Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four : The Measure of God's Rule and Ministry on Spiritual Warfare

I. Overview:

The apostle Paul was bold, but he was not bold without limit; this shows that he was under the restriction of the Lord; he was according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure, the ruling God, had apportioned to him. The word rule in 2 Corinthians 10:13 literally means "a measuring rod," like the rule of a carpenter. From 2 Corinthians 10:13-15, we can see that although we expect the Lord's work to spread, we must learn how to be under God's restriction. Paul had to learn to take the Lord's restriction; he was willing to be subject to God's measuring. In ascension we look with Christ from the lions' dens and the leopards' mountains, which signify Satan and his subordinates. Spiritual warfare is necessary; our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we must maintain the position of ascension in Ephesians 2:6 to have authority. The work of the church is to bring in the kingdom of God, and through prayer the church must release the power of the kingdom of God upon the earth.On the day of His wedding, Christ comes to fight against Antichrist, He will need His bride. The overcomers engage in the warfare against the enemies and reign in life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the apostle Paul's serving as according to the measure of God.

The apostle was bold, but he was not bold without limit. This shows that he was under the restriction of the Lord. His boasting was according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure, the ruling God, had apportioned to him. Paul's ministry to the Gentile world, including Corinth, was according to the measure of God. Hence, his boast was within this limit and was not without measure.

B. Expound in testifying of our experience by staying within the measure.

In testifying of our experience, we must stay within the measure that God has given us. is ruling and measuring. We should not boast without measure, beyond measure. There is One who is ruling and measuring. This One is the God of measure, the God who rules. Therefore, we must stay within the limits of God's ruling, of God's measuring. Paul was under God's ruling and God's measuring.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that the Lord is especially interested in restricting the young people.

If the young ones do not have a heart to serve the Lord, He will stir them up to serve Him. But once they have been stirred up, He will limit them. Human nature does not like this kind of limitation. When, spiritually speaking, we are asleep, God will stir us up. But when we become too active, He will restrict us. God's way, however, is first to speed us up and then to slow us down.

B. Explain that many young people cannot tolerate God's ups and downs.

After a few of these ups and downs, they want to quit. God does not want us to be always up or to be always down. Even in nature the alternating of day and night testifies of this. There is no such thing as an unending day or night. God did not create us so that we would have a day or night that would last for many years. This may be according to our way, but it is not according to God's way.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Paul being under the Lord's restriction as well.

We should not think that Paul was so spiritual that he was altogether different from us. Even he had to learn to take the Lord's restriction. He told the believers at Rome that he expected to go to Spain by way of them. Paul never went to Spain, and he arrived in Rome in bonds. Those bonds were the Lord's measure, His limitation.

B. Fellowship that Paul always acted and behaved within his measure and he never reached beyond his jurisdiction.

Paul told the Corinthians that whatever he did and spoke was not beyond his measure. Paul always acted and behaved within his measure. In contrast to the Judaizers, he never reached beyond his jurisdiction. To be honest about it, Corinth is my jurisdiction, my territory.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the words in Song of Songs 4:7-8, and what the significance is.

The Lord calls His lover to live in ascension as a new creation in resurrection. He calls her to come with Him to a high mountain, which is the top of resurrection—ascension. Christ died, rose, and then ascended. In Christ's ascension is His victory. There is no more fighting, for the enemy has been destroyed. The war is over, and victory has been gained.

B. Expound for the engaging in spiritual warfare, we must know these three wills.

If we would know how the church can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we must know these three wills. God's will, being self-existing, is eternal, uncreated. As created beings, an archangel, was appointed by God to rule the universe that existed before the creation of Adam. Because of his high position and his beauty, this archangel became proud. This pride gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that the Christian life involves both the divine economy and the satanic chaos.

During our time with the Lord in the morning, we experience economy, but later in the day we may experience chaos. The history of the universe is a history of God's economy and Satan's chaos. Furthermore, the entire Bible is a record of the divine economy and the satanic chaos. In our married life we also have the economy of God and the chaos of Satan.

B. Expound the satanic chaos always going along with the divine economy.

Today the earth is filled with chaos. However, we should not be discouraged. In addition to the satanic chaos, there is the divine economy. Whereas the satanic chaos will come to an end, the divine economy will reach a consummation. The end of the satanic chaos will be the lake of fire, and the consummation of the divine economy will be the New Jerusalem. We may say that God is in the "central lane" and that Satan is in the "side lane."

Day 6 —

A. Expound today the church being a model of God's reign.

Today the church is a model of God's reign. It is through the church that God will bind Satan and destroy his power. Thus, His name will be honored in the whole earth, His kingdom set up, and His will done. This is the commission of the church. This also is the purpose of the church's spiritual warfare.

B. State how to conquer the satanic chaos.

We have to conquer the satanic chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace. The Lord as the all-sufficient grace is with our spirit, and we can conquer all the satanic chaos and carry out the unique divine economy by Him as our all-sufficient grace. We can conquer all the satanic chaos and carry out the divine economy according to the truth.

III. Conclusion:

Some young people are brought down by their marriage life. A certain brother, before marriage, may have soared like an eagle in the sky, speaking easily of the beautiful and glorious church life. Yet shortly after marriage, that church life no longer appears glorious. This is an example of how God uses marriage life to calm him down. Some brothers remain in such a low state for a long time after marriage. Ultimately, however, they rise again—though not as aggressively as before. This shows a sign of their growth. Such ups and downs seem beyond our control or dominion. Therefore, we must all recognize that it is God who governs; He thus limits us within our measure. Christ goes down and comes up within us. Through such rising and falling within us, He fills us, making us become all the fullness of God.