

## DAILY READING

### WEEK 11 THE GOD-ORDAINED WAY AND BEING REVIVED EVERY MORNING

#### WEEK 11 — DAY 5

#### Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Cor. 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church.

#### Teaching

Concerning the new way, the two words that I like the best are “go” and “home.” To go is to beget children, and the home is where the nourishing is done. Both the begetting and the nourishing are important matters. But after the begetting and the nourishing, there is still the need of teaching. Ephesians 4:8 and 10-11 say clearly that the ascended Head in His ascension has given many gifts to men. Some are apostles, some are prophets, some are evangelists, and some are shepherds and teachers. According to man’s natural concept, we think that all these gifts are workers sent out to work. For example, the evangelist is naturally one who goes out to travel and to preach. We consider that this work is something which we cannot do. Actually, the gifts that Paul mentions here are for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of ministry, and the work of ministry is for the building up of the Body of Christ. In other words, these gifts are for the perfecting of the saints.

Suppose I am a giant in evangelism. When I call a gospel meeting, three to five thousand people would come and listen to me. After the meeting I would have a thousand baptized. How can I take care of all these one thousand by myself? I must start a work similar to what is done in the teachers’ college, which is to raise up fifty to a hundred students to do the work of nourishing. In the end, I will not be the only one that can beget, nourish, and teach. Instead, fifty, or even five hundred will be raised up. Then everyone will be able to beget, nourish, and teach. This is the perfecting of the saints. The perfecting mentioned in Ephesians 4 is this kind of teaching.

#### Building

We all know that it is easy to beget a child. It is not too difficult to raise him up either. But teaching children takes many months and years. According to the present system of education, a child must receive sixteen years of education. Only after he finishes his college education can he be considered as having successfully completed his training. To be successfully educated means to be perfected. In spiritual education, only when a saint has been perfected to the extent that he can do the work of the New Testament ministry can his education be considered as completed. The work of the New Testament ministry is none other than the building up of the Body of Christ. This is a term that Christianity knows nothing about and is a work that is not found in Christianity, but it certainly is in the Bible. Moreover, the Lord

has shown us that when all the saints, old and young, men and women, are perfected, they can all build up the Body of Christ.

## **THE UNIVERSAL PRIESTHOOD IN THE NEW WAY**

The building up of the Body of Christ does not depend on a few people. It does not depend on the responsible brothers in a church. Nor does it depend on the co-workers or the full-timers. Rather, every one of the perfected saints should participate in the work of the building up of the Body of Christ. Begetting, nourishing, teaching, and building are the four major steps in the new way. When every one of the saints in the church can beget, nourish, teach, and build, God's eternal purpose is fulfilled. God's eternal purpose is to have the Body of Christ, and the steps to arrive at this purpose are the begetting through the preaching of the gospel, our nourishing through the home meetings, our teaching through the small group meetings, and our building up through the church meetings.

First Corinthians 14:26 says, "Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up." Here God shows us the model for the church meeting. According to Ephesians 5, the psalms are not mainly for singing in the meeting but for speaking. Verse 19 says to speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord. One can see that the hymns are not just for singing or for psalming, but are for speaking one to another. Hence, in the church meeting before we sing a hymn, it is not bad to first spend some time to speak the hymns to one another. There is one kind of taste in singing the hymns, but there is a better kind of taste in speaking the hymns. The speaking of the hymns is a kind of prophesying.—from *The New Testament Priests of the Gospel*, ch. 2.