

## Message Three

### **Following the Lamb Wherever He May Go— a Desperate Need to Recover the Spirit of Absoluteness, the Spirit of Sojourning, the Spirit of Prayer, and the Spirit of the Gospel for the Lord's Present Move**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 14:1, 4; Matt. 4:19-20; 10:38; Luke 9:23, 58-62; Heb. 11:8; 1 Tim. 2:1, 8; Isa. 56:7; Mark 11:17a; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 8:4

#### **I. We must be those who follow the Lamb wherever He may go—Rev. 14:1, 4; Matt. 4:19-20; 10:38; Luke 9:23:**

- A. The early overcomers, the firstfruits of the believers, those who will be raptured before the great tribulation, are those who follow the Lamb wherever He may go—Rev. 14:4.
- B. It is not that the Lamb follows us but that we follow Him wherever He goes; we all need to learn the lesson of following the Lamb wherever He goes.
- C. We need to follow the Lamb wherever He may go to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole inhabited earth for the propagation and development of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom to consummate this age—Matt. 24:14; Mark 4:26.
- D. The principle in becoming the firstfruits is that we must follow the Lamb wherever He goes by having the Lamb constituted into our being—cf. Exo. 12:8, 11.
- E. In Song of Songs the Shulammitte, having become Solomon's duplication, works as Solomon's counterpart to carry out with her Beloved the work that is for the entire world by sojourning from one place to another—S. S. 7:11; 6:13, and footnote 1.

#### **II. We must recover the spirit of absoluteness—Luke 9:58-62:**

- A. All problems issue from this one thing: a lack of absoluteness; we all must learn to be absolute; if we are absolute, ninety-nine percent of our problem has been solved; if we are absolute, we will immediately be clear, and we will know what to do.
- B. If we want to see an absolute recovery of the gospel, we must have an absolute consecration; both have to be absolute and thorough.
- C. We should receive the Savior's encouragement to pay the price that we might become His followers in His great commission to announce the kingdom of God everywhere—v. 59, and footnote 1.
- D. We need to pray, "Lord Jesus, I cannot be absolute for God, but You are absolute, and You can be my absoluteness"; this is to take Christ, the Son given to us by God, as the burnt offering.
- E. If we really treasure the Lord, nothing will be too much or too expensive to offer to Him; we would not be ashamed to pour out our most cherished and precious treasures on Him; He is worthy of our total abandonment. Is our valuation of Him so high that it transcends everything?

#### **III. We must recover the spirit of sojourning—Heb. 11:8-16; 2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Pet. 1:1, 17; cf. Gen. 12:7-8; 13:18:**

- A. All believers are heavenly sojourners, sojourning as foreigners on this earth. These sojourners are God's elect, chosen by God out of the human race, out of all the nations, according to His foreknowledge—1 Pet. 1:1, 17; 2:11.

- B. The Epistle to the Hebrews charges the believers, who were in danger of shrinking back, to live, to walk, to go on, by faith, that is, not by appearance—10:39.
- C. Abraham is an example of one who acted by faith in the Lord's word; he was called and sent by the Lord to Canaan, but the Lord did not tell him exactly where He wanted him to go; nevertheless, Abraham still took action according to the Lord's word—11:8.
- D. When Abraham went out, he did not even know where to go; this afforded him constant opportunity to exercise his faith to trust in God for His instant leading, taking God's presence as the map for his traveling.
- E. The Lord will not tell you beforehand by giving you a driving map; instead, the Lord Himself is the map; Abraham walked in this way by following the Lord instantly step by step.
- F. The believers in Christ, the real Hebrews, should follow their spiritual forefathers, considering themselves strangers and sojourners (pilgrims, exiles, expatriates) on the earth and looking forward to the God-built city and the heavenly country, which is better than the earthly one—vv. 9-10, 13-14, 16; 13:14.
- G. "Who among us is willing to be sent by the Lord to another place for the spreading of the divine truths? Instead of having the burden to migrate to spread the Lord's recovery, many of us have become set, settled, and occupied" (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 37).
- H. We should tell the Lord, "Lord,...I do not want there to be anything set, settled, or occupied with me. I want to be fully open to You for Your new move on this earth. Lord, I give myself to You. Come in and occupy, take, and possess me for Your up-to-date move on this earth" (*A Young Man in God's Plan*, p. 11).

**IV. We must recover the spirit of prayer—1 Tim. 2:1, 8; Isa. 56:7; Mark 11:17a:**

- A. God's building—the church, the Body of Christ, as the temple of God—is a house of prayer—Isa. 56:7; Mark 11:7a; John 2:16-17, 19-21; 14:2; Heb. 3:6.
- B. We need to be vital, and to be vital is to have the real burden for prayer; there is the need for real prayer among us.
- C. In the church we pray for the fulfillment of God's desire, the carrying out of God's will, and the accomplishment of God's economy—1 Kings 8:48, and footnote 1; Dan. 9:1-23; John 15:7; Matt. 6:10; Eph. 3:14-21; 5:27; Rev. 14:1; 21:2.
- D. In His heavenly ministry Christ is interceding, ministering, and executing God's administration, and we need to be those who respond to Christ's activities in His heavenly ministry by our prayers—Heb. 2:17; 4:14; 7:25-26; 8:1-2; Rev. 5:6; Col. 3:1-4.
- E. If we seek the things above and have one life and one living with Christ, we will be wholly occupied with the Lord's interest; our heart will be with Him in the heavens, where He is interceding for the churches, supplying the saints, and administering God's government—vv. 1-4, 7.
- F. God's move is like a train, which must have rails for its move; man's prayers are like the rails, which pave the way for God's move to go on; there is no other way to bring God's economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer—Dan. 6:10; 9:3; Neh. 1:4.
- G. In the church we pray in an executing way, binding on earth what has been bound in heaven and loosing on earth what has been loosed in heaven; this is the prayer of the Body—Matt. 18:18-19.

- H. In order for our service to be fragrant, sweet, fresh, and valuable, we must have much prayer; all the churches should be filled with the atmosphere of prayer, and prayer should be the strength of the churches—Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:17-20; Luke 19:46.
  - I. We must all learn to pray and not make decisions too quickly concerning our going out for the Lord's present move; we should pray much concerning who should go and when, where, and how they should move.
  - J. We all need to drop our concepts, have no opinions, be unloaded, and support those who go out by our prayer; the older ones must pray day and night for the young people to carry out the Lord's recovery in this way; if we take this way, the Lord will gain the United States, Europe, and Israel.
- V. We must recover the spirit of the gospel—Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 8:4:**
- A. God's unique purpose in this age is to have the gospel preached so that the church might be built up to consummate the New Jerusalem; the overcomers who preach the gospel of the kingdom become the "riders" of the white horse; their preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is the greatest sign of the end of the age—Matt. 24:14; Eph. 3:8-11; Rev. 6:1-2; 19:11, 13-14.
  - B. Concerning the preaching of the gospel, we have to pay attention to two things: first, the church must have the spirit of the gospel; second, the whole church must be active in preaching.
  - C. In order to preach the gospel, we must have the spirit of the gospel; this is the only thing that will bring in the genuine power of the gospel; if we would open our spirit to the Lord, we would surely receive the spirit of the gospel from God.
  - D. Those who are zealous for the gospel are pressed by a gospel spirit, and they feel uncomfortable and painful if they do not preach the gospel.
  - E. We must see that the effectiveness of the gospel lies not in reasoning but in the release of the spirit; when you preach the gospel, you should take care of the spirit of gospel preaching and allow your spirit to be released; to lead people to salvation, you have to be thick-skinned and have an open mouth and a released spirit.
  - F. The first thing we should do when we get to a new place is to ignite the fire of the gospel; we must be armed with a gospel spirit; these things are greatly related to the spiritual atmosphere of a place.
  - G. We need to live uniquely for the gospel, going with the authority of Christ; if we have received Christ, abide in Him, have Him abiding in us, and are one spirit with Him, we have the authority in heaven and on earth to go. "The worth and importance of the word 'go' cannot be measured. Go, go, go! Go to Jerusalem first, then Judea, then Samaria, then to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8). Go to all the homes in all the countries. Go to your cousins' homes, go to your in-laws' homes. Go to the homes to disciple the nations" (*Being Desperate and Living Uniquely for the Gospel*, p. 35).
  - H. In Acts 8:4 we have a pattern of preaching the gospel through the scattering, the migrating, of the saints; through this scattering, the good news was brought to many cities; when the saints migrate, the gospel goes out with them; we all should learn to migrate.