

# PERFECTING TRAINING ON PRAYER LIFE

The Church in Brampton, Ontario

December 10, 2006

## Message Two

### Remaining in the Revived Condition of the Church in Philadelphia

**Scripture Reading:** Rev. 3:1, 2, 8, 15-16; John 15:2; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 9:25; Matt. 18:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:22

#### **I. We need to remain in the revived condition of the church in Philadelphia—Rev. 3:1, 2, 8, 15-16:**

- A. The seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 can be divided into two groups: the first four form one group and the last three form the second group.
- B. It is difficult for us to escape the conditions of the last three of the seven churches—Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
- C. Our condition revolves around the churches in the second group. It is either that of Sardis, Philadelphia, or Laodicea.
- D. In the past sixty years in the Lord's recovery, there has been the top condition of Philadelphia as well as the condition of Sardis and of Laodicea.
- E. A local church may be in the condition of Philadelphia this year, then in the condition of Sardis the next year, and then be in the condition of Laodicea the year after.
- F. Why would the church become degraded to be Laodicea? The reason is that although most people are saved and love the Lord, they do not have much fellowship with the Lord; as a result, they become old and lukewarm.

#### **II. The key is to be regulated according to the principle of life in order to be a healthy, normal, and vital believer—John 15:2; Phil. 3:16; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:6:**

- A. Life growing by regulation, issuing in maturity unto function.
- B. Taking care of life principles makes us vital; to be vital means to be normal, common, and healthy.
- C. The more we are constricted, the more we are regulated; the more we are regulated, the more healthy we are.
- D. We should pray, "Lord, give me one fruit per year, remaining fruit, healthy fruit, fruit that is healthy just as I am."

#### **III. Making a schedule and practicing according to the schedule—1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 2:5; Titus 1:8:**

- A. "And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible" (1 Cor. 9:25).
- B. We should have a proper schedule—rising up at a proper time and going to bed at a proper time, doing everything in a regulated way. We must be such a person living a normal life; we should do everything through consideration, prayer, and advance calculation.
- C. All of us, whether young or old, must make a schedule according to our environment, family, the situation in our jobs, and various other factors of our lives.
- D. We must set aside the time to go out to visit people once a week.
- E. We should never feel that this is difficult. As long as we follow the schedule and carry it out step by step, we can be absolutely sure that this is to walk in peace.

#### **IV. Finding a prayer companion through prayer—2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 18:19-20:**

- A. After you pray to the Lord, the Lord may tell you to go to fellowship with a certain brother. Perhaps at that time, you two will be organically united in the spirit
- B. After you pray together, in a few days the Lord may lead you both to contact a third brother.
- C. I can assure you that if you form your group in this way, everyone who joins your group will immediately become one with you organically.

**Excerpts from the Ministry:**

## **WE NEED TO REMAIN IN THE REVIVED CONDITION OF THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA**

In our present condition we are Sardis, Philadelphia, or Laodicea.... During the past sixty years the condition in the Lord's recovery has matched the peak condition of Philadelphia as well as the condition of Sardis and Laodicea. We have experienced and expressed all three conditions. At times we are Philadelphia, which is living and keeps the Lord's word. At other times we are half dead and half living. And at still other times we are neither cold nor hot. (*Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching*. Chapter 15, p. 210 in Chinese.)

A local church may be in the condition of Philadelphia this year, in the condition of Sardis the next year, and in the condition of Laodicea the following year. When a church declines, there is no speaking and then there is no activity, no work.

When the sisters are strong and living in prayer, they have the condition of Philadelphia. When the brothers meet the Lord in the morning and touch the throne of grace, they are in the condition of Philadelphia. In the afternoon, however, they may be provoked by their wives and become deflated. Thus, they are Philadelphia in the morning and Sardis in the afternoon. Our condition is not constant. This also applies to the church. (*Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching*. Chapter 15, p. 212 in Chinese.)

## **THE KEY IS TO BE REGULATED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF LIFE TO BECOME A HEALTHY, NORMAL, AND VITAL BELIEVER**

### **Life Growing by Regulation**

We need to see that even this growth needs regulation...In the training, you are restricted...Such restriction and regulation helps you to grow.

You like to be free. To be free means not to be regulated. You may not like to be regulated by anybody. But when you are not regulated, you are through with the growth. To put you in the training is to put you in an environment for your growth. The training is the best environment for you to grow. I encourage all of you to remain here....Do not quit....You have to be here to be terminated. Then you will go back with a lot of growth....The divine life grows not in a complacent environment but in an environment of difficulty, troubles, and hardships.

Since you desire to be very useful in the Lord's hands, you need to realize that you need the maturity. This maturity comes out of growth. Without growth, even if you have the divine life, there is no maturity. The life plus the growth gives you the maturity. This growth always comes from the coordination of regulation with life. The divine life is precious, the regulation is lovely, and the growth is so valuable because it issues in maturity which gives you the function. (*An Opening Word to the Full-time Trainees concerning Regulations and Opinions*, pp. 4-6)

### **Taking Care of the Life Principles Makes Us Vital**

What is it to be vital? To be vital is to be common. We Christians should be common in a living way. We should always contact the Lord, trying our best to remain in our spirit, doing everything according to the spirit, and praying unceasingly. This makes us a common believer, a vital believer. I can testify that without a certain amount of prayer, I cannot give a message. The message comes out of my common prayer. If we do not have a time to be with the Lord in the morning to have some prayer, we will become weak and down. The only way to rise up is to pray, "Lord, forgive me and cleanse me. Lord, anoint me." Taking care of the life principles makes us vital.

We should carry out what God has ordained. God ordained that we should bear fruit. God ordained that we should contact people for His kingdom's sake. This is God's ordination, and we have to carry it out. If we do not carry out God's ordination, we can never be common. Instead, we will be abnormal Christians. Physically speaking, we must breathe, eat, sleep, and exercise properly if we want to be normal and healthy. If we do not take care of these things, it is impossible for us to be healthy. To be vital simply means to be healthy, and to be healthy we need to breathe, to pray. We have to eat and drink the Lord. We also need to exercise to do something. At least we need to go out twice a week to contact people. This is God's ordination, and we have to carry it out. We also need to rest. To sleep means to rest in the Lord. Do not think that to be vital is a miracle. To be vital is just to be common, to be normal. (*The Training and the Practice of the Vital Groups*, pp. 169-170)

**The More We Are Constricted, the More We Are Regulated.  
The More We Are Regulated, the More We Are Healthy.**

We may wonder why we cannot see much bearing of fruit among us. The fruit of life does not come by means of a miracle. We need to see that the more we are constricted, the more we are regulated. The more we are regulated, the more we are healthy. Then we are ready to bear fruit. Fruit comes out of our health. A sick tree cannot bear fruit. Living things which are sick cannot produce. God's ordination is for living things such as the trees to grow vitally. We Christians should also be growing vitally. To be vital means to be healthy. We need to be healthy and normal. We should not expect to get many persons saved. We should always be prepared to bear one remaining fruit a year. We should pray, "Lord, give me one fruit per year, remaining fruit, healthy fruit, fruit that is healthy just as I am." (*The Training and the Practice of the Vital Groups*, pp. 166-167)

## **MAKING A SCHEDULE AND PRACTICING ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE**

### **We Should Have A Proper Schedule, with Everything Regulated**

The Bible reveals that a proper Christian should love the Lord, take Him as the center, and give Him the preeminence, offering Him the first place. Such a person should have a proper condition in his daily life. His schedule should have a proper time to rise and go to bed. He should do everything in a regulated way. We must be such people, living a normal life; everything we do should be through consideration, prayer, and advance calculation, whether it is going to bed, rising in the morning, eating our meals, or taking care of our business. If, according to our situation, it is right for us to rise at 6:30 in the morning, we should practice this daily. The first thing we should do after waking up is to draw near to the Lord. Before getting out of bed, we should call on the Lord, being careful not to disturb others. Following this, we should read a short portion of the Lord's Word. We should read at least two verses from the Bible, pray-reading the verses, reading by praying. Then while we are preparing for the day, we should muse over these verses. This is the proper condition of those who love the Lord as normal Christians. (*Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching*. Chapter 14, pp. 215-216 in Chinese.)

We should make a schedule for the seven days of the week that begins with rising in the morning and ends with going to bed in the evening. The schedule should include what we do each day. Because every person has his own circumstances we should make our own schedule. This schedule will naturally reflect the specifics of our circumstances. If we love the Lord and pursue the Lord, we should make a schedule and practice according to our schedule. Otherwise, we will not succeed. (*Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching*. Chapter 14, p. 206 in Chinese.)

## **All of Us, Whether Young or Old, Must Make A Schedule According to Our Environment, Family, the Situation in Our Jobs, and Various Kinds of Other Factors**

The church is taking the new way, but this does not mean that it neglects the spiritual care of the brothers and sisters. We must rise up in the morning to contact the Lord through His Word. Our Bible is an opened Bible. If we pray-read it and study it diligently, we will be edified in life. May we all receive the Lord's grace to practice this. In addition, all of us, whether young or old, must all make a schedule, according to our environment, family, jobs, and other factors in our lives. The schedule should include when to go to bed and when wake up. This will give us a regulated living. If a lover of the Lord is not regulated in his daily living, he will surely fail. We should exercise self-control and be restricted in all things. It is not appropriate to conduct ourselves according to impulse. We must rise up in the morning at regular time to enjoy the Lord and go to bed at regular time. Then we can rise up early the next day. (Three Crucial Matters for the Increase and Building of the Church—Begetting, Nourishing, and Teaching. Chapter 16, p. 232 in Chinese.)

### **FINDING A PRAYER COMPANION THROUGH PRAYER**

#### **Pursue with Those Who Call on the Lord Out of A Pure Heart**

[Second Timothy chapter 2] verse 22 continues, "But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Timothy should beware not only of outward corruption among the churches, but also of inward lusts within himself. He must avoid the outward corruption and flee the inward lusts. Furthermore, he should pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Righteousness is toward self, faith is toward God, and love is toward others. Peace is the consequence of these three virtues. (Life-study of 2 Timothy, p. 43)

#### **After You Pray to the Lord, the Lord May Tell You to Go to Fellowship with A Certain Brother. Perhaps at That Time, You Two Will Be Joined together Organically in Spirit**

After you pray to the Lord, the Lord may tell you to go to fellowship with a certain brother. While you are on your way to contact this brother, you should pray, "Lord, what should I say to him?" Do everything by prayer; this makes a difference.

If the brother agrees to join you, you should still pray, "Lord, what shall we do? My brother desires to join me. What shall we do?" In such a situation you should pray and not dominate the other brother by telling him what to do. Rather, you should ask him, "Now that you have expressed your desire to join me, what shall we do?" The other brother may propose that the two of you come together to pray and fellowship the next day. From the time that he says he will join you and you answer him by asking him what you should do, the two of you will be organically united in the Spirit. Your relationship will be different from what it was before. Immediately the Holy Spirit will confirm this, making the two of you one. The two of you will love each other more than ever. Then you will learn of him and he will learn of you.

After you pray together, in a few days the Lord may lead you both to contact a third brother. Through your prayerful contact with him, he may agree to join you. Now you have a group of three. I can assure you that if you form your group in this way, everyone who joins your group will immediately become one with you organically. (*Fellowship concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, pp. 11-12)