

Church in Regina

Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church—Week 6

1 Tim. 4:6 says, "If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being **nourished with the words of the faith** and of the **good teaching** which you have closely followed." We are **nourished with the words of the faith, not merely taught** by them. There is a difference between being merely taught by the word and being nourished by the word. Many Christians are only taught by the word without being nourished. We must **learn to be nourished** by the word of God. The word must be healthy teaching to us, not merely **"sound doctrine" for the mind**. Healthy teachings are for our spiritual health. The living and healthy words, the words that are good for our spiritual health, are the **words of our Lord Jesus Christ** and the teaching which is according to godliness (1 Tim. 6:3). This is a **matter of life**, not of knowledge.

Second Timothy 1:13 says, "Hold a pattern of the healthy words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus," and 4:3 says, "The time will come when they will not tolerate the healthy teaching; but according to their own lusts they will heap up to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Those with itching ears care only to **hear**; they do not **seek the healthy word**, the word that **nourishes the spiritual life** and is **good for spiritual health**. Titus 1:9 says, "Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose," and 2:1 says, "Speak the things which are fitting to the healthy teaching." In the Epistles to Timothy and Titus, which are among the final writings of the apostle Paul, he stresses healthy words and healthy teaching. This is because at his time there were many who were teaching things that may have seemed to be good but were not healthy and did not minister life to others. This warns us to **take care of our speaking**. **The word we speak must be healthy; it must minister life to others and be full of spiritual nourishment**. The messages we give may pass on knowledge without nourishment. **They may be sound but not healthy**. **What we need is the healthy word**.

In order to have healthy teachings we must learn to **exercise our spirit**. If we exercise our mind when we listen to a message, we may admire the message as being an eloquent word with interesting illustrations from a good speaker. However, if we exercise our spirit, we may **discern that the eloquent speaking and good illustrations are a worldly speaking without any life**. Although another brother may have no eloquence and his utterance is awkward, we may sense that in his speaking there is the nourishing, ministering life. This latter speaking is not merely a "sound teaching"; it is a healthy word. If we come to the meetings to **seek healthy teachings**, we must **exercise our spirit, not merely our mind**. We may discern and appreciate a message either in the mind or in the spirit. If we discern a message in our spirit, we will not care whether or not it is eloquent. We will care only that it ministers life and nourishment. Sometimes people appreciate a certain message simply because they are in the mind.

We should **seek the healthy word of the Bible, not merely sound doctrinal teaching**. In order to apprehend something healthy from the Bible, we must learn to exercise our spirit. Whenever we read the Bible, we should pray with what we read and understand, receiving God's word by means of all prayer (Eph. 6:17-18). To pray in this way is to exercise our spirit to touch **the word of God**. If we do this, we will receive not simply something for our mind but the healthy word for the nourishment of our spirit. As we saw in the previous chapters, in order to exercise our spirit we first need to **deal with all our inward parts—our mind, emotion, will, heart, and conscience**. Second, we need to **pray with petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgivings to God, praying for all men and in every place without wrath of reasoning and with all those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart**. Third, we need to **deal with the word of God in order to take it as healthy food**. Whether we read a spiritual book, listen to a message, or come to contact the Word of God directly, we must learn to exercise our spirit to receive something healthy for our spirit. We must learn to receive a healthy word, a word that is full of nourishment, not merely a sound or correct word. All day long we need the healthy word, just as our physical body needs healthy food.

Many Christians today are receiving only doctrinal teaching, not healthy food from the word. According to the medical doctors, the best way to have a long physical life is to exercise by walking and to eat properly. **Every day we need to be nourished by the word as our healthy food and to exercise to "walk" spiritually (1 Tim. 4:6-7)**. We need to take care of the inward parts of our being, pray, and receive the healthy, nourishing word of God. This is the right way to exercise our spirit. This is dealt with in a clear, definite, and full way in the two Epistles to Timothy (CWVL, 1996, col. 2, The Exercise of our Spirit. pp. 22-23).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—Apr. 9 (Group 1—Zoom; Group 2—In person)
2. Love Feast—Apr. 14
3. Church Activity / Blending Conference in Edmonton on May to 5. Registration deadline Apr. 14.

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, nourish us with the words of the faith and make us ministers of this faith. May we all learn to minister Christ to others, nourishing them with spiritual food.
2. Lord, continue to nourish, edify, and strengthen us with solid food. Give us the burden to go out with the high peak of the divine revelation and with Your up-to-date vision regarding Your move for Your eternal economy.
3. Lord, we deny ourselves and stand absolute with the truth. Make us those who never compromise the truth and separate the truth from our feelings that we may receive light.
4. Cause our lips to drip honey and for our tongue to store honey and milk. Save us from the tree of right and wrong. We are here to minister only the Tree of Life. Grant us long periods of gathering, inward activity, and careful storage of all Your riches.
5. Lord, we need a burden that matches the saint's needs. Sanctify our speaking that it would not be easy and cheap. Cause us to minister according to the word with a burden that we received.
6. Lord, duplicate Your heart in us, that we may be those who speak Christ to all kinds of people daily in season and out of season. May we all pick up the burden for the preaching of the gospel to such an extent that we would speak to whatever is around us.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. Pray that the Lord will release the number of saints needed for the remainder of the gospel trips in August and September and the brothers required to lead these trips.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the application and processing of the Church in Regina as a charitable institution.
2. Pray for the new ones. Encourage them each day to enjoy You, enjoy Your word, and exercise their spirit. Preserve them in the church life and bless them sevenfold with Yourself.
3. Pray for all the college students to be freed from any entanglements this Summer and be able to attend the College Training in Seattle from July 17 to 21.
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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