

THE WILL OF GOD, Week 8

Meeting to Know and Do the Will of God

Scripture Reading: Matt. 7:21; 12:50; 18:20; Eph. 3:8; Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 14:26; Heb. 10:25

Matthew 7:21	Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
Matthew 12:50	For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.
Matthew 18:20	For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
Ephesians 3:8	To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
Colossians 1:12	Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
1 Corinthians 14:26	What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
Hebrews 10:25	Not abandoning our own assembling together , as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSEMBLING TOGETHER OF THE BELIEVERS THEMSELVES

Hebrews 10:25 says, *“Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.”* The apostle Paul wrote the book of Hebrews to encourage the hesitating, backslidden Hebrew believers to go forward within the veil and to go outside the camp (6:19; 13:13). To go “outside the camp” was to go outside of the old Jewish religion, and to enter “within the veil” was to enter into the Holy of Holies, where Christ is.

We must realize that our proper meeting is the Holy of Holies. **To be gathered together in a proper way is to meet in the Holy of Holies.** The Holy of Holies is wherever the Lord Jesus is. The Lord is dwelling in the heavens (Rom. 8:34). The Lord is also dwelling in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22), which is the Holy of Holies (Heb. 4:12, 16; see footnote 4:161, Recovery Version). Since the Lord is in the third heaven today, the third heaven is the Holy of Holies (9:12; cf. v. 24). Since He is now in our spirit, our spirit is the Holy of Holies. **Because the Lord Jesus is in our meeting whenever we meet together, our meeting is also the Holy of Holies** (10:22, 25). For the Hebrew believers to forsake their Christian meeting was for them to forsake the Holy of Holies and go back to their religious camp.

The Holy of Holies in Hebrews denotes three things: the third heaven, our spirit, and the Christian meeting. Whenever we come together properly, our **gathering** is the Holy of Holies. Of the three, which do you prefer, the third heaven, our spirit, or the Christian meeting? The heavens are difficult to reach, and we are often unable to remain in our spirit all day long, day and night. But according to my Christian experience, the meetings keep me in the Lord, in His Holy of Holies. I do not enjoy the Lord's presence elsewhere as much as I do in the meetings. It is enjoyable to be in our spirit, but the meeting as the Holy of Holies is much better and higher.

The **meeting** in the New Testament is referred to as a **gathering** (Matt. 18:20) and an **assembly** (Heb. 10:25). The assembling together of the believers, the meetings, should not be in the nature of fulfilling mixed purposes. Frequently, in Christianity the meetings are not pure in their purpose. **The meetings of the believers should be purely in the nature of carrying out God's New Testament economy.** If we hold a meeting that is not pure and that has a mixed purpose, it would be difficult to have the Lord's presence. The proper Christian meeting must be pure in its purpose. The essence, the nature, of the meeting must be purely to carry out God's New Testament economy.

God's New Testament economy is to get a people through Christ to be the church so that God may have a corporate expression in His fatherhood. **Every Christian meeting must be pure in nature to carry out this economy of God so that God may express Himself as a great Father in all of His children.** To have a meeting with such a motive and purpose is really pure.

(The Scriptural Way to Meet and to Serve for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, Chapter 3, Section 2)

Day 1

I. To meet is to know and do the will of God; our goal, our purpose, on earth is to do the will of the Father, and we do this by coming to the meetings of the church—Heb. 10:25.

II. We need to realize that besides our inner life with the Lord, nothing is as crucial, important, and profitable as the church meetings—1 Cor. 14:23-26:

- A. As indicated by the Greek word *ekklesia*, the **church**—the dwelling place of God—is a **meeting or an assembly of the called-out ones**—Matt. 18:17-20:
 1. The **church** is a gathering of the believers, a **meeting** of a collective people.
 2. When God's called-out ones **meet** together, this is the church—Acts 2:42; 8:1.
 3. Our Father has predestinated us to meet together; **coming to the meetings is God's will**—Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 14:26.
- B. The **Christian life is a meeting life**—Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 14:23-26:
 1. **Much of the grace** that we receive is in the meetings, and **much of the work** that the Lord does is also in the meetings—Acts 4:33; 13:1-2.
 2. Since the Christian life is a meeting life and much of the Lord's work is carried out through the meetings, **we should regard the meetings as being of great importance**—Heb. 10:25.

Day 2

III. In the meetings God makes His will known to us—Psa. 73:16-17:

- A. **Doing** God's will depends on **knowing** His will—John 7:17.
- B. In our meetings there are many wonderful things underneath the surface, one of which is **knowing God's will**.
- C. When the psalmist went into the **sanctuary** of God, he was able to know God's will—Psa. 73:16-17:
 1. God's **sanctuary**, His **habitation**, is in **our spirit** and in the **church**—Eph. 2:22; 1 Tim. 3:15.
 2. In order to go into the sanctuary of God, **we need to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church**.
 3. Once we are in the sanctuary—in the spirit and in the meetings of the church—we **receive** another view, a particular perception, of our situation—Psa. 73:16-20.
 4. **God's way** is made known in the sanctuary of God—v. 17:
 - a. In **our spirit** and in the **meetings** we receive divine revelation—Rev. 1:10; Eph. 1:17-18.
 - b. When we **exercise** our spirit and **attend** the meetings of the church, **God's way becomes clear to us**—Psa. 73:17.

Day 3

IV. Since the will of God is in Christ, concentrated in Christ, and for Christ, and Christ is everything in the will of God, we do God's will through exhibiting Christ in the meetings—Col. 1:9, 15-18, 12; 3:4, 11; 1 Cor. 14:26:

- A. The **will of God** for us is that we would **experience** and **enjoy** the all-inclusive Christ and **live** Him as our life—Col. 1:9, 15-18; 3:4, 11.
- B. Our **meetings** are to **exhibit Christ**, so when we come to a meeting, we need to **bring with us** the Christ whom we have enjoyed—1 Cor. 14:26.
- C. The proper church life depends upon the **church meetings** where all the saints **exhibit Christ** with His unsearchable riches—Eph. 3:8.
- D. The **goal of our meeting is to exhibit Christ**, and the **Christian meeting** is an exhibition of our Christian daily life—1 Cor. 14:26; cf. Deut. 12:5-7, 13-14.
- E. We **exhibit Christ in the meetings** by **offering** to God Christ as the reality of the offerings, **enjoying** Christ together with God—Heb. 10:8-10, 25; 13:20-21.
- F. We need to **function** in the meetings to **exhibit Christ**—Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 14:26:
 1. Due to the influence of Christianity, many believers do not bear responsibility in the meetings.
 2. The **concept that we may attend a meeting but are not responsible for the meeting is a fundamental error**; it is a ploy of Satan to render the members of the Body of Christ useless so that they do not function.
- G. As Christians, we are members of Christ, and **our most important service is to meet**—12:4-11, 14-27; Heb. 10:25:
 1. The **church meetings** are the best opportunity to exhibit Christ—Col. 3:11.
 2. As Christians, we are **commissioned** to exhibit Christ in the meetings and thus do the will of God—Matt. 7:21; 16:18; Eph. 3:8; Col. 1:12.
 3. "The Father we would glorify, / Exalting Christ the Son, thereby / The meeting's purpose satisfy / That we exhibit Christ" (Hymns, #864, stanza 8).

Day 4

V. Since the Father's eternal will and the desire of His heart are to build up the church as the Body of Christ, we do His will by functioning in the meetings according to the scriptural way to meet for the building up of the Body—Matt. 7:21; 12:50; Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 14:26:

- A. The **meetings** of the believers should always be **linked to God's New Testament economy**; we should come to the meetings with a **vision** of the divine economy, and what we **speak** in the meetings should focus on the economy of God—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9; 1 Cor. 14:26.

- B. The recovery according to the Lord's mind is to **bring His believers out of the clergy-laity system** and to replace this system with the **scriptural way to meet and to serve** for the building up of the Body of Christ—v. 26; Eph. 4:12, 16.

Day 5

- C. The Lord desires to **recover the church meetings in mutuality with all functioning** for the building up of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 14:4b, 24a, 26, 31:
1. When we come to the church meetings, **we should have something of the Lord to share with others**—v. 26.
 2. Before coming to a meeting, we should prepare ourselves for the meeting with something from the Lord or of the Lord, either through our experience of Him or through our enjoyment of His word and fellowship with Him in prayer.
 3. We must **labor** on Christ, our good land, so that we may **reap some produce** of His riches to bring to the church meeting and offer—Col. 1:12; Eph. 3:8.
 4. Thus, the **meeting** will be an **exhibition of His riches** and will be a mutual enjoyment of Christ shared with all the attendants before God and with God for the building up of the saints and the church—1 Cor. 14:26.
 5. Whatever we do in the church meeting must be for the building up of the saints and the church—vv. 3-5, 12.

Day 6

- D. In the practice of the scriptural way to meet and to serve, we emphasize **prophesying—the excelling gift for the building up of the church**—vv. 1, 4b, 24-25, 31:
1. The significance of prophesying in 1 Corinthians 14 is to **speak for the Lord**, to speak forth the Lord, and even to **speak the Lord**, to **minister**, to **dispense**, the Lord, into others; in the sense of the divine dispensing, the entire Bible consummates in all prophesying—vv. 3, 24-25, 31.
 2. Prophesying, speaking for God and speaking forth God with God as the content, ministers God to the hearers and brings them to God—v. 25.
 3. God desires that **each of the believers prophesy**, that is, speak for Him and speak Him forth—vv. 1b, 31; cf. Num. 11:29.
 4. The characteristic of **prophesying is to minister Christ for the organic building up of the church as the Body of Christ**; prophesying is the particular gift for the building up of the church—1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 24, 26.

CHRISTIAN MEETINGS BEING TO EXHIBIT CHRIST

In the Old Testament God wanted His people to go up to Jerusalem three times a year to hold a feast unto Him. In order to attend a feast, the children of Israel could not be empty-handed; **they had to bring offerings with them**. Every offering is a type of Christ. Hence, **we need to bring Christ with us to the meetings**. In the Old Testament, Jerusalem was God's dwelling place, but today God's dwelling place is in our spirit. **The church is the dwelling place of God in spirit** (Eph. 2:22). When we are gathered in spirit, our spirit is today's Jerusalem.

According to John 4:24, our Christian meetings to worship God should not be religious worship. **We worship God by contacting Him with our spirit**. Therefore, in order to overturn the old impression of Christianity, when I compiled the English hymnal in the United States in 1963, I translated the Chinese hymn on exhibiting Christ, which says, "Whene'er we meet with Christ endued, / The surplus of His plenitude / We offer unto God as food, / And thus exhibit Christ. / Let us exhibit Christ, / Let us exhibit Christ; / We'll bring His surplus to the church / And thus exhibit Christ" (Hymns, #864).

Our meetings are to **exhibit Christ**. When we come to a meeting, we need to bring Christ with us. **We exhibit Christ by offering Christ to God**. In the Old Testament the sacrifice that the people offered to God had more than one function. The sacrifice typifies Christ, whose blood washes away our sins. Then God and the offerer enjoyed the sacrifice together. This is to enjoy Christ together with God. Whenever we meet, we offer Christ to God. On the one hand, He is our sin offering through which we are forgiven of our sins. On the other hand, God is here and we, the offerers, are here to enjoy Christ together in one spirit. This is a genuine Christian meeting.

(Guidelines for the Propagation of the Lord's Recovery, chapter 3, section 4)

ENDEAVORING TO GO ALONG WITH THE LORD TO FULFILL FIRST CORINTHIANS 14:26

Since 1 Corinthians 14:26 is a verse in the holy Word, it **needs to be fulfilled**. If we would not pick up this burden, the Lord will go to others, and this will delay Him. A small delay to Him, though, is inconsequential because to Him one thousand years are as one day. **We will be the ones who will suffer loss**. We will miss His mark, His smile to us today, and His reward. Brother Nee saw this matter and spoke it to the saints, but they did not find a way to practice it. Then he spoke it a second time, but soon after that, he was arrested and put into prison where he died after twenty years. I believe that Brother Nee will surely be reckoned by the Lord as an overcomer, but if I am not faithful to carry out this vision, I feel that I will miss the mark, miss the reward, and receive a strong rebuke from the Lord. Brother Nee spoke this to me and I saw it, so I must do something. This is why I am so burdened.

Today is the day that the Lord is doing His work to fulfill 1 Corinthians 14:26. By fulfilling this verse He will be able to build up His Body organically and prepare His bride organically. The Lord's building work is organic, not organizational as in Christianity. **We must have a change**. Certain factories must change the machines that they use at certain intervals so that they can be up-to-date with the most recent technology. Otherwise, they will be behind. We must "change our machines." I have pointed out in the past that no one can change the globe that we live on, but the means of transportation can be improved. Man has progressed from the mule wagon to the 747. We cannot change the truth, but we must change to the best and most scriptural way to carry out the truth. We must change. We are too old in our way. The old way from tradition should be put away. We came into the Lord's recovery, but much of the tradition of Christianity followed us.

(The Excelling Gift for the Building Up of the Church, chapter 1, section 4)