

THE WORK NEEDED FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF THE GOD-ORDAINED WAY TO BUILD UP THE ORGANIC BODY OF CHRIST

Evening Message Two

The Burden for and the Need of the Vital Groups

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 1 Thes. 5:17-19;
1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 2:24-25; Acts 4:31; 6:4; 13:3; 20:19, 31;
Eph. 4:12; 6:18; 1 Pet. 5:3

I. Vital groups are the lifeline of the God-ordained way:

- A. Our situation is very desperate today because we still have not carried out the vital groups.
- B. The group meetings should constitute eighty percent of our church life.
- C. The Lord is for His spreading, and His spreading is in the homes.
- D. Our barrenness is due mainly to the lack of the group meetings.

II. Our attitude towards the vital groups:

- A. We will only know how to practice the vital groups by doing it:
 - 1. We must not say that the vital groups are impossible.
 - 2. Some become disappointed because they do not see results immediately.
- B. We fail because we do not labor:
 - 1. If we do not labor consistently, we will not see proper results.
 - 2. Do not do a work in which you are expecting to be fortunate.
 - 3. The way to labor is to labor in any way and at any cost.
 - 4. Our labor should be a labor of love—1 Thess. 1:3.
 - 5. Our labor in the Lord will never be in vain—1 Cor. 15:58.
- C. We need to be desperate:
 - 1. Merchants labor because they are desperate.
 - 2. The going on of the vital groups to gain the increase should be a life-or-death matter with us.
 - 3. We should be desperate for the Lord's interests on this earth today; this is our destiny.

III. What are vital groups?

- A. Vital groups are groups of overcomers:
 - 1. Zion is the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, and the reality of the church, the holy city.
 - 2. If there are no overcomers in the local church, that church is like Jerusalem without Zion.
 - 3. We have to make a resolution to be the overcomers—Judg. 5:15.
 - 4. We also have to answer the Lord's call to be the overcomers—Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21.
- B. Vital groups are also groups of normal Christians:
 - 1. Normal Christians are those who come out of:
 - a. The deadness of Sardis—Rev. 3:1-2.
 - b. The lukewarmness of Laodicea—vv.14-16.
 - c. The barrenness of the degenerating believers—John. 15:2a.
 - 2. Normal Christians beget, bring forth, normal Christians.

IV. How to become vital:

- A. The normal Christians, the vital group people, should be those who live, act, walk, and have their being according to the spirit:
 - 1. We should not quench the Spirit—1 Thes. 5:19.
 - 2. We should fan our spirit into flame—2 Tim. 1:6-7.
- B. Those who are such persons will speak Christ all the time:
 - 1. We will speak God's salvation—Acts 8:4.
 - 2. We will speak God's grace—Col. 4:6.
 - 3. We will bubble over with the Lord—Acts 4:31.
- C. A vital person, an overcomer, is also a praying person:
 - 1. We must have the real burden for the real prayer—James 5:17.
 - 2. Such prayers must be desperate prayers—Luke 11:8.
 - 3. We need to pray at every time in spirit and watch unto this in all perseverance—Eph. 6:18.

V. Practical steps in implementing the vital group meetings:

- A. The leading ones have to take the lead to practice them—1 Pet. 5:3.
- B. They must also promote them and persuade others in their church to do the same—1 Tim. 3:2.
- C. They should have trainings to perfect the saints to become skillful in them—Eph. 4:12.
- D. They should encourage the saints to invite people to their homes and be invited to others' homes—Acts 2:46.
- E. They should not adjust or replace the saints, but should encourage, help, and stimulate the saints—Acts 20:19, 31; 2 Tim. 2:24-25.
- F. They should care only for fruit and not for the appearance of the meetings—John. 15:8.
- G. They should come regularly to pray, by fasting if possible—Acts 6:4; 13:3.

- VI. We should not excuse ourselves, but should have an aggressive, bold, and daring spirit to carry out the Lord's commission—"The secret to my work is that I do not know what difficulty is. I only know to give myself to work. I do not care for the result; I only care to labor diligently. You can say that my secret is simply to work. I do not care about the circumstances; I only care to work. For the past sixty years you can see the result of such work. As long as we work, there will be the result" (*The Ministry Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 14-15).**