

Considering Our Practice of the God Ordained Way
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**An Overview of the God Ordained Way
and Our Need to Reconsider Our Practice**

- I. The four main emphases in the Lord's recovery:
 - A. Gaining a full knowledge and experience of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4; 3:15)
 - B. Growing in life unto maturity (Col. 1:28).
 - C. Increasing in numbers by bearing remaining fruit locally (Gen. 1:28; John 12:24).
 - D. Spreading the churches as the testimony of Jesus universally (Acts 1:8).
- II. The church must have these four aspects to be balanced, and every believer should be engaged in these four aspects for the carrying out God's divine economy.
- III. We should take God's ordained way, not our natural way, in our practice of the church life.
 - A. The scriptural way
 - B. The way of the Spirit, the word and prayer (Acts 2:4, 17; 6:4, 7).
 - C. The way of begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building.
 - D. The way of remaining building (1 Cor. 3:10-12).
- IV. A charge and a question:
 - A. Practice these things, be in them, and the God of peace will be with you (1 Tim. 4:15; Phil. 4:9).
 - B. What then, brothers (1 Cor. 14:26)?

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The Supply for our Stewardship

- I. The prerequisites for our practice of the church life according to the God-ordained way:
 - A. To see the economy of God (1 Tim. 1:4).
 - B. To know the Body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23).
 - C. To realize the recovery of the Lord.
 - D. To have a clear view concerning the present situation of the Lord's recovery – the apostles' teaching and the New Testament leadership (Acts 2:42).
- II. Three basic practices for our stewardship
 - A. Being renewed day by day (2 Cor. 4:16).
 1. The overcomers are likened to the sun shining forth in the kingdom of their Father (Matt. 13:43).
 2. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until the full day (Prov. 4:18).
 - B. Rekindling our new man through prayer.
 1. We have a new man in our being which needs to be rekindled (2 Tim. 1:6).
 2. The only way to do this is by constant and continuous prayer. This is why the Bible tells us to pray unceasingly (1 Thes. 5:17).
 - C. Taking in the Lord's word and being exercised by it.
 1. Letting the word of Christ dwell in us (Col. 3:16).
 2. Applying the Lord's word, taking it in and being exercised by it.

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**Blending in Twos and Threes
Through Prayer to Bear Remaining Fruit**

- I. *Two and three* is a critical unit for fellowship, prayer, and shepherding in the local church. It brings the Lord's promise of His presence in our midst (Matt. 18:15-20).
- II. The particular significance of *two and three* in the Scriptures denotes:
 - A. Witness and testimony (Deut. 19:15; 1 Tim. 5:19).
 - B. Complement and match (Gen. 2:18).
 - C. Partnership and companionship.
 - D. Mutual help and support.
 - E. Strength and durability (Deut. 32:30).
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor; for if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm. But how can one be warm alone? And while a man may prevail against the one, the two will withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Eccl. 4:9-12).
- III. With our vital companions we must practice fellowshiping, interceding, mutually caring for one another, shepherding, and fruit-bearing.
 - A. Our coming together in small groups requires the Lord's abundant supply to overcome our natural man and to crush Satan (Eph. 1:19; Rom. 16:20).
 - B. This practice releases us from our burdens and restores our capacity for fruit-bearing (John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2).

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**Exercising our Priestly Service as We
Preach the Gospel by Visiting People**

- I. Our commission – GO and disciple all the nations (Matt. 28:19). We come and the Lord sends.
- II. Our genuine power for the gospel – the spirit of the gospel.
 - A. We should open our spirit to the Lord that we may receive the spirit of the gospel. We must become burdened in our spirit so that if we do not preach the gospel we will not be happy.
 - B. To prepare for the gospel outreach we have to continually consecrate ourselves, continually pray, and continually receive the dealings in the environment. This will bring in the Spirit.
- III. To whom shall we go?
 - A. To the Gentiles (Luke 14:23).
 - B. To the roads and hedges to compel them to come in, that His house may be filled.
 - C. To our “Jerusalem” – our close relatives and friends; then to Judea, Samaria, and eventually to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8).
 - D. To city by city, village by village (Luke 8:1), and to all the nations (Matt. 28:19).
- IV. When we should go:
 - A. Now is the acceptable time (2 Cor. 6:2).
 - B. In season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).
- V. How we should go:
 - A. Go by visiting people in their homes.
 - B. Go with a thick skin, even a brass face.
 - C. Go with your time weekly.
 - D. Go with a team.
 - E. Go with literature (tracts, Bibles, etc.).

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**The Best Environment for
Practicing the God Ordained Way**

- I. In the warm atmosphere of the saints' homes as the new place chosen by the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts.
 - A. Daily, steadfastly, and in one accord, meeting with exultation and simplicity of heart (Acts 2:46).
 - B. With profitable teaching and prayer (20:20; 12:12).
- II. In intimate small groups, not large congregations.
 - A. Even with two or three.
 - B. Having the Lord's presence (Matt: 18:20).
- III. With the healthy condition of vitality.
 - A. Abiding as branches in the Lord as the vine, because apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).
 - B. Burning in spirit, serving the Lord (Rom. 12:11).
- IV. Being spiritual in nature (1 Cor. 14:26).
 - A. Each one having something of Christ to share such as a teaching or revelation.
 - B. Doing all things for building up.
- V. Having the condition of love.
 - A. Heeding the Lord's commandment to love one another even as He loved us (John 15:12, 17).
 - B. Cherishing and nourishing one another (John 21:15-17; Eph. 5:29).
- VI. Purposing to bear fruit.
 - A. Discipling and baptizing ones into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).
 - B. Praising God and having grace with all the people; the Lord adding those who are being saved (Acts 2:47).
 - C. Fulfilling the purpose of our selection – to bear remaining fruit that the Father may be glorified (John 15:16, 8).

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**Cooperating with the Head
and Coordinating with the Members
for the Spread of the Church Life**

- I. **Our Charge:** be the Lord's witnesses and spread the truths of the gospel of God's eternal economy throughout the inhabited earth (Acts 1:8).
- II. **Our Enjoyment:** for the universal spreading of the church as the testimony of Jesus, we need to experience, enjoy, and grow Christ as the tree of life (Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7).
- III. **Our Way:** planting "church trees" for the corporate expression of the Triune God as life (John 15:1-2, 4-5, 8, 16; Acts 8:1; 13:1-3).
- IV. **Our Living:** sojourning, following the pattern of our father Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4; Heb. 11:8-10).
 - A. Living the life of the altar and the tent (Gen. 12:7-8; Heb. 11:13-16).
 - B. Offering all that we are and have to God for His purpose (Psa. 43:4; Rom. 12:1).
 - C. Migrating to spread the church life from city to city, from country to country, and from continent to continent until there are local churches all over the earth.
- V. **Our Fellowship:** unto the furtherance of the gospel until the Lord comes back (Phil. 1:5-6).
 - A. Touching the Lord as the Head in prayer to know His desire and leading (John 15:7, 16).
 - B. Fellowshiping with the church in oneness as members of the Body for our covering and for the Lord's interests (Phil. 1:27).