfare, we can fight only in the Lord and in the might of His strength. The church is a corporate warrior; after we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy. The whole armor of God is for the Body, not for individuals. We all need to see that in the Lord's recovery today we are on a battlefield; we must cooperate with the Lord to fight against Satan that we may gain more of Christ for the preparation of the bride of Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. State what we are in the eyes of God as we become one with God.

When we become one with God to be God's dwelling place, we are as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem in the eyes of God. However, to the enemy this lover, this overcomer, is as terrible as an army with banners. Banners indicate a readiness to fight and also mean that the victory is won. When she becomes the moon and the sun, she also becomes an army.

B. Why is Shulammitte likened to two armies dancing?

The phrase two armies in Hebrew is Mahanaim. In Genesis 32:2, Jacob was returning that Esau still wanted to kill him. There were only feeble ones, women and children. Jacob was ones with him. There were only feeble ones, women and children. Jacob was very frightened at the prospect of meeting Esau. On the way God met him, and Jacob said, "This is God's camp." So he "called the name of that place Mahanaim".

Day 2 —

A. Describe what kind of people being the overcomers.

Such weaker ones who depend on the Lord will be counted worthy to be overcomers. There being two armies indicates that the country girl was not alone. An army indicates the principle of the Body. We should humble ourselves and admit that we are nothing. Instead of worrying, we should change our feeling to praise. We are submissive, obedient and no longer being stiff-necked to the Lord.

B. Explain having a little power in Revelation 3:8.

The Lord admired their absoluteness and faithfulness to do what they could. This is the principle of two armies dancing. Remember that these two armies were two armies (Mahanaim) dancing. Remember that these two armies were composed of Jacob's wives and children. Eventually, none of them fought against Esau. It was God who fought Esau by changing his attitude. Today we are the reality of God's armies, Mahanaim.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that in the universe there are three wills.

In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. God's will, being self-existing, is eternal, uncreated. As created beings, the angels also have a will. One of these angels, an archangel, was because of his high position and his beauty, he became proud. This pride gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will.

B. Expound all warfare having its source in this conflict of will.

The controversy in the universe began with the rebellion of the archangel against God. That rebellion was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, in individuals. For example, you may experience an inner warfare between your reasons and your lust. All the different kinds of warfare have their source in the controversy between the divine will and the satanic will.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the meaning of the term “being empowered”. in Ephesians 6:10.

The Greek word in Ephesians 6:10 rendered “empowered” has the same root as the word power in 1:19. The fact that we are to be empowered

in the Lord indicates that in the spiritual warfare against Satan and his evil kingdom, we can fight only in the Lord, not in ourselves. The charge to be empowered implies the need to exercise our will.

B. Why do we say that God has preserved our will?

In addition to preserving our conscience, God has sovereignly preserved our will. We may mistakenly think that it is difficult to preach the gospel to one with a strong will. Such a will is able to function positively in repentance. Repentance requires the exercise of the will. In like manner, to be empowered also involves our will.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the armor in Ephesians 6 is for the church corporately as the Body.

The armor in Ephesians 6 is not for Christians as individuals; it is for the church corporately as the Body. What this chapter reveals is not the believers fighting as individuals but a corporate army fighting the battle for God’s interests on earth. No soldier in a modern army would enter into battle by himself. God’s strategy is to use the church as His army to fight against the enemy.

B. Fellowship that if you separate yourself from the church, you will be defeated.

Satan’s strategy is simply to isolate you from the church as God’s army. It is crucial for us to realize that spiritual warfare is a Body matter. If we realize this and stay with the church, we will be victorious. The battle is not for us as individual believers; it is for the church as God’s army.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the armor of God being composed of six items.

The armor of God is composed of six items: the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the firm foundation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. When we equipped with such a full armor, we can stand against the attack of the enemy and even take the offensive against him. After these items of the armor of God, Paul turns to prayer.

B. Expound prayer being the unique way to apply the armor of God.

It is by means of all prayer and petition that we gird our loins with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, have our feet shod with the gospel of peace, take up the shield of faith, and receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Whenever we are about to take up any item of the armor, we need to pray. We cannot and we should not attempt without prayer. Prayer is the unique way to apply the armor of God.

III. Conclusion:

Knowing, experiencing, and enjoying the way of Christ involves empowering in Him and putting on the whole armor of God. Ephesians 5 speaks of the church as the bride of Christ; Ephesians 6 describes the church as a corporate warriors fighting for God. God's grace enables us to become His valiant soldiers in the battlefield. We are warriors, fighting against the enemy Satan, who is the ruler of the authority of the air. We must confront him with courage and without showing any mercy. When we fight for Christ, we enjoy Him. When she becomes the bride of her husband as the bride army, she together fights alongside for Him. Christ and His bride army will defeat the Antichrist and his followers, and they will directly cast the Antichrist and the false prophets into the lake of fire. At the same time, Satan will be bound for a thousand years and thrown into the abyss. Then the Millennium will begin. During these thousand years Christ will reign with His overcomers.