

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying
Message Eleven : The Fellowship of the Eternal Life—the Reality of Living in the Body of Christ

I. Overview:

Fellowship is the flow of the eternal life within all the believers, illustrated by the flow of the water of life in the New Jerusalem; the reality of the Body of Christ, the church life in actuality, is the flow of the Lord Jesus within us. Fellowship is the flowing Triune God—the Father is the fountain of life, the Son is the spring of life, and the Spirit is the river of life; this flowing issues in the totality of eternal life—the New Jerusalem. The one divine fellowship is an interwoven fellowship—the horizontal fellowship is interwoven with the vertical fellowship. We must maintain both the vertical and horizontal aspects of the divine fellowship in order to be healthy spiritually. The divine fellowship blends us, tempers us, adjusts us, harmonizes us, and mingles us together into one Body. In order to remain in the enjoyment of the divine fellowship, we need to take Christ as our sin offering for the indwelling sin in our nature and as our trespass offering for the sinful deeds in our conduct. As we are enjoying Christ in the divine fellowship, we continually experience a cycle in our spiritual life of four crucial things—the eternal life, the fellowship of the eternal life, the divine light, and the blood of Jesus the Son of God; such a cycle brings us onward in the growth of the divine life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the meaning of the word of fellowship, and how to experience it.

The Greek word for fellowship means “joint participation, common participation.” Fellowship is the issue of the eternal life and is actually the flow of the eternal life within all the believers, who have received and possess the divine life. It is illustrated by the flow of the water of life in the New Jerusalem. Hence, all genuine believers are in this fellowship.

B. Expound what the fellowship of the divine life is.

To have fellowship is to have a corporate participation in something. Because the divine life is organic, rich, moving, and active, it has a particular issue, a certain kind of outcome. The issue, the outcome, of the divine life is the fellowship of life. The fellowship of the divine life is clearly portrayed in Revelation 22:1.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the fellowship of the divine life having two aspects.

The fellowship of the divine life has both a vertical aspect and a horizontal aspect. The vertical aspect of fellowship refers to our fellowship with the Triune God. The horizontal aspect of fellowship refers to our fellowship with one another. The vertical aspect of fellowship was initially established with the first apostles. When the apostles reported the eternal life to others, they experienced the horizontal aspect of the divine fellowship.

B. Expound the relationship between both aspects of the divine fellowship.

Both aspects of the divine fellowship are closely related; therefore, it is difficult to say which aspect comes first. If you do not have the proper fellowship with the Lord, it is difficult to have fellowship with your fellow believers. In the same way, if you do not have the proper fellowship with your fellow believers, it is difficult to have fellowship with the Lord. The reason for this is that the divine fellowship is one fellowship.

Day 3 —

A. State the Spirit Himself being the fellowship.

The Spirit is not merely involved, wrapped up, or mingled with the fellowship. The Spirit Himself is the fellowship because the fellowship is the flow, the current, of the Spirit. This is like saying that the current of electricity is just the electricity itself. The current of electricity is electricity in motion. When the electricity stops, the current of electricity also stops. In the same way the fellowship of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 2 Corinthians 13:14 is the Spirit moving.

B. Show clearly to enter into the horizontal aspect of the divine fellowship.

We need to enter into the horizontal aspect of the divine fellowship by the human spirit. If we are going to have real fellowship horizontally with one another, we need to exercise our spirit. If we exercise our spirit, we

will never talk in a worldly manner or speak negatively about the saints or the churches. The horizontal and vertical aspects of the divine fellowship are very closely related.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the efficacy of the sin offering from the revelation of the Scriptures.

In the sin offering, the fallen man, the old man, included in the flesh of Christ, is dealt with; sin in the nature of fallen man is condemned; Satan, sin itself, is destroyed; the world is judged; and the ruler of the world is cast out. If we see this revelation, we will see that taking Christ as our sin offering is not a simple matter.

B. Explain what Christ accomplished when He was crucified in the flesh.

When the Lord Jesus was crucified in the flesh, God condemned sin in the flesh. Through the death of Christ not only was sin condemned and not only was our old man crucified, but also Satan, the devil, was destroyed. Furthermore, through the cross of Christ the world was judged and the ruler, the prince, of the world was cast out. This means that through Christ's death in His flesh all negative things were dealt with.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the purpose of God creating us.

God created us that we might be for Him. He created us to be His expression and His representation. He did not create us for ourselves. But we live independently of Him. When we hate others, we are independent of God, and when we love others, we are also independent of God. This means that in God's sight our hatred and our love are the same.

B. State the knowledge of regarding every aspect of sin.

Sin involves a power struggle. We may love others for ourselves—for our name, position, benefit, and pride. This kind of love is in the power struggle with God. When we love others for our name and promotion, we are not for God. This kind of love is of Satan; it is in the flesh, and it is sin.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the cycle of the spiritual life in 1 John 1:1-7.

In 1 John 1:1-7 we see a cycle in our spiritual life formed of four crucial things—the eternal life, the fellowship of the eternal life, the divine light, and the blood of Jesus the Son of God. The more we have of eternal life, the more of its fellowship it brings to us. The more fellowship of the divine life we enjoy, the more divine light we receive. The more divine light we receive, the more we participate in the cleansing of the blood of Jesus.

B. Expound what should we do to be exposed by God's light.

Whenever we are under the divine light in fellowship and sense that we are wrong in certain matters or with certain persons, we must immediately confess our sins to our righteous Father. Our Father is ready to forgive us. Once we confess our sins, our Father will be the faithful and righteous God to us.

III. Conclusion:

If we have not seen our brothers and sisters for a long time and have not attended meetings, we may be able to pray and meditate on our own, but our spirits will feel as though they are ill, lacking vitality. This is because although we have fellowship with the Lord and have no issues with Him, we have disconnected from His body. However, as soon as we recovered our fellowship with saints, we experience revival, joy, and delight. This is the fellowship with the body, and through this fellowship, grace is brought into us. In the church meetings, such as those of prayer and the breaking of bread, there is a fellowship in the depths of our spirits. The prayers and praises of the saints flow into us. Perhaps before coming to the meeting, we may feel somewhat unhappy, but during the meeting, we spontaneously sense a flow within us. This flow brings our spirits to revival. This is a fellowship and this is also the function of the fellowship.