

THE VISION, THE LIVING, AND THE PRACTICE OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY TODAY

Evening Message Three

Fulfilling the Ministry of the New Testament Priesthood of the Gospel— The Requirements for the Ministry of the New Testament Priests of the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 4:16; Gal. 5:25; Rom. 8:4; Phil. 2:14; Gal. 5:26;
1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; Matt. 26:41; Rom. 12:11; Col. 1:29;
1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 3:20; 2 Cor. 5:10

I. The requirements:

- A. Being revived every morning—Prov. 4:18.
- B. Overcoming every day—2 Cor. 4:16.
- C. Living in the Spirit every moment—Gal. 5:25.
- D. Walking according to the spirit in everything—Rom. 8:4:
 - 1. Without murmurings and reasonings—Phil. 2:14.
 - 2. Without selfish intentions and greedy ambitions—Gal. 5:26.
- E. Being in one accord and in harmony with the saints—1 Cor. 1:10.
- F. Not being blown by the winds of teaching—Eph. 4:14.
- G. Not teaching anything different from the truth concerning the New Testament priesthood of the gospel of God—1 Tim. 1:3-4.
- H. Watching prayerfully, laboring diligently, and struggling earnestly to carry out each step of the duties of the New Testament priests of the gospel of God—Matt. 26:41; Rom. 12:11; Col. 1:29; 1 Cor. 15:58.
- I. Awaiting the Lord's coming by living and working in the light of His judgment seat—Phil. 3:20; 2 Cor. 5:10.

II. The primary spiritual responsibility of the elders as the leading ones being to take the lead to fulfill the ministry of the New Testament priesthood of the gospel:

- A. The primary thing that every co-worker, elder, and serving one in the church must do is to bring forth fruit.
- B. The elders, especially, should take a definite step in the practice of the God-ordained way. One elder should set up a pattern to be a gospel-preaching priest. Some of the elders should take a definite step to feed the new believers. Some of them should also take a definite step to practice the group meetings, and some of them should take a definite step to practice prophesying. We need to be those who take the definite steps of the practicing and learning of the God-ordained way, practicing each step one by one.
- C. By diving into these practices with some companions, the elders will set up a pattern for others to follow. They will also find out and learn the secrets of each step so they can go to teach others and help others to practice.
- D. What is needed today is for the full-timers, co-workers, and elders to spend their time, energy, and spiritual capacity to take care of people individually. The thing we are learning to do in the elders' training is to contact people for their salvation, their feeding, their spiritual education, their equipping, and their perfecting.

- E. The eldership in its shepherding is for the purpose of raising up all the saints, all the members, to function and fulfill their duty as priests of the gospel.
- F. We need to do these things by exercising wisdom in every way, by coordinating with one accord, with faithfulness, endeavoring, patience, endurance, and much prayer, not caring for problems, hardships, and frustrations.

III. A further word to the co-workers, elders, and serving ones:

- A. We must have the loving and forgiving heart of our Father God.
- B. We must also have the shepherding and seeking spirit of our Savior Christ, with the goal to gain people.
- C. We need to remember these two matters and realize them in practicality.