Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Five : Cooperating with the Lord to Carry Out His Economy by Being His Faithful Stewards Who Minister the Word with a Burden from the Lord and Who Coordinate with One Another in One Accord

I. Overview:

God's eternal economy, which is God's plan, is His household economy, His household administration; God's dispensing is for God's economy. Christ is the center, circumference, element, sphere, means, goal, and aim of God's economy; in fact, all the contents of God's eternal economy are simply Christ. In order to carry out His economy, God must have faithful stewards, dispensers, who dispense the divine life supply to God's children. The greatest problem in the administration of the church and in the ministry of the word is not having a burden from the Lord. Without a burden, all our activity will be dead and ineffective. God's blessing is based on our one accord, being in harmony in spirit with one another, having real coordination, and having genuine oneness. We always need to have an attitude of respect, cooperation, and coordination with others. We should all be of one soul to pray for, supply, and support whoever is speaking a message. A long prayer always kills the prayer meeting; it indicates that you care only for yourself and for your feeling, not for others and not for the atmosphere and flow of the Spirit in the meeting.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —
A. Expound the steps of God's dispensing in His economy.
God's economy is an eternal plan made by God in Christ. The Christ revealed in the Bible is the embodiment of the Triune God and all the processes through which He has passed, including incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and descension. Christ, therefore, is the element, sphere, means, goal, and aim of God's eternal economy. Christ is everything in God's economy. In fact, all the contents of the eternal economy of God are simply Christ.
B. Explain how we should be under having such a condition.
Many people are not living in the spirit to allow God to carry out His dispensing; instead, they are still living in the soul and still have themselves as the center and the lord. For this reason we must help the brothers and sisters to allow the element of Christ to increase in them day by day. Eventually, we the redeemed, regenerated, and transformed saints will be prepared to be the bride and counterpart of Christ through partaking of the riches of Christ.

Day 2 —
A. Expound the relationship between the stewardship and God's economy.
God's dispensing is fully something that is in His economy, something in His plan, something in His purpose and arrangement. In order to carry out this dispensing and for the execution of this dispensing, the Triune God selected some with whom He was pleased and whom He could use and made them His dispensers, richly bestowing upon them His grace. They are the stewards because they are there to execute God's dispensing.
B. State the meaning of the word for economy in Greek.
In Greek the word for economy (oikonomia) denotes a household law, a household administration. God has arranged to have many apostles and prophets to be stewards in His household management to manage the distribution of the riches of His great family so that all the members of His family, that is, those who have a part in this family, will be able to share in the riches of God's great household and thus satisfy His desire.

Day 3 —
A. Fellowship what the points of that the ministry of the word should learn.
We must receive revelation and light from God. One must be renewed in his mind and understanding. Yet a minister must have the proper word. A burden is the light we receive in the spirit, the thoughts that capture the light, and finally the inner words that supplement the light and thoughts. God's revelation is released through the words of revelation that we have received.
B. Explain the greatest problem in the ministry of the word being not having a burden.

Those who minister the word may do so without a burden. When we minister the word does not depend on how well we speak, or whether the saints are touched; rather, it is a matter of what will be produced in the saints. If some are not yet saved, we should receive a burden to bear their souls by the Lord's grace in order to sow the seed of salvation into them. If they are saved but do not love the Lord, our burden should be for them to love the Lord.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the serving ones not having a feeling for coordination.

It seems few among us having the spirit of a learner and the spirit of needing help. Those who truly coordinate in spirit should have a strong feeling that they cannot do anything without the help and coordination of others. Our present coordination is one of formality. We do our part without needing anyone else. We may not argue, but there is not much interdependence in spirit. This shows that our spirit of service is improper.

B. Fellowship the true situation for our coordination.

The coordination among us today is formal; everyone does what he should do when it is his turn. This is cooperation, not coordination. Coordination means that we cannot do anything without one another. There is a sense that we need others and that others need us. Those who work with young people should be like this; all the service of the church should also be like this.

Day 5 —

A. Explain to avoid criticizing others in the ministry of the word.

When we serve together, we must absolutely avoid criticizing others in the ministry of the word. Some may speak about prayer and others about meditating; some may speak of being zealous and others of being in the Holy of Holies. These are not heretical teachings; they are merely different in emphasis. Criticizing others shows that we are narrow, and this will lead to division.

B. Expound in our service to avoid changing the ways of others.

We need to respect the ways of the ones with whom we serve. It is all right to study either John or 1 Thessalonians; it does not matter which book is studied. In our service we should always avoid changing the ways of others. Changing the way others do things indicates that we have not learned many spiritual lessons. It also indicates that we are inexperienced in the way we conduct ourselves.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what we should pay attention to in the prayer meeting.

I would like to say frankly that your prayers were not prayers in a corporate way. All of you prayed individualistically. We must learn to come to a prayer meeting
to pray as a corporate body. To pray in the spiritual realm must be something corporate. Even in the worldly realm, to play football with eleven members on your team or basketball with five members on your team is not done individualistically but in a corporate way.

B. Explain that a long prayer always kills the prayer meeting.

A long prayer always kills the prayer meeting. A long prayer indicates that you care only for yourself and that you do not care for others. You care only for your
feeling; you do not care for the atmosphere and the flow in the meeting. When we come together to pray,...we all must hold such an attitude with such a spirit
that we are not the center, the flow, the line, the goal, but the Lord, the Spirit, is.

III. Conclusion:

Today, we should all be powerful factors for spiritual growth and enjoyment of Christ. This depends on whether we manifest Christ by living Him and minister Christ into all the churches. One who faithfully fulfills the ministry of the word carries the condition of people before God. He has a responsibility to know what he must give to these people. Whatever their condition is and whatever God needs to say to them—all of this becomes a burden he must receive. If we have such a burden, our "self" cannot increase; rather, it will decrease and we will be dealt with by the Lord. At the same time, we must be faithful in carrying out what the Lord has entrusted to us, learn to work in coordination with others, and respect what others do. Only in this way can the sense of the Body be continually maintained among us, and true building up can arise in us.