

**THE
GREATEST
PROPHECY
IN THE BIBLE
AND ITS
FULFILLMENT**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE RETREAT

Big Bear Convention Center
Big Bear, California
April 15-17, 2005

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NAME: _____

CAMPUS: _____

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Session One

The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible—Christ Will Build His Church

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:16-18; Eph. 3:10-11; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; Rev. 19:7-8

I. The greatest prophecy in the Bible:

- A. The greatest prophecy is not the prediction of events at the end times.
- B. It is concerning what the Lord mentioned in Matthew 16:18—"I will build My church."
- C. This prophecy is continued by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:
 - 1. "For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ"—vv. 12-13.
 - 2. "Out from [Christ] all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love"—v. 16.
- D. In the Old Testament the tabernacle and the temple are types of this greatest prophecy.

II. The church—the center and kernel of God's eternal plan:

- A. The church is the center of God's eternal plan and the desire of God's heart, which He purposed before time began—Eph. 3:10-11.
- B. God's purpose for the church is to:
 - 1. Express God through the sonship—1:5.
 - 2. Make God's wisdom known to the enemy—3:10.
 - 3. Head up all things in Christ—1:10.
- C. The church is the assembly of God's called out ones, His ekklesia, not a physical structure—Matt. 16:18.
- D. The church is the organism of the Triune God, the Body of Christ, not an organization—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6.

III. The vision of the building of the church:

- A. The church is being built by Christ in His heavenly ministry—Eph. 1:19-23; 4:8-16.
- B. The genuine church is built upon the rock of Christ and upon the revelation concerning Christ—Eph. 2:19-20.
- C. The church is built with precious "stones":
 - 1. As the stone for God's building, Christ is the foundation stone, the cornerstone, and the topstone—Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42; Zech. 4:7.
 - 2. Like Peter, all the believers need to be transformed into "living" stones for the building of the church—1 Pet. 2:4-5.
- D. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the built-up church:
 - 1. The gates of Hades refer to Satan's authority or power of darkness—Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18.
 - 2. Satan's power of darkness will attack the church.
 - 3. However, it cannot prevail against the genuine church built by Christ—Matt. 16:18b.

IV. The fulfillment of the prophecy:

- A. The greatest prophecy will be fulfilled when the bride, composed of the overcoming believers, has made herself ready—Rev. 19:7-8.
- B. By the continual working of the Holy Spirit through all the centuries, this goal will be attained at the end of this age.
- C. The Lord's coming back depends upon the fulfillment of this prophecy.
- D. The ultimate consummation of this prophecy will be the New Jerusalem, a living composition of all the saints redeemed by God throughout all generations—Rev. 21:2.

Focus: *The greatest prophecy in the Bible is that in this age Christ will build His church which God purposed in eternity past and which will consummate in the New Jerusalem.*

MINISTRY READING

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus said, “I will build My church.” You may say that this is a promise, yet we still have to realize that this is a prophecy. At the time the Lord spoke this word, this was a great prophecy concerning the church, and it still is a great prophecy. This is because nearly twenty centuries have passed since the Lord spoke this word, yet we still cannot see that the church is fully built up. The fulfillment of this prophecy in Matthew 16:18 has not been fully realized, so even today this prophecy still remains unfulfilled.

UNTIL WE ALL ARRIVE

Some may say that in the book of Acts, the Lord Jesus fulfilled this prophecy by building up the church. Many Christians say that on the day of Pentecost, the Lord Jesus at least partly fulfilled His prophecy because He did build up something on that day. We need to go on, however, from the book of Acts to the Epistles to read what Paul said in Ephesians 4:13-16: “Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error, but holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.”

By reading these four verses, we can realize that there is a prophecy in them. Paul said, “Until we all arrive” at something. This means that at that time and even now, all the saints, including Paul, were going on and pressing on until they would all arrive. We have to consider whether or not any Christians have arrived at these three things: the oneness of the faith, a full-grown man, and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Have we seen or can we see the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love? There are thousands of Christians, Christian groups, and so-called Christian churches, but can we see what is prophesied in Ephesians 4:13-16? We have to say no. This was not only a prophecy in the past but also a prophecy that remains unfulfilled today. Even among us, we cannot say that we have had such an arrival. What we can say is that we are pressing on. We are going on toward the goal at which we have not yet arrived. Have you ever realized that in Ephesians 4 there is a great prophecy? This prophecy is not concerning the ten horns, seven heads, seven seals, seven trumpets, or seven bowls, but just concerning one thing—the building up of the church. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, pp. 7-8)

GOD’S ETERNAL PURPOSE BEING THE CHURCH

God’s eternal purpose is to have the church. His purpose is not just to create man, to rescue him from his fallen condition, and to bring him to heaven. Furthermore, God’s purpose is not simply to have us be holy, spiritual, and victorious. Creation, salvation, sanctification, spirituality, and victory are all part of God’s procedure to reach His goal, but they are not the goal itself.

Ephesians 3:10-11 unveils the fact that the existence of the church is according to the eternal purpose of God which He purposed in Christ. The church is something of God’s eternal purpose. It did not come into existence by accident, but was planned in eternity. Before time began, in eternity, God purposed to have the church. The word “purpose” here in the Scriptures is equivalent to the word “plan.” God’s eternal purpose is God’s eternal plan. God has a plan which He planned in eternity—He is not purposeless; He is a God of purpose.

What did God plan? He planned to have a church composed of a group of human beings coordinated together as a corporate Body with which He may mingle Himself in His divine nature. In other words, this corporate Body would be a corporate vessel, into which He would put Himself. This is the very thing God planned and this is the very center of His purpose. God planned to have a corporate Body, a corporate vessel, with which he could mingle Himself and all that He is. This vessel is called the church.

The church, therefore, is the center of God’s eternal plan. Why is the church so dear, so lovable, and so precious to God? It is because the church is the desire of God’s heart, which He purposed before time began. God in eternity planned to have the church.

THE CHURCH BEING THE ORGANISM OF THE TRIUNE GOD, NOT AN ORGANIZATION

The church is the organism of the Triune God. We need to see that the church as the Body of Christ is altogether organic, absolutely of life, with nothing organizational. The Body of Christ is the organism of the

Triune God. The Triune God has an organism. An organism and an organization are entirely different. To illustrate this difference, we may compare a living person to a wooden stand. The wooden stand is without life, while a living person is full of life. The wooden stand is an organization of pieces of wood put together, but a living person has many members which are joined together organically. A person is a living, moving, functioning organism, unlike a robot, which is an organization of inorganic parts. The church is not an organization without life, but an organism with life.

We are born of God into the church. We do not join the church as we would join an organization. Because the church is a living organism ruled by life, there is no need of a hierarchy to organize or rule over the church. There are leading ones in the church. They are not organizational leaders, but ones who are more mature in life to shepherd the younger, the newer, and the weaker ones in life. Praise the Lord for His organic church. (*The Church: The Vision and Building Up of the Church—A Lesson Book, Level Five*, pp. 10-12)

THE CONTENTS OF THIS GREAT PROPHECY

[In Matthew 16], when Jesus asked [His disciples] who men said that the Son of Man is, they answered by saying that some said He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets (v. 14). But when the Lord asked them who they said that He is, only Peter responded. He declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (vv. 15-16). The Lord then told Peter, “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens. And I also say to you...” (vv. 17-18a). Just to know Christ is insufficient and inadequate. The Lord was telling Peter that he needed to see something more.

The Lord said, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (v. 18). Peter means “a stone.” For the building up of the church, there is the need of living stones (1 Pet. 2:5). The first time Peter was brought to the Lord by his brother Andrew, the Lord Jesus immediately gave him a new name. He said, “You shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter)” (John 1:42). At one time we were pieces of clay. But Jesus told Peter, “You are a stone, and I am the rock. I am the foundation stone, and you are a piece of stone for the building up of the church. The gates of Hades shall not prevail against this church which I will build.”

We have to consider ourselves in the light of what the Lord said. We have to ask ourselves if we are stones....If we are stones, we have to ask, “Where is the building up?” Piling many pieces of stone together does not make a building. Is there a real building among us? If you feel that there is some friction between you and some other saints in the church, that means you have not been built in. Once a piece of stone has been built in, there is no friction. To be built into the church, God’s building, is our destiny and even our destination for eternity. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, p. 11)

THE PREPARATION OF CHRIST’S BRIDE

There is a prophecy about the building up of the church in Matthew 16, and a continuation of this prophecy in Ephesians 4. In Ephesians 5 there is a prophecy of another aspect of the church, that is, of the perfecting of the church as the Body to make it holy, without blemish, and sanctified, without spot or wrinkle or any such things.

Now we come to the last book of the Bible, Revelation. Verses 7 and 8 of chapter nineteen say, “Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the saints.” These verses speak of the coming marriage of the Lamb, when His wife, the bride, has made herself ready. Strictly speaking, doctrinally speaking, that will be the fulfillment of prophecy, but this fulfillment is still not here. So these verses indicate that a prophecy is going to be fulfilled. This prophecy is that the bride of Christ will be made ready. We need to be impressed that there is a great prophecy in the Bible regarding the building up of the church and the preparation of Christ’s bride.

Now we have to ask when this great prophecy concerning the church will be fulfilled. We may have been in the church life for many years and still not know when this prophecy will be fulfilled. We all have to declare, “Now! Now is the time!” Then we need to know how it will be fulfilled. It can be fulfilled by our eating Christ as our spiritual food (John 6:57). We all have to say, “Now is the time, and eating is the way.” (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, p. 10)

Song 1 (Hymn 1325)

1. God eternal has a purpose,
Formed in His eternal past,
Spreading to eternal future;
'Twixt these ends all time is cast.
For with time there is the process,
Time for His accomplishment;
And in time we're merely travelers—
For eternity we're meant.
2. God would have a group of people
Built together in His plan,
Blended, knit, coordinated
As His vessel—one new man.
God would come into this vessel
With His nature, life and ways,
Mingling Spirit with our spirits
For His joy and to His praise.
3. God has worked in three directions
For His plan so marvelous:
As the Father, Son, and Spirit
To dispense Himself to us!
All creation gives the setting—
Heav'n and earth are for this plan;
'Tis for this God made a body,
Soul and spirit—three-part man.
4. As the center, as the kernel,
Of God's plan our spirit is;
Calling on the name of Jesus
Makes our spirit one with His.
From the center to circumference
God would saturate each part;
Feeling, mind, and will renewing,
Making home in all our heart.
5. Thus in life we're built together,
Then in love we're knit as one;
God is now His plan fulfilling,
Finishing what He's begun.
Lord, increase Thyself within us
That we might be built by Thee
Into that great corporate vessel
Filled with God exclusively.
6. As the product, the fulfillment,
Will the church in glory stand,
Consummation of the purpose
In eternal ages planned.
God will have His corporate vessel,
All his glory to contain;
Lord, we're wholly for Thy purpose
All Thy goal in us attain.

Song 2 (Hymn 1248)

1. Recall how David swore,
"I'll not come into my house,
Nor go up to my bed,
Give slumber to mine eyelids,

(continued)

Until I find a place for Thee,
A place, O Lord, for Thee."
Our mighty God desires a home
Where all His own may come.

2. How blinded we have been,
Shut in with what concerns us;
While God's house lieth waste—
Lord, break through, overturn us;
We'll go up to the mountain,
Bring wood and build the house;
We'll never say, "Another day!"
It's time! We'll come and build.
3. O Lord, against these days,
Inspire some for Your building,
Just as in David's day—
A remnant who are willing
To come and work in Your house,
Oh, what a blessed charge!
Your heart's desire, is our desire—
We come, O Lord, to build.
4. Within those whom You'd call
Put such a restless caring
For building to give all—
These times are for preparing;
*The gates of hell cannot prevail
Against the builded Church!*
The hours are few, the builders too—
Lord, build, O build in us!
(Repeat last four lines)

Song 3 (Hymn 1266)

1. Burning, burning, we are burning,
Ever to our spirits turning,
One for Thine eternal purpose, in spirit one.
On the ground of locality,
We express our unity—
Many members, but one Body,
Christ as our Head.

Christ and the local church,
Christ and the local church,
Christ and the church, our reality and life,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lord, we've given our lives to You,
For the building of Your Body,
For our building up in love.

2. Breathing, breathing, we are breathing,
With each breath new life receiving,
What a transformation from the old
to the new;
Breathing out the old life from us,
Breathing in new life and oneness,
We are breathing in of Jesus, we are breathing
in of life.

Session Two

The God-ordained Way to Build Up the Church

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:3-4a, 8-16

- I. **Christ does not build His church directly; He builds His church through the giving of the gifts to His Body and through the functioning of the perfected members:**
 - A. Ephesians 4 tells us that the Lord as the Head of the Body gave many gifts, gifted persons, as the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers—Eph. 4:11.
 - B. God's intention is to give the gifted persons to perfect the saints that all the saints may participate in the work of the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:12.
 - C. The perfected saints then directly build up the Body of Christ by:
 1. Growing into the Head in all things—Eph. 4:15.
 2. Functioning out from the Head—Eph. 4:16.
 - D. Through these two categories of members, the gifted persons as the joints of the rich supply and the perfected saints as each one part, the Body grows, and this growth is unto the building up of itself in love—Eph. 4:16.
- II. **The saints are perfected by the gifted persons with the life supply as the nourishment for the growth in life:**
 - A. To perfect the saints is to feed them, to give them something to eat that they may be nourished, that they may grow—Eph. 4:12-13.
 - B. To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we attain to a full-grown man—Eph. 4:13, 15.
 - C. By the growth in life the saints will be perfected to function and do the work that the gifted persons do.
- III. **For the building up of the Body, there is the need of keeping the oneness of the Spirit and arriving at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God—Eph. 4:3, 13:**
 - A. The oneness of the Spirit is the oneness of the divine life in reality:
 1. This oneness is a person, Christ Himself, who is the Spirit dwelling within us.
 2. We already have the oneness of the divine life in reality; we need only to keep it.
 3. If we act apart from the Spirit, we are divisive and lose the oneness, and then there is no possibility for the building up of the Body.
 - B. The oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God is the oneness of our living in practicality—Eph. 4:13:
 1. The faith refers to the things in which we believe, such as the divine person of Christ and His redemptive work accomplished for our salvation—Titus 1:4.
 2. The full knowledge of the Son of God is the apprehension of the revelation concerning the Son of God for our experience.
 3. The more we grow in life, the more we will cleave to the faith and to the apprehension of Christ, and the more we will drop all the minor and meaner doctrinal concepts that cause divisions.
 4. Then we will arrive at, or attain to, the practical oneness; that is, we will arrive at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Focus: The God-ordained way to build up the church is through the supply of the gifted persons and the function of the perfected saints who keep the oneness of the Spirit.

MINISTRY READING

THE WAY CHRIST BUILDS UP THE CHURCH

There are two kinds of building up—one is by the gifted persons and the other is by the perfected saints. The building up of the Body of Christ by the gifted persons is under the Head's supply and is done indirectly. The gifted persons do not build up the Body of Christ directly. Even Christ as the Head of the church does not build the church directly. In Matthew 16:18 the Lord told us that He would build His church, but He builds His church indirectly through His giving of the gifts to His Body. Then these gifts perfect the saints, and the perfected saints do the building work directly. The building up of the Body of Christ by the perfected saints is under the gifted persons' perfecting and is done directly. Ephesians 4:16 says that the Body will build itself up in love because all the members build up the Body of Christ. They build up the Body of Christ by growing into the Head in all things (Eph. 4:15). The growth in life of each member of the Body added together equals the building up of the Body. The perfected saints also build up the Body by functioning out from the Head, causing the growth of the Body that the Body may be built up directly by itself (4:16).

The four classes of persons—the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists and the shepherds and teachers—preach the gospel to save others on the one hand. On the other hand, they raise up churches in the localities. Then they also feed, shepherd, and teach the saints. Furthermore, among these saints they speak for the Lord and speak the Lord into them. In this way all the saints are perfected. The meaning of perfecting can be illustrated by university students being taught by professors of different subjects. After four years of studying, they graduate and are able to do the same things that the professors do; they have all been perfected. Christ as the Head gave these four kinds of gifts to the church for the purpose of perfecting the saints that the latter may also be the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the shepherds and teachers.

In the end, after this kind of perfecting, the saints will be able to be the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the shepherds and teachers. Every member will be able to function and will participate in the work of the New Testament ministry, which is the building up of the Body of Christ, until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. In this way we will no longer be babes tossed by waves and carried about by the winds of teachings. The whole church will grow into a mature man with the stature of Christ. This is the building up of the Body of Christ. (*The Church: The Vision and Building Up of the Church—A Lesson Book, Level Five*, pp. 169, 175-176, 178)

PERFECTING THE SAINTS BY FEEDING THEM FOR THEIR GROWTH AND FUNCTION

What is it to perfect the saints? Many years ago I thought that to perfect the saints was just to teach them or to train them, but this is not right. Now I can say definitely that to perfect the saints is to feed them, to give them something to eat that they may be nourished, that they may grow.

Ephesians 4:12 speaks of the perfecting of the saints. Then verse 13 says, "Until we all arrive at...a full-grown man." A small boy becomes a full-grown man not by being taught or regulated but by eating nourishing food. The mother day by day prepares food to feed him until he becomes a full-grown man. Ephesians 4 does not say that we perfect the saints until they graduate from a seminary. It says that we perfect the saints until they all arrive at a full-grown man. Then the following verse, verse 14, says, "That we may be no longer little children..." How can you make a child grow? No doubt, you have to feed, to nourish, the child. Then verse 15 says, "But holding to truth...we may grow up into Him in all things." In these verses we need to take note of the phrases full-grown man, no longer little children, and grow up into Him in all things. This shows that to perfect the saints is to nourish them that they may grow.

The little babes have all the necessary organs. They have eyes, ears, a nose, feet, arms, etc., but they do not have the adequate function, because they are short of growth. To perfect the saints does not mean that the saints do not have "ears," so you come to make ears for them. In other words, to perfect the saints does not mean that you come to teach them. Instead, to perfect the saints is to feed them that they may grow. When little babes are fed, eventually they are able to function more and more in listening, speaking, and walking. They have all the organs, but they do not have the function, because they are short of growth. You cannot teach them to have the function. The only way for them to have the function is for them to grow up, so you need to feed them. This is not my concept. In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul said that he fed the saints, and God gave them the growth (vv. 2, 6). By the growth our functions will come out.

The Head, Christ, gives all the gifted persons, and the gifted persons do not do a common Christian work. They perfect the saints by feeding them. Then all the saints grow, and they will have the functions.

When all these functions are put together, this is the building up of the Body. Today the Lord is going to recover this kind of building. If someone asks you who your pastor is, you have to say that among us everyone is a pastor. This is because everyone functions. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, pp. 28-30)

BEING DILIGENT TO KEEP THE ONENESS OF THE SPIRIT

Now we have to go on to see some further points regarding the building up of the Body. For the building up of the Body, there is the need of oneness. Ephesians speaks clearly and definitely about keeping the oneness: "Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace" (4:3). This is because the Body of Christ is one and the new man is also one, that is, there is one Body and one new man. The riches of Christ which produce the Body and the new man are altogether realized in the Spirit. There is one Body and one Spirit (v. 4), so we have to keep the oneness. If the oneness is damaged, the building is gone. Even though we have the best enjoyment of the riches of Christ, if we lose the oneness, there is no possibility for the building up of the Body. This oneness is not the oneness of practices, regulations, or forms, but the oneness of the Spirit. The Spirit is one, and this Spirit who dwells in our spirit is the Triune God Himself.

Actually, the Spirit Himself is the oneness. It is similar to the electricity flowing within many lamps, making them all one in the shining. In themselves, the lamps are separate, but in the electricity they are one. The electricity within them is the oneness. Likewise, the Spirit within us is our oneness. The same one Spirit dwells in all of us, so He is our oneness. If we care for Him, we have the oneness. If we do not care for Him, the oneness among us is gone. If we go to something else, surely we will have different opinions and dissension. You will have your concepts, I will have my understanding, and another will have his idea. Then we will be divided. But if we give up all the other things and come back to the one indwelling Spirit, right away we have the oneness.

ARRIVING AT THE ONENESS OF THE FAITH

Ephesians 4 tells us that this oneness, on the one hand, is the oneness of the Spirit, and on the other hand, is the oneness of the faith (v. 13). The faith is composed of what Christ is, what Christ has done, and what Christ is still doing for us. The faith is what we believe in for our salvation. We all believe in Jesus as the Son of God becoming a man, who died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day; today He is our Redeemer, our Savior, our Lord, and also the all-inclusive Spirit indwelling our spirit. If we believe in Him, our sins will be forgiven, His blood will be applied to us, and we will be redeemed, justified, saved, and regenerated to have Him within us as our life. This is our faith, which is common to all different kinds of Christians. Anyone who does not have such a faith is not a real Christian. He is not saved or regenerated. But as long as a person believes that Christ is the Son of God incarnated to be a man, crucified on the cross for our sins, and resurrected from the dead to be our life, he has the faith. Regardless of what kind of background he keeps or what kind of doctrine he holds on to, he is a brother, a saint.

In doctrines we may be different, but in the faith we are absolutely one. You should never consider any doctrine as your faith. Some may say, "My faith is in immersion by water," but immersion by water is not the faith. The doctrine of the presbytery is not the faith, nor is any other kind of doctrine. We do not need to keep anything else other than the oneness of the Spirit and of the faith. When we come back to the Spirit, we are one. When we care only for the faith, we are one. Ephesians 4:13 speaks of the oneness of the faith, and then verse 14 speaks of the wind of teaching, the wind of doctrine. The faith produces oneness, but doctrine brings in the wind to blow us away, to carry us away. If we forget about the doctrine, care only for the faith, and turn to the Spirit, we are one.

THE NEED TO DROP ALL THE LEGAL DOCTRINES

Many Christians know that we should keep the oneness according to Ephesians 4:3, but they do not know how to keep the oneness. The following verses show us that to keep the oneness of the Spirit is to drop all the doctrines. The doctrines are just like toys to children. Children like toys, and the younger they are, the more toys they have. But the more they grow, the more toys they drop. If an older person is still playing with toys, this obviously indicates that he did not have the proper growth in life. All the different doctrines are toys. The more you grow, the more doctrines you will drop, because doctrines cause division. Instead, you will stick yourself to the faith. This is the way to keep the oneness. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, pp. 33-35)

Song 4 (Hymn 1248)

1. Recall how David swore,
“I’ll not come into my house,
Nor go up to my bed,
Give slumber to mine eyelids,
Until I find a place for Thee,
A place, O Lord, for Thee.”
Our mighty God desires a home
Where all His own may come.
2. How blinded we have been,
Shut in with what concerns us;
While God’s house lieth waste—
Lord, break through, overturn us;
We’ll go up to the mountain,
Bring wood and build the house;
We’ll never say, “Another day!”
It’s time! We’ll come and build.
3. O Lord, against these days,
Inspire some for Your building,
Just as in David’s day—
A remnant who are willing
To come and work in Your house,
Oh, what a blessed charge!
Your heart’s desire, is our desire—
We come, O Lord, to build.
4. Within those whom You’d call
Put such a restless caring
For building to give all—
These times are for preparing;
*The gates of hell cannot prevail
Against the builded Church!*
The hours are few, the builders too—
Lord, build, O build in us!
(Repeat last four lines)

Song 5 (Hymn 1232)

1. Once by nature we were dead in sin,
In a world of utter discord;
But together God has quickened us,
Raised us up to sit together with the Lord.

 Jesus is getting us together,
 Come and see the saints in one accord.
 His love is knitting us together,
 To the stature of the fullness of the Lord.
2. Thus with all saints we can apprehend,
All the vast dimensions of God.
Knowing Christ’s love passes all we know.
We’re together filled to fullness with our God.
3. Now we know the purpose of our God,
Visible the mystery became;
Christ, the church, together now we see,
And together put the enemy to shame.

(continued)

4. For this cause we pray the Father God;
Strengthen Thou with might our inner man;
Make Yourself at home in all our hearts,
Root us, ground us in Your love and for Your plan.
5. In the Body we’ll be fitly framed
As the many members Christ supply;
Working in the measure of each part,
All by growth in love the Body edify.
6. Now we’re one His purpose to fulfill,
As the one new man of His plan.
Unto Him be glory in the church,
And in Jesus Christ forevermore—Amen!

Song 6 (Hymn 840)

1. Freed from self and Adam’s nature,
 Lord, I would be built by Thee
With the saints into Thy temple,
 Where Thy glory we shall see.
From peculiar traits deliver,
 From my independent ways,
That a dwelling place for Thee, Lord,
 We will be thru all our days,
2. By Thy life and by its flowing
 I can grow and be transformed,
With the saints coordinated,
 Builded up, to Thee conformed;
Keep the order in the Body,
 There to function in Thy will,
Ever serving, helping others,
 All Thy purpose to fulfill.
3. In my knowledge and experience
 I would not exalted be,
But submitting and accepting
 Let the Body balance me;
Holding fast the Head, and growing
 With His increase, in His way,
By the joints and bands supplying,
 Knit together day by day.
4. By Thy Spirit daily strengthened
 In the inner man with might,
I would know Thy love surpassing,
 Know Thy breath and length and height;
Ever of Thy riches taking,
 Unto all Thy fulness filled,
Ever growing into manhood,
 That Thy Body Thou may build.
5. In God’s house and in Thy Body
 Builded up I long to be,
That within this corporate vessel
 All shall then Thy glory see;
That Thy Bride, the glorious city,
 May appear upon the earth,
As a lampstand brightly beaming
 To express to all Thy worth.

THE GREATEST PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE AND ITS FULFILLMENT

The greatest prophecy in the Bible is that in this age Christ will build His church which God purposed in eternity past and which will consummate in the New Jerusalem.

The God-ordained way to build up the church is through the supply of the gifted persons and the function of the perfected saints who keep the

oneness of the Spirit.

The enjoyment of the riches of Christ is the unique way for the believers to grow in life and to be transformed into precious materials to build up the church.

The function of the believers in preaching the gospel, shepherding the saints, speaking Christ, and serving others builds up the church.



Session Three

Growth and Transformation in Life to Build Up the Church

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:6, 9-12; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:2-5, 9; Rev. 21:18; 22:1-2

- I. **The church, the house of God, is built with transformed materials produced from Christ's growing in the believers—1 Cor. 3:6, 9-12:**
 - A. We as the church of God have Christ planted in us, and this Christ needs to grow to produce precious materials for the building of God's house on earth—1 Cor. 3:6, 9.
 - B. We not only need to grow in life but also to be transformed in life to produce gold, silver and precious stones for God's building—1 Cor. 3:12:
 1. Transformation is the inward, metabolic process in which God works to spread His divine life and nature throughout every part of our being.
 2. Gold, silver and precious stones are the products of our participation in and enjoyment of Christ in our spirit through the Holy Spirit.
 - C. Thus, the church, the house of God, is the increase of Christ, the enlargement of Christ in His unlimitedness—Col. 2:19.
- II. **The building of the church as the house of God is by the believers' growth in life—Eph. 2:21-22:**
 - A. As the Body of Christ, the church has been regenerated and needs to grow in life; as the house of God, the church is being built.
 - B. The growth of the Body of Christ is the increase of Christ in the church, which results in the building up of the Body—Eph. 4:15-16.
 - C. Growth and building are not separate things, for the growth of the Body is the building of the house.
 - D. In Christ, all the building is fitted together and is growing into a holy temple in the Lord—Eph. 2:21.
- III. **God's work of building the church depends on our transformation, and our transformation issues from the enjoyment of Christ as our life supply—1 Pet. 2:2-5:**
 - A. We were created of clay, but at regeneration we received the seed of the divine life, which by its growing in us transforms us into living stones—1 Pet. 1:23; 2:5.
 - B. After receiving Him as the seed of life, we grow in life by being nourished with the milk conveyed in the word of God—1 Pet. 2:2:
 1. Through the word as our food, God dispenses His riches into our inner being to nourish us that we may be constituted with His element.
 2. We need to get into the word, feed on the word, and exercise our spirit to pray and to receive the Lord each day to grow in life.
 - C. When we grow in life, Christ transforms us into living stones that we may be built up together with others as a spiritual house, which is the church—1 Pet. 2:5.
 - D. God's goal in the believers is to have a house built up with living stones—not separated and scattered stones, nor even stones merely gathered together or piled up together, but stones built up with one another.
- IV. **The ultimate consummation of God's work of transformation and building is the New Jerusalem:**
 - A. In the New Jerusalem, Christ as the tree of life and the Spirit as the river of water of life are the eternal portion and life supply of all God's redeemed people—Rev. 22:1-2.
 - B. Out of the eating and drinking of Christ, God's people are transformed into precious stones and built up as the jasper wall of the holy city—Rev. 22:18.
 - C. The consummation of eating and drinking Christ as our unique enjoyment is a building, the New Jerusalem—Rev. 22:1-2; 21:18.

Focus: *The enjoyment of the riches of Christ is the unique way for the believers to grow in life and to be transformed into precious materials to build up the church.*

MINISTRY READING

THE GROWTH IN LIFE AND THE TRANSFORMATION IN LIFE FOR GOD'S BUILDING

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul said, "I have fed you..." (v. 2—KJV). The way to receive his feeding is to eat. Thus, calling is in chapter one, but eating is in chapter three. Then in chapter three we see that we have to grow. Paul said that he fed the saints. Then he said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth" (v. 6). By feeding and by eating we have the growth, and the growth is for the building. Paul said, "You are God's cultivated land, God's building" (v. 9). The growth in life issues in the transformation in life into precious materials. First, you are plants, but eventually you become gold, silver, and precious stones (v. 12).

Petrified wood is a good illustration of a plant being transformed into stone. It was a plant first. But eventually it becomes a piece of stone, petrified, transformed. The precious stones are for the building (1 Pet. 2:5). This is the only way that the Lord can build the church. If we mean business with the Lord's recovery for the building up of the church, we have to realize that we are the plants and we have to grow. We can grow by taking in and absorbing the nourishment. By this growth we will be transformed, and by being transformed, we become the materials for the building. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, p. 54)

GROWING INTO A HOLY TEMPLE

Verse 21 [of Ephesians 2] says, "In Whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord."...Since the building is a living one (1 Pet. 2:5), it is growing. It grows into a holy temple. The actual building of the church as the house of God is by the growth in life of the believers. Today the church is growing. However, it is not growing in our natural life, but in the divine life, the spiritual life. Verse 21 also says that all the building is fitted together. The word "fitted" means being made suitable for the condition and situation of the building.

As verse 21 points out, all the building is growing into a holy temple....At this point I would like to ask you a question: Has the temple of God in the universe been completed? The fact that the temple is still growing indicates that, from our point of view at least, the temple of God is not complete. Verse 21 does not say that all the building has grown into a holy temple; it says that all the building is growing into a holy temple.

The phrase "all the building" refers to the universal church. If you consider the past nineteen centuries of church history, you may find it difficult to see the growth of the building. But do not be disappointed. The purpose of God cannot be thwarted. The universal building is still growing. In Matthew 16 the Lord Jesus prophesied that He would build His church. The building in Matthew 16:18 is the very building in Ephesians 2:21. Although the growth of the building is slow and hardly noticeable, it is nonetheless taking place. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 238-239)

BEING REGENERATED BY THE WORD AS A SEED

In 1 Peter 1, Peter said that we were born again by the word as the seed (v. 23). Many consider the word in the Bible as doctrines. But here Peter says the living word of God should be considered as a seed. This seed does not convey knowledge but imparts life into you. The word of God is not mere doctrines. When the word of God, not the word in letters, the dead words, but the living word with the Spirit, gets into you, it imparts life into you, so you are born again.

DRINKING THE MILK OF THE WORD THAT BY IT WE MAY GROW TO BE LIVING STONES FOR GOD'S BUILDING

As one who is born again, you need to grow. For the growth you surely need to eat something. You need the nourishment. If there is no nutrition, there is no growth. Thus, Peter says in 1 Peter 2 that as newborn babes, we need to desire the milk of the word that we may grow (v. 2). From God's word there is the nourishment. As newborn babes you have to take in this nourishing milk that you may grow. Our growth is not to be big spiritual giants but to be living stones, and the living stones are for the building up of the spiritual house of God (v. 5).

I hope that we all can see there is such a consistent concept about God's building, and this concept is that for God's building we all need to eat. We need to receive the nourishment, not the knowledge. We all have to remember the words spoken by Paul. Knowledge does not build up (1 Cor. 8:1) but nourishment from eating builds up (3:2, 6, 9). Never forget this. There is a wrong concept among Christians today. They either consider teaching as the building element, or they pay much attention to the gifts. But if you have a clear vision of God's divine concept, you can see that the real building of God's house is not by teaching or by gifts but by nourishment. The only way to get the Lord as your spiritual nourishment is by eating and

drinking the Lord, and by this nourishment you grow to be living stones.

Peter was a simple fisherman. His level of education, no doubt, was not high. But God frequently chooses simple persons. D. L. Moody was a shoe salesman when he was saved, yet he became a great evangelist. God uses such persons, who give you the important points without any kind of knowledge. Peter was so simple, telling us to be as newborn babes who desire the milk of the word, that by it we may grow to be the living stones for God's spiritual house.

Nothing is so simple as eating. The mothers know that there is nearly no need for them to teach their children to eat. Every little babe, after being delivered, starts to eat. Without any teaching the little babe knows how to eat. The eating function is from birth. There is no need for you to grow up in order to have the function of eating. Other functions, such as seeing and hearing, require growth. Only the eating function does not need the growth. After you were born, you immediately started to eat. This is something of God. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, pp. 59-61)

THE LORD'S RECOVERY OF THE EATING OF JESUS FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH

In the book of Revelation, we can see the consummation of eating and drinking the Lord, and this consummation is a building, a city, the New Jerusalem (21:2). This building is the outcome of God's work through all the generations. The consummation of the sixty-six books of the Bible is a city built with gold, pearls, and precious stones (vv. 18-21), and this corresponds with the concept in the entire New Testament.

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord told Simon that he was a stone and that He, the Lord, would build His church upon Himself as the rock. Here we see the stone and the building. Then in the Gospel of John, again we see the stone (1:42), and the eating and the drinking of Jesus (John 6:57; 4:14; 7:37-39) that produces the building with the stone.

We have also seen this concept in the writings of Paul. In 1 Corinthians there are the feeding and the eating. From the eating is the growth, and from the growth is the transformation to produce the gold, silver, and precious stones for the building up of God's temple (3:2-16). In Ephesians there is the perfecting by the feeding to cause the growth. Then by the growth there are the functions, and by all the functioning members the Body is built together (4:11-16). Ephesians 2:21 and 22 speak of the universal building and the local building: "In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit." You also refers to the local saints' being built together in their locality into the habitation of God in their spirit.

Peter also had this organic concept. As we have seen, he told us that we have to feed the younger ones (1 Pet. 5:2; John 21:15) and that we all have to drink the milk of the word that we may grow to be living stones for the building up of God's spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:2, 5). Now we can see that the Lord Jesus plus the three great writers of the New Testament, Paul, Peter, and John, all had the same concept. (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, pp. 71-72)

THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Out of the eating and drinking, you will become stones, and the stones are not scattered or piled up. All the stones are built up. The wall of the holy city is built with stones. These stones are produced from the eating and the drinking of Jesus.

Now you can see how consistent the entire Bible is with the matter of eating to produce the building. Even in Genesis 2 there is the revelation of eating the tree of life. There is also the flowing of the river, and the issue of the flow is the precious materials—gold, bdellium (pearl), and the onyx stone (vv. 9-12). That means all the precious materials are produced out of the flow of the life river.

Now we all have to see that this is the Lord's recovery. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the eating of Jesus for the building up of the church. This is not only for this age but also for eternity. "O Lord Jesus! Open our eyes that we all may see Your purpose today, Your recovery today, and the goal of Your recovery today." We need to eat Jesus to grow, to be transformed, and to be built together. Then we will have the building of the church.

By this way the Lord is going to fulfill His prophecy regarding the building up of the church. This prophecy is fulfilled by eating Jesus. Never forget that eating unites. Eating keeps the oneness. Eating builds up. If you are divisive, that means you are wrong in the matter of eating. If you are right in the matter of eating, surely you will be united and even uniting. You will be the ones who are built and who are building others. When will the Lord build His church? Now! How will the Lord build His church? By our eating Jesus! (*The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment*, p. 77)

Song 7 (Hymn 1226)

1. Oh, the church of Christ is glorious,
and we are part of it—
We're so happy that the Lord has made us one!
There's a Body in the universe
and we belong to it—
Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!

Hallelujah for the Body!
We are members of the Body!
We are wholly for the Body!
Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!
2. Not just individual Christians,
but a corporate entity—
God must have it for His full expression now;
Not just individual churches
but the Body corporately—
Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!

Hallelujah for the Body!
Satan trembles at the Body!
We're victorious in the Body!
Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!
3. There are seven golden lampstands
in the nature all divine—
Nothing natural does the Body life allow.
When we're one and share God's nature,
how the lampstand then does shine—
Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!

Hallelujah for the Body!
For the lampstands of the Body!
For the golden, shining Body!
Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!
4. How may we express such oneness,
be divine and shining too?
Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!
He's the tree of life, the manna,
and the feast that's ever new—
Hallelujah, we may eat Him every day!

We are one by eating Jesus!
We're divine by eating Jesus!
How we shine by eating Jesus!
Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!

Song 8 (Hymn 750)

1. God's intention is to have us
All conformed to His dear Son,
Thus a work of transformation
By the Spirit must be done.

Lord, transform us to Thine image
In emotion, mind and will;
Saturate us with Thy Spirit,
All our being wholly fill.
2. God hath us regenerated
In our spirit with His life;
(continued)

- But He must transform us further;
In our soul by his own life.
3. Spreading outward from our spirit
Doth the Lord transform our soul,
By the inward parts renewing,
Till within His full control.
4. By the power of His Spirit
In His pattern He transforms;
From His glory to His glory
To His image He conforms.
5. He transforms, all sanctifying,
Till like Him we are matured;
He transforms, our soul possessing,
Till His stature is secured.

Song 9 (Hymn 1240)

1. Higher, higher, in the life of Jesus;
Lord, we are so low.
By Thy life we all can go much higher—
Higher let us go.
Oh, higher yet we pray—
Transform us every day—
And richer in the flow;
May Thy life be all we know.
2. Growing, growing, in us He is growing,
More and more each day.
Into all our living He is flowing—
This is now His way.
For growth, O Lord, we pray;
Increase in us each day.
It's not enough to know;
Now Thy life in us must grow.
3. Living, living, Christ is all our living,
He's so practical:
Small things, big things, anything and all things—
He's involved in all.
Live Christ in every way;
Oh, live Him out today.
His name you now must call,
And give Him your all for all.
4. Building, building, we will see the building
Of the church this way;
Christ experienced will produce the building—
He's the only way.
Oh, build us, Lord, we pray,
By growth of life each day.
Oh, make us now such men
For the new Jerusalem.
5. Coming, coming, Jesus soon is coming
For His chosen Bride.
In the churches we are all preparing
To be glorified.
Lord Jesus, come again—
This cry is deep within.
We'll praise Thee to the end,
Oh, come back! Come back! Amen!

Session Four

Preaching, Shepherding, Speaking, and Serving to Build Up the Church

Scripture Reading: Matt. 28:19-20; John 21:15-17; 1 Cor. 14:1, 3-5; Rom. 1:9; 1 Pet. 4:10

I. Preaching the gospel to gather materials to build up the church:

- A. We must go and disciple all the nations—Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15.
- B. When we go to the campuses, we have to go by the Spirit and in the Body—Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:13.
- C. We preach the gospel not by using gimmicks but by prayer, the Word, and the homes—Acts 4:31; 6:4; 5:42.

II. Shepherding the believers to foster and perfect them to build up the church:

- A. Shepherding implies taking all-inclusive tender care of the flock, the church of God—Acts 20:28.
- B. We shepherd His lambs and feed His sheep because we love Him—John 21:15-17.
- C. We must cherish and nourish the new believers—Eph. 5:29; 1 Thes. 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 2:2-3:
 1. To cherish the new believers is to nurture them with tender love and foster them with tender care, outwardly softening them through tender warmth that they may have soothing, comfortable rest inwardly.
 2. To nourish the new believers is to feed them with the living word of the Lord.
- D. He as the Head gives the Body gifted persons, one kind of which are the shepherds, who perfect the saints by teaching for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12.

III. Speaking for Christ and speaking forth Christ to build up the church:

- A. There are three constituting elements of speaking for Christ and speaking forth Christ:
 1. Being acquainted with the living word by reading the Bible every day—Col. 3:16a.
 2. Having the inspiration of the Spirit by exercising our spirit—Acts 6:10; 2 Cor. 4:13.
 3. Receiving the enlightening of the divine light—Psalm 119:130.
- B. Speaking for Christ and speaking forth Christ, ministering and dispensing Christ into people, is the best way to build up the church—1 Cor. 14:3-4.
- C. Since speaking ministers Christ to people, it builds up people and gives them encouragement and consolation—1 Cor. 14:3.
- D. By speaking we are also kept so that we can live in the Body and not be detached from the Body—Eph. 4:16.

IV. Serving others to minister grace to build up the church:

- A. The word minister in Greek really means serve; everyone is a minister, a servant, ministering Christ as grace to others—1 Pet. 4:10; John 1:14, 17.
- B. First, we need to experience the grace of Christ in our own circumstances; then we minister grace to others through our service.
- C. The practical service in the church is the function of the members with grace—Rom. 12:6-7.
- D. The life which we have received through regeneration is a serving life—Mark 10:45; Rom. 1:9.
- E. Because some of the dear saints loved the Lord, loved the church, and loved the saints, they served others at the cost of their lives; the service that builds up the church must be like this—John 10:11; 2 Tim. 4:6.

Focus: The function of the believers in preaching the gospel, shepherding the saints, speaking Christ, and serving others builds up the church.

MINISTRY READING

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SPIRIT

You do not need any gimmicks to preach the gospel, but you do need to deal with your sins. You do not need to fast and pray, but you do need to open yourself to the Lord and have a renewed consecration. Every day when you go to the campus, you have to say, "Lord, I consecrate myself to You and open up myself anew to You. Cleanse me from all my sins with Your prevailing blood. Thank You that You are the Spirit. I am in You, and You are within me." Make a thorough confession and apply the blood to all your situations. Then exercise your faith to believe that the Spirit is in you and that you are in the Spirit, under the outpouring of the Spirit. If you do this, you will have such a bold faith, and when you go to the campuses, you will see the difference.

Let me say a balancing word. We must love the Lord and His Word, forsake sinful matters, open ourselves to be fully cleansed, and consecrate ourselves to the Lord, or our faith will not work. We will not have a living faith because we do not have a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:19). Whenever there is an offense in our conscience, there will be a leakage, and our faith will leak away. If we have a bad conscience, we will not be able to exercise our faith. But if we love the Lord and His Word, deal with all our sins with a thorough confession, apply the blood to our situation, and consecrate ourselves to the Lord, our faith will work. A strong and prevailing faith always comes from a good conscience without offense. We do not need to fast and pray. Rather, we need to confess and consecrate. Then we can apply what the Bible says by exercising our faith.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BODY

The young people's preaching of the gospel on the campuses, however, should be in coordination with all the saints. Since we may not have that many young ones, we need many homes of the saints for coordination in the gospel work. Every young person who goes to the campus needs a home for his contacts. A young person who catches eighteen new ones should be able to bring all eighteen into the living rooms of the saints. We need living rooms to receive all these new contacts. All the ages can be used. No one is too old. The older saints can open up their homes to these new contacts. Even though the older saints have opened their homes, they can keep themselves in the background and invite some middle-aged saints to serve the new ones in the living room. This is coordination.

The younger you are, the more you should be in the front to take care of the new young ones. The older you are, the more you should be at the back. It would be good for the older ones to buy the groceries, cook the food, and wash the dishes to serve the young people and their contacts. The young ones should go to the campus and the middle-aged saints should serve the young people in the living room. Our living rooms should be filled with the enjoyment of Christ, especially through singing and psalming. Such an atmosphere of enjoyment and mutuality requires a great deal of coordination.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

We need the preaching and the speaking of the word, but first we have to pray. As Christians we are priests and kings (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6). When we pray, we are functioning as priests. When we preach, we are functioning as kings. As priests we should bring people to the Lord in our prayer. We have to bring all the people on the campuses to the Lord, and if possible, pray for them by name. While it may not be possible to name every name, we can still pray, "Lord, we do not know all the names of the people on campus, but You know them. We offer them all to You according to Your knowledge." (*Preaching the Gospel on the College Campuses*, pp. 12, 14-16, 22)

SPEAKING WITH THE CONSTITUTING ELEMENTS OF PROPHECYING

According to our study of the New Testament, there are three constituting elements of prophesying: God's living word of life (Acts 5:20), the instant moving of the Spirit, and the view through the enlightening of the divine light. First, we need to be acquainted with the living word, so we need to read the Bible every day. Every morning we should spend ten minutes to pray-read two verses, dwell upon them, and enjoy the Lord in them....If we pray-read two verses a day for six days a week, we can be saturated with six hundred twenty-four verses in a year. We will become saturated,

soaked, and fully acquainted with these verses. This will give us the knowledge of the Word, and the proper expressions and utterance in our speaking.

The second element we need is the instant inspiration of the Spirit. Because we are persons dwelling in the word, we will be in the fellowship of the Lord, and our spirit will be exercised and ready to receive the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit at any time. We need the word of God, and we need the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Third, we need the view through the enlightening of the divine light. Our sky needs to be clear. Under the divine enlightenment we can see the real situation of ourselves, the church, and the saints. Because we have such a view, we can speak when the inspiration comes. We speak what we see with the divine word under the inspiration of the Spirit and with His enlightenment. This is prophesying. (*The Practical and Organic Building Up of the Church*, pp. 44-45)

PROPHESYING FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Speaking for the Lord, speaking forth the Lord, and speaking the Lord into others is for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. With only one man speaking and the rest listening a congregation can be built up, but the Body of Christ as an organism can never be built up. To build up the organic Body of Christ, all of us need to speak. (*The Excelling Gift for the Building Up of the Church*, p. 14)

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST BEING STEWARDS OF THE VARIED GRACE OF GOD

The church is the best society and has the best communal life. In such a society with such a communal life, there is the need of many kinds of services. Every service is an aspect of grace ministered by the saints to one another. Thus, all the saints as members of the Body of Christ are stewards of the manifold grace of God. On the one hand, we are members of the Body of Christ, and on the other hand, we are stewards of God. Stewards are persons who have the commission to minister the rich supply to others. A steward is one who always supplies others with certain needs, so we have to help the saints realize that every brother and every sister today in the church life as a member of Christ should be a steward of God assigned by God, commissioned by God, charged by God, with some aspect of His grace to minister to others for their supply.

THE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH BEING THE FUNCTION OF THE MEMBERS WITH GRACE

The practical service in the church, such as maintaining the meeting hall by arranging the chairs, cleaning the windows, mowing the lawn, and trimming the trees, is the function of the members with grace. While you mow the lawn, you may minister grace to others who are cutting the grass with you.

THE GOAL OF OUR SERVICE

The goal of our service is not to accomplish things, even with something such as vacuuming the floor. Our goal is to infuse others with Christ as grace. We can infuse one another with grace while we are serving together. There should be no gossip, murmuring, criticism, or vain talk. Our talk should be our fellowship with grace to infuse one another. We need to have grace to minister to others. Actually, our goal is not to keep a clean hall, but to minister Christ as grace to others. (*Basic Lessons on Service*, pp. 101-102, 105)

Song 10 (Hymn 909)

1. In the stream! In the stream! Let us work
for the Lord,
By His mind, in His way, as revealed
in His Word;
In the flow of His life let us work with His
power
For His Kingdom and Church in the time
of His hour.

In the stream! In the stream!
Let us work in the stream!
In the stream! In the stream!
We'll work as in the heav'nly team!

2. In the stream! In the stream! Let us work
with the Lord
In the flow of the Spirit, as taught by
His Word;
Never working by self, independent and free,
But in service related in full harmony.

3. In the stream! In the stream! Let us work
with the Lord
With the Church, with the saints, in the
light of His Word;
Give the Word, life supply to the people in need,
Thus fulfilling God's plan, in His flow
we'll proceed.

Song 11 (Hymn 1249)

1. How oft believers through the years
Have sought the will of Jesus,
And would have offered everything
To walk as Him it pleases.
If you should seek the will of God,
Don't waste another minute;
The church life is His glorious will,
And you too must get in it.

2. "What is the will of God for me?"
How oft you've asked this question.
It is the church life, corporately,
Where God finds His expression.
Don't watch the church life from afar,
Or erringly construe it;
Come gaze upon it from within—
You'll give your whole life to it.

3. The church life here is realized,
'Tis all the Lord intended;
And in this rich experience
All further seeking's ended.
The church life is His glorious will—
Now for yourself begin it.
The surest way to know His will
Is simply to get in it.

(continued)

4. So let us give our all for this,
And hold ourselves not dearly;
The church life is the will of God,
Let's take our standing clearly.
Oh, we have found the will of God;
Christ died and rose to win it.
The church life is His glorious will,
And, praise the Lord, we're in it!

Song 12 (Hymn 1248)

1. Recall how David swore,
"I'll not come into my house,
Nor go up to my bed,
Give slumber to mine eyelids,
Until I find a place for Thee,
A place, O Lord, for Thee."
Our mighty God desires a home
Where all His own may come.

2. How blinded we have been,
Shut in with what concerns us;
While God's house lieth waste—
Lord, break through, overturn us;
We'll go up to the mountain,
Bring wood and build the house;
We'll never say, "Another day!"
It's time! We'll come and build.

3. O Lord, against these days,
Inspire some for Your building,
Just as in David's day—
A remnant who are willing
To come and work in Your house,
Oh, what a blessed charge!
Your heart's desire, is our desire—
We come, O Lord, to build.

4. Within those whom You'd call
Put such a restless caring
For building to give all—
These times are for preparing;
*The gates of hell cannot prevail
Against the builded Church!*
The hours are few, the builders too—
Lord, build, O build in us!
(Repeat last four lines)

MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, April 15, 2005

7:30P.M.	Singing
8:00P.M.	Session One
10:15 – 10:30P.M.	Prayer in rooms
11:00P.M.	Lights out

Saturday, April 16, 2005

6:30 – 7:30A.M.	Rise, dress, personal morning revival
7:30 – 7:45A.M.	Corporate morning revival in rooms
8:00A.M.	Breakfast
9:00A.M. – 12:00P.M.	Session Two
12:30P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 4:00P.M.	Rest, study, activities
4:00 – 5:30P.M.	Afternoon fellowship
6:00P.M.	Dinner
7:00 – 9:30P.M.	Session Three
10:15 – 10:30P.M.	Prayer in the rooms
11:00P.M.	Lights out

Lord's Day, April 17, 2005

6:30 – 7:30A.M.	Rise, dress, personal morning revival
7:30 – 7:45A.M.	Corporate morning revival in rooms
8:00A.M.	Breakfast (please bring all your personal belongings with you)
8:45 – 9:30A.M.	Lord's table meeting
9:30A.M. – 12:15P.M.	Session Four
12:30P.M.	Lunch
1:30P.M.	Depart

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic Lessons on Service, pp. 101-102, 105

The Church: The Vision and Building Up of the Church—A Lesson Book, Level Five, pp. 10-12, 169, 175-176, 178

The Excelling Gift for the Building Up of the Church, p. 14

The Greatest Prophecy in the Bible and Its Fulfillment, pp. 7-8, 10-11, 28-30, 33-35, 54, 59-61, 71-72, 77

Hymns

Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 238-239

The Practical and Organic Building Up of the Church, pp. 44-45

Preaching the Gospel on the College Campuses, pp. 12, 14-16, 22

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COLLEGE RETREAT INFORMATION

Welcome to the College Retreat!
Please take note of the following important information.

Water

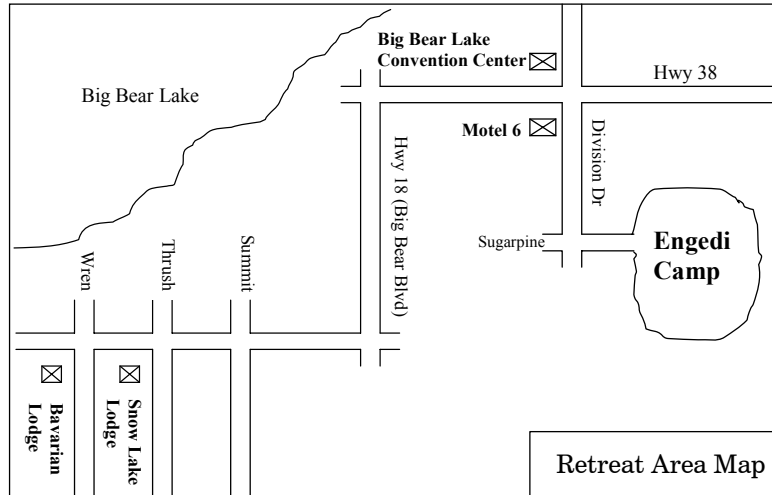
- Because of the high altitude and the dry weather, it is extremely important that you drink a lot of water to prevent dehydration, which is characterized by headache and nausea.
- A water bottle has been provided for each person registered for the retreat. Please reuse your bottle by refilling at the orange containers in the meeting area. Because water at Big Bear is of high quality, you may also refill your bottle with tap water from your hotel room or cottage kitchen.
- Additional water bottles are available for \$0.75 each. Additional conference booklets are also available for \$1.00 each.

Name Badge/Meal Ticket

- Your name badge is your meal ticket. Please wear your name badge at all meals. If you lose your badge, please contact the main registration desk for a temporary replacement.

Accommodations

- For those who are staying at Engedi Camp, please enter the cottages by the back door and leave your shoes in the utility room. This will prevent soiled carpets. If you need towels, sleeping bags, or pillows, they are available for rental at the North Haus.
- For those who are staying at one of the motels, please check out of your room before the morning meeting on Lord's Day. Do not contact the hotel desk, but open the drapes and leave the key on the table in your room when you leave.



- Because we are guests here, remember to take care of others by keeping your noise level down.

Activities

- Outdoor activities at the Engedi Camp Recreation Area include basketball, football, volleyball, baseball, and soccer.
- If you wish to go hiking, take others with you and notify a responsible one from your locality (one who will not be on the hike). Remember that we are in a wilderness area and precautions should be taken.

