



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. XI.07

Speaking to Yourselves

Lest there be misunderstanding intially in this *Merssage*, a little lesson in English may be helpful. *Yourselves* is a reflexive pronoun which gives light to the understanding of the scripture in this series of *Messages*.

This is a time, as has always been in history, that we need to be strengthen in the Word of the Lord, the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and the written Word, the Holy Bible. We need the strength of those who are born again, those who are walking on the narrow way (Mt 7.13,14).

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *[is]* the gate, and broad *[is]* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therewith:

Because strait *[is]* the gate, and narrow *[is]* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

This is important to our walk with the Lord because the next verse (13) makes clear why.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

There are more verses yet to read in Chapter 13, verses 21-23.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Back to the English lesson at hand. "Speaking to yourselves" as used in Ephesians 5.20 aligns with Acts 2 (41-44) and Hebrews 10.25.

We are strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Word when we come together under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is as the Holy Word is read and preached, as we hear the Word of the Lord, that we are strengthened personally but also as the body of Christ. It is as we come together as the body of Christ that we go forth in His Name to serve Him that He is glorified in us and through us.

"Speaking to yourselves" is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Recall those that came together, the one hundred twenty men and women in the Upper Room whose lives were changed and they were endued with power to go forth in ministry (Acts 1.8).

As we come together, it is important that our hearts be lifted unto the Lord as we sing the songs of Zion, as we give honor and glory, and praise unto the Lord.

I believe it is in *Speaking to yourselves* that we can "Go Forth in Great Confidence" as the body of Christ - wherever He leads each of us. We will say with Isaiah (Chapter 6, verse 8) "Here am I; send me."

Soldiers preparing for war, anointed with power by your King,
Now gird up the loins of your minds that you may be fully prepared.

.....

Know, too, the love of your brethren, let it encourage you,
For though you go forth from their midst, still you remain one with them.

Refrain

Go forth in great confidence for you shall not be put down.
Go forth in great confidence for you shall not be put down.
For your God goes forth with you. You shall not be put down!

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Ministry, serving the Lord Jesus Christ, is about the body of Jesus Christ walking together in unity of the Holy Spirit to bring honor and glory to the Lord, to His Holy Name. This is not an individual walk, though we may *seemingly* be walking alone. This is walking with the Lord Who guides His followers and strengthens them as they walk trusting Him with all their Heart, and lean not unto their own understanding (Pro 3.5, 6).

Speaking to yourselves, is sharing the Word of the Lord as "we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph 4.11).

Paul writes in Ephesians 4.11-16 that we are to edify Christ's Holy Church, those who are born again, as we come together in person and/or in prayer one for another.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
That we *[henceforth]* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *[and]* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *[even]* Christ:
From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Most of the old hymns are no longer sung. Those "*in charge*" now have *rules* against the Christians (those who are born again); and there are those who know not the Lord Jesus Christ standing on the pulpitum (*stage*) leading people to a social life and to sing songs of the world as well as reading "versions" of the *bible*, changing words so the world will understand according to their way of life. Oh, Satan has deceived many today. We even hear, "You cannot say that – it is offensive to 'others'."

How long since you heard "Onward Christian Soldiers" sung? There is a song that touches my heart, "Go Forth in Great Confidence." This is a song that is significant; read the words as you pray. I can almost hear the body of Christ singing as Zion lies before us, strengthening us as we continue walking the *Via Dolorosa, the way of the Cross*.

Lest you think I lost track of the *Message* for July, Acts 2.38-47 shows forth how the body of Christ is "Speaking to yourselves . . ." and how the body of Christ is

strengthened to go on with the Lord, as each is called to walk with the Lord, as each is ministering under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *[unto them]* about three thousand souls.
And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *[men]*, as every man had need.
And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

There are many all through the centuries, to include today and even where we live, that may have felt they were walking alone, those that have been tortured, persecuted, for the Lord Jesus Christ. These are a part of the family of God in Christ Jesus that I personally pray for daily. Do I know them? Oh, I have read about many who have walked this *road* for the Lord, but I do not know them. But, as a member of the body of Christ, I can pray, pray for them to be strengthened. I pray for the Lord's loving presence to fill them to overflowing.

When we cannot come together physically, we can come together in the Lord, and pray one for another, that we will follow Paul's directive of "Speaking to yourselves."

Paul goes on to say in Ephesians 5.19:

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Speaking to yourselves is endeavouring to edify one another and seeking that our hearts will be cleansed as we sing the songs of praise. The Psalms were sung since before the Primitive and Early Church. They bring us to a level of devotion to the Lord unto Whom we sing. We are exhorted to sing the Psalms of David and hymns giving honor unto the Lord. Making melody is the joy of the Lord that comes forth giving glory and honor unto the Lord; it is lifting our hearts unto the Redeemer.

Oh, let us not make a mockery unto the Lord by all the entertainment going on in "meetings," that those of the world have brought to the "meetings". Too much singing is given forth with the lips to entertain the people. If the time coming together is about self-gratification, about *feeling good*, about pleasing the attendees, then we have to ask, where is the Spirit of the Lord God. We have to search our hearts, our souls, search the Word of the Lord and seek the Lord that we might walk in obedience to the Word of the Lord.

Let us understand that hymns are "not such as are made by good men, without the inspiration of the Spirit of God" (Gill). Much today that is written may be found wanting, lacking, concerning the seeking of the Lord in what is done in worship, for many are seeking to present a goodly gospel in music as well as in the *preached word*.