

MESSAGE FOUR

A Normal and Proper Christian Practice For The Building Up of The Body of Christ

*The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things;
and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:9)*

I. Consecration—the basis for every spiritual experience after regeneration

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels...

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts...

Gen. 12:7 And Jehovah appeared to Abram... And there he built an altar to Jehovah who had appeared to him.

Isa. 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.

II. Cultivating a personal, intimate, and hidden life with the Lord

S. S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.

Matt. 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And ... He was there alone.

Matt. 6:6a But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret...

Isa. 37:31 And the remnant ... of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

III. Trusting in the Lord's love and wisdom, and fully accepting His sovereignty and ways

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

2 Cor. 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take; should He try me, I would come forth as gold.

1 Pet. 5:7-8, 10

7 Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you.

8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, *and* ground you.

IV. Pursuing Christ by forgetting the things behind and stretching forward

Phil. 3:13-14

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing *I do*: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called *me* upward.

Josh. 13:1 ... and Jehovah said to him, You are old *and* advanced in age, and very much of the land remains to be possessed.

V. Pursuing with companions and developing the habit of meeting regularly

1 Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Eccl. 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor;

10 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!

11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm. But how can one be warm *alone*?

12 And while a man may prevail against the one, the two will withstand him...

Heb. 10:25 Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [NRSV]

VI. Pursuing by forgiving one another

Matt. 18:21-22, 32-35

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?

22 Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven.

32 Then his master called him to *him* and said to him, Evil slave, all that debt I forgave you, because you begged me.

33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave even as I had mercy on you?

34 And his master became angry and delivered him to the torturers until he would repay all that was owed.

35 So also will My heavenly Father do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts.

Colossians 3:13 Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also *should* you *forgive*.

VII. Pursuing by following the Lord to be fishers of men

Matt. 4:18-20

18 And while He was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

19 And He said to them, Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And immediately leaving the nets, they followed Him.

2 Kings 7:3, 8-9

3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate. And they said to one another, Why are we sitting here until we die?

8 So when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they entered one tent and began to eat and drink. And they took silver and gold and clothing from there, and went and hid *them*. And they went back and entered another tent and took *things* from there and went and hid *them*.

9 Then they said to one another, We are not doing right. This day is a day of good tidings, and we remain silent. If we delay until the morning's light, *our* iniquity will find us out. Now therefore, come and let us go and tell the king's household.

VIII. Pursuing by shepherding others

John 21:15-16 Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs ... Shepherd My sheep.

Matt. 26:33, 35

33 Then Peter answered and said to Him, If all will be stumbled because of You, I will never be stumbled.

35 ... Even if I must die with You, I will by no means deny You.

1 Pet. 5:2a Shepherd the flock of God among you...

1 Cor. 13:4a, 7 Love suffers long. Love is kind ... It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

2 Cor. 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort;

4 Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

IX. Living a prophesying life to speak the word of God for the building up of the church

Psa. 45:1 My heart overflows with a good matter; I speak what I have composed concerning the King. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

John 14:23 ... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

John 7:37-38

37 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

1 Cor. 14:4, 26, 31

4 ...he who prophesies builds up the church.

26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has...

31 For you can all prophesy one by one...

Prov. 11:25 The blessing soul will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself.