

Message Two (a)
The Practice of Prophesying
for the Building Up of the Church as an Exceedingly
Great Army

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 37:4-10; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Acts 5:20; 6:4

Ezk 37:4 *Then He said to me, Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah.*

Ezk 37:5 *Thus says the Lord Jehovah to these bones: I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.*

Ezk 37:6 *And I will put sinews on you and bring flesh back on you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you will know that I am Jehovah.*

Ezk 37:7 *So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.*

Ezk 37:8 *And I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh came back, and skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

Ezk 37:9 *Then He said to me, Prophecy to the wind; prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.*

Ezk 37:10 *So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them; and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

Mt 16:18 *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

1Co 14:4 *He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.*

I. Prophesying (speaking for the Lord and speaking forth the Lord into one another) in the meetings of the church fulfills the greatest prophecy in the Bible, which is to build up the church (in oneness as an exceedingly great army)—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Ezek. 37:4-10.

II. We need to live a prophesying life by loving the Lord to the uttermost:

- A. The more we love the Lord, the more we are qualified, perfected, and equipped to speak for the Lord.
- B. Our love for the Lord is the factor, the element, and the very basic essence of our having the authority and impact and of our being powerful in our speaking for the Lord (Peace Wang is an example of this—see *Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ*, pp. 33-34).

Jn 7:37 *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.*

Jn 7:38 *He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.*

Jn 7:39 *But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

- C. If we love the Lord, we will be filled with Him; whatever fills us within will come out of us; the overflow comes from the in-filling—John 7:37-39; Rev. 2:4-5; cf. Mal. 3:14 and footnote.

[1Co 2:9](#) *But as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

[1Co 2:10](#) *But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

- D. When we love the Lord to the uttermost, we must speak; we must release the One who has filled us within—1 Cor. 2:9-10.

III. By taking the way of PSRP (pray-reading, studying, reciting, and prophesying), we will be able to nourish people with the unsearchable riches of Christ:

- A. Pray-reading is a very important part of PSRP; we study the Bible by pray-reading the Bible.

[Ac 6:4](#) *But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.*

- B. Prophesying requires a lot of prayer—Acts 6:4; cf. Heb. 7:25; 8:2:

1. To pray is not only to entreat the Lord to do things for His move but also to cause our spirit to be exercised and strengthened.

[2Co 13:3](#) *Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.*

[2Co 13:4](#) *For indeed He was crucified out of weakness, but He lives by the power of God. For indeed we are weak in Him, but we will live together with Him by the power of God directed toward you.*

2. Hence, prayer should precede the ministry of the word, just as the apostles practiced; without such prayer the ministry of the word will not be enlivened and empowered—cf. John 7:37-39; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3; 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.
3. “This is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15; cf. Matt. 7:7); these verses are an encouragement to pray back to the Lord the things that are according to His will in the Bible, His testament, His covenant.