**Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**
**Message Eleven : In the Father's House—Living in the Place Prepared for Us through the Death and Resurrection of Christ**

**I. Overview:**

To believe in God is objective, but to believe into God is subjective; it is the subjective believing that brings us into God. Through believing into Christ, we have an organic union with Him. In 2:16 My Father's house refers to the dwelling place of God on earth, the temple; the temple is a type, or figure, of the body of Jesus, which in resurrection has been enlarged to be the Body of Christ. The Father's house is in three stages: the stage of God's incarnation, the stage of Christ resurrected with His believers to be built up as the church, and the consummate stage—the New Jerusalem. God is no longer merely our Creator; He is also our Father and we are His children, having a life relationship with Him. The intrinsic significance of living in the Father's house is to live in the Triune God, to live in the light, to live in resurrection, to live in grace and reality, to live in the divine glory, and to live in a house of prayer and worship.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound the words in John 14:1.

John 14:1 reveals two very important points. The first is that the Lord is the same as God. If one believes into God, he must also believe into the Lord, for the Lord is the same as God Himself. In fact, the Lord is God Himself. The second is that believing God is different from believing into God. To believe God is objective but to believe into God is subjective. It is this kind of subjective believing that brings us into God.

B. Explain the meaning of the Father's house in John 14:2.

In 2:16, where it clearly refers to the temple, the dwelling place of God on earth. The temple is a type, a figure, of the body of Jesus, which has in resurrection been enlarged into the Body of Christ. My Father's house refers to the temple on earth. It does not denote a place in the heavens but God's temple on earth. Since the temple is the type of the body of Jesus, the body of Jesus is the tabernacle, the temple, for God's dwelling place on earth.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the abodes in John 14:2 & 23.

In the Father's house are many abodes. The word for abodes in verse 2 is the plural form of the word translated "abode" in verse 23. The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ, which is God's temple. The Lord's Body has many members, and each member is an abode. That the many abodes are the many members of the Body.

B. Expound that the preparing of a place is just the building of the church.

The words I go in John 14:2 mean that the Lord was going through death and resurrection to bring man into God for the building of God's habitation. This is the building of the church mentioned in Matthew 16:18, where the Lord said, "I will build My church." If we put these two
portions of the Word together, we will see that the preparing of a place is just the building of the church. In order for the Lord to build the church, He had to go to prepare a place.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the Lord's redemption being to prepare a place for us in God.

The Lord's redemption was not to prepare a place for us in heaven. The Lord's redemption was to prepare a place for us in God. This thought is on the highest plane. The Lord redeemed us to bring us into God, to prepare a place for us in God. After we have been redeemed, after we have been saved, and after we have been regenerated. We are in Christ and in God. We abide in God and that God abides in us.

B. Fellowship the Lord's going to bring man into God for the building of His habitation.

The Lord's going was to bring man into God for the building of His habitation. He went to the cross to accomplish redemption, removing all the obstacles between man and God, that He might open the way and

make a standing for man to get into God. After His resurrection He came to breathe Himself as the Holy Spirit into the disciples. Therefore, His going was just His coming.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the mainly revealing in John 14.

John 14 reveals mainly how the Triune God is dispensing Himself into us in order that He and we, we and He, might be built together in the mingling of divinity with humanity. This chapter unfolds that the Triune God—the Father, Son, and Spirit—is dispensing Himself into the believers in Jesus Christ; that this very God and the believers are being built together, a building of divinity with humanity; that eventually, this building becomes a mutual abode.

B. Explain the words in John 14:23.

In John 14:23 the Lord Jesus did not say, "The Father and I will abide with him," but He said, "We will come to him and make an abode with him." In the way that the Father and the Son will take the lover of Jesus as Their abode and that the believer will be an abode to Them. The Lord seemed to be saying, "We will make an abode with him that he and We may have an abiding place.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the revelation of I Thessalonians 1:1 and how to apply.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:1, we have the revelation that the church is not only of God and of Christ but also in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. The word Father indicates a relationship of life. God is the Father of the church people, for we have all been born of Him. It is a wonderful fact that we have been born of God and that He is now our Father! He has become our Father, for we have been born of Him.

B. Expound the Father being the source, the Originator, the Initiator, and the Designer.

In John 7:29 Lord Jesus said, "I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me". This brief word indicates that the Father is the source. As the source, the Father sent the Son. John 13:3 also indicates that the Father is the source. For God to be the Father means that God is the Creator, the unique Initiator. The Son was sent from the Father. God is the Father, and everything originates from Him.

Day 6 —

A. State that the believers should be mingled with the Triune God for the keeping of oneness.

All the believers should be in this divine and mystical realm of the consummated Spirit to be mingled with the Triune God for the keeping of oneness.

All the believers should abide in the Son that the Son may abide in them that they may bear much fruit for the glorification of the Father. All the believers should be one; actually , the believers' oneness is the oneness of the Triune God.

B. Explain that He prayed to the Father in John 17.

In John 17 the Lord prayed to the Father. He indicated that our oneness should be in the Triune God, with the pneumatic Christ and the consummated Spirit. This oneness, which is the genuine oneness, is the mingling of the believers with the Triune God. To have such a oneness the believers must be in the Triune God as a divine and mystical realm.

**III. Conclusion:**

There is only one building of God throughout the universe. In the age of the Old Testament, the tabernacle and the temple both symbolized that God's people were His dwelling place on earth. In the age of the New Testament, in a spiritual sense, the church is the continuation of the tabernacle and the temple. Today, we are the temple of God. God's dwelling place today is the living composition of the living believers on earth. Wherever we are, we, these living believers, are built together, and God has a dwelling place on earth. Because we have been redeemed, cleansed by the blood, and regenerated by the divine life, we have become a part of this living building. This living building is the place that the Lord said He would prepare for us in John 14:2. Finally, the building of the Old Testament saints and the New Testament believers will be ultimately consummated in the New Jerusalem, which will be the eternal tabernacle and God's eternal dwelling place on earth. This is God's building.