

## **OUR COOPERATION WITH GOD'S OPERATION URGENTLY NEEDED TO END THIS AGE**

### Message Four

Luke 9:58; Matt. 13:3; Luke 4:43; Mark 16:15; Acts 2:47; John 15:16

#### **IV. To cooperate with God's operation, we must have constant contacts:**

- A. Look at the Lord's life on earth in the gospels; He was continually contacting people and many of these individually:
  - 1. He had no fixed address—Luke 9:58.
  - 2. He constantly went out to sow—Matt. 13:3.
  - 3. He went from village to village—Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43.
  - 4. At the end of His earthly ministry, He told the disciple-apostles to do the same thing: to go to gain men—Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8.
- B. At the beginning of the church life in Acts 2, the saints not only contacted one another but unsaved ones as well:
  - 1. They continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers which were "cooperation with the Lord in heaven for the carrying out of God's New Testament economy on earth"—footnote 1, Acts 2:42.
  - 2. These prayers were no doubt for more people to be gained for the Lord; and these prayers were answered by the Lord who was adding together day by day those who were being saved—v. 47.
  - 3. They overflowed ("praising God") in contacting and gaining new ones daily.
- C. What is it to live a normal Christian life? Three things are needed:
  - 1. Seeking after the Lord for His life, desiring to experience Him, grow in Him, live Him, and express Him—Gal. 2:20.
  - 2. Coming to the weekly meetings of the church.
  - 3. Going to contact people:
    - a. Our meaning for being on this earth is not just to make a living for our existence.
    - b. Our living on this earth is for the Lord so that we can contact people and so that He can gain them through us.
    - c. Every year we should endeavor to gain someone for the Lord, having sown the seed of Christ, something of the Word, into them:
      - (1) This seed will remain in them, and our work will never be in vain.
      - (2) This is the real meaning of life for Christians.
- D. Today the Lord is calling for overcomers to pay the price to spend a few hours every week to contact people:
  - 1. We should not think that since we are in the church life and in the Lord's recovery that we are overcomers.
  - 2. The overcomers are the vitalized ones, willing to pay the price to contact people.
  - 3. This is not comfortable, convenient, or merely routine; this is the path the Lord took.
- E. We must stress one thing: to contact people—friends, relatives, even "cold doors":
  - 1. If we mean business in practicing to be vital, we need to contact people—sinners as well as saints—with endurance.
  - 2. This is not quick, not "easy street," or instant—but it will be a profit for the Lord and will vitalize us more and more.

3. We must make the new ones our constant contacts, not moving too quickly with them; we want our fruit to “remain”—John 15:16.
4. Remember, to get the new ones saved and baptized is just their entry into the Christian life; raising them up by feeding, teaching, training, and perfecting follows; we need to spend a lot of time to do this.
5. We should have our hands full of people, even four or five; this will practically save us from the world and the self.
6. This actual and practical cooperation with God’s present operation becomes our employment and enjoyment; then for the long run we all will see the rich fruitfulness.
7. “Beginning from this day, I hope we all will have a resolution in the depths of our heart to contact people through prayer, with prayer, and in prayer and to make each one of our contacts a constant one” (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1993, vol. 2, “The Training and the Practice of the Vital Groups,”* p. 337).