

# PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL

## Message 1

### **Sharpened Arrows – Young, Willing Warriors for God's Purpose** (Ps. 127:4-5)

#### **I. God needs a young army** (Ps. 110:3)

- A. Our christian life is a battle  
(1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3)
  - 1. Against the devil and the powers of darkness  
(Mark 3:27; Luke 22:31; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:3)
  - 2. Against the flesh (Gal. 5:17)
  - 3. Against the present evil age (Gal. 1:4; 1 Joh. 2:15-17)
- B. In order to ultimately conquer all of His enemies  
(Luke 10:18-19; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 19:13-14)
- C. In order to bring His kingdom down on earth  
(Matt. 11:12; Heb. 12:28)
- D. So that we receive the crown  
(1 Cor. 9:24-25; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)
- E. He is seeking those, whom He can send  
(Is. 6:8; Matt. 22:3-5)

#### **II. Our reaction – Follow His call willingly**

- A. Be available to the Lord
  - 1. Willing (Ex. 35:29)
  - 2. In simplicity and purity (Matt. 4:20-22)
  - 3. Today and now (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8)
- B. Not dependent upon our capabilities or qualifications  
(2 Cor. 3:5-6)
- C. Forget the past (Phil. 3:13)

### **III. Willing to be sharpened**

- A. As a vessel for honor, useful for the Lord (2 Tim. 2:21)
- B. Through the Holy Spirit and grace  
(John 16:13; Rom. 8:13; 1 John 2:27; Tit. 2:11-12)
- C. To set a goal and pursue it (Phil. 3:14)

## **Part 1: The Goal of Our Christian Life**

### **Message 2**

#### **Individually**

- I. To love the Lord** (Deut. 6:5; 11:1, 13; 30:6;  
Josh. 22:5; 23:11; Matt. 22:37; John 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:22)
- II. To be well pleasing to God in all things**  
(2 Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10)
- III. To know Christ, to gain Him and to live Him**  
(Phil. 3:7-10)
- IV. To actively pursue sanctification**  
(Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 3:12-13; 4:2-5, 7; 5:23-24)
  - A. Being trained by grace (Tit. 2:11-14)
  - B. Consecrating the members of your body (Rom. 6:19)
  - C. Experiencing the cross of Christ (Gal. 2:19-20; 5:16, 24)
  - D. Not drawing back (Heb. 10:38)
- V. To be conformed and transformed into the image of the firstborn Son** (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:16-18)
  - A. Taking every opportunity (Rom. 8:28)
  - B. Turning our hearts to the Lord constantly  
(2 Cor. 3:16-18)
  - C. Beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord
  - D. By the Lord, who is the Spirit

---

## **Message 3**

### **Corporately**

#### **I. To build up the church**

(Matt. 16:18; 1.Cor. 3:6-12; 14:12, 26b)

- A. As the body of Christ – for Christ’s expression and movement on this earth
- B. As the bride of Christ – for the Lord’s satisfaction
- C. As the golden lamp stand – a living testimony and a light of life for the unbelievers in this world today
- D. As the kingdom of God (1 Pet. 2:9) – for the defeat of God’s enemies today and ushering in God’s kingdom to this earth

#### **II. To serve in the priesthood**

- A. The church life – a priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5)
- B. Serving together in the Spirit of oneness
  - 1. In the gospel of His Son (Rom. 1:9)
  - 2. Nourishing and cherishing one another (Eph. 5:29)
  - 3. Burning in the spirit (Rom. 12:11)
  - 4. Faithful to the end (Rev. 2:10)

#### **III. To hasten the return of the Lord Jesus Christ**

(2 Pet. 3:9-13)

## **Message 4**

### **Sharpened Arrows for the Lord in the Gospel**

(Ps. 127:3-5; Rev. 6:1-2)

#### **I. The necessity for sharpened arrows**

- A. God loves man and wants all men to be saved (John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 3:8; Rom. 1:16)
- B. Satan hates man and holds all men captive in the world and in religion (John 8:44; 1 John 5:19; Rev. 18:2; Ps. 126:1, 4)

**II. Fellow workers for the gospel (Phil. 4:3)**

- A. Sons of youth (Ps. 127:4)
- B. Standing firm in one spirit (Phil. 1:27; Rom. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:7-8)
- C. Persevering in prayer (Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18)
- D. Not being ashamed for the sake of the gospel (1 Tim. 6:12; Eph. 6:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:8; 4:1-2)
- E. Enduring hardship for the sake of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8, 12; 2:3)

**Message 5****A Holy Priesthood, Serving the Lord**

(1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6)

**I. The Priesthood**

- A. Redeemed to God by blood – God’s possession (Rev. 5:9-10; Numbers 8:14)
- B. A people of priests and kings – everyone should serve the Lord (Ex. 19:6; Eph. 4:12)
- C. A gift from God (Numbers 18:7)
- D. The Lord is their inheritance (Numbers 18:20)

**II. The priestly service for the building up of the church and for the gospel (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)**

- A. Serving before God and not to please men (Ezek. 44:10-16; Rom. 1:9; 15:16; Gal. 1:10; Phil. 2:3-5)
- B. Serving with what we have received from the Lord (Numbers 18:29; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Pet. 2:5)
- C. Making intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)
- D. Serving God and not mammon (Matt. 6:24, 33-34)

## **Message 6**

### **The Ultimate Goal**

#### **I. The final harvest (Rev. 14)**

- A. The firstfruits (Rev. 14:1-5)
- B. The general harvest (Rev. 14:14-16; 1 Thess. 4:17)
- C. The harvest of the grapes of wrath (Rev. 14:17-20)

#### **II. To become the firstfruits for the enjoyment of God our Father (Rev. 14:1-5)**

- A. Reaching early maturity
  - 1. Learning a new song
  - 2. The daily exercise to mature
- B. Ready for rapture to the heavenly Zion
  - 1. Virgins – not defiled (Gal. 5:16)
  - 2. Following the Lamb (Matt. 16:24-28)
  - 3. No deceit in their mouths  
(1 Pet. 2:1-3; James 3:5-10; Ps. 120:1-7)
  - 4. Without fault before the throne of God

#### **III. To attend the wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-9)**

- A. The bride needs to make herself ready today (Phil. 2:12)
- B. The preparation of the wedding garment (Eph. 5:26-27; Ps. 45:13-15)
  - 1. Being washed daily by the blood of the Lamb and by the living water of the Spirit (Rev. 7:13-14; 1 Cor. 6:11)
  - 2. Experiencing Christ as our righteousness (Phil. 3:9)
  - 3. Gaining the divine nature (gold)
  - 4. Living by Christ (Phil. 1:19)

**IV. To reign with Christ in the coming kingdom**

(Rev. 20:4, 6)

- A. Sitting in the heavens with Christ today (Eph. 2:6)
- B. Coming each day to His throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)
- C. Reigning in life (Rom. 5:17)
  - 1. Sin and death no longer have dominion over us (Rom. 6:12-14)
  - 2. Resisting the devil (James 4:7)
- D. Letting Christ reign in your heart (Eph. 3:17)
- E. Defeating His enemy and bringing God's kingdom to this earth (Rom. 16:20; Ps. 110:1-7)

---

## **Part 2: Our Cooperation to Achieve the Goal**

### **Message 7**

#### **Realizing our Responsibility before God** (2 Cor. 5:10)

##### **I. We have responsibility before God**

- A. The judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-11)
- B. We must give account of our conduct  
(Luke 16:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:4-5; Rom. 14:12)
- C. The Lord seeks those who recognize their responsibility
- D. Our firm decision out of a free will— a firm purpose of heart to cooperate with our Lord  
(Acts 11:23; 1 Cor. 15:9-10)

##### **II. The parable of the entrusted talents**

(Matt. 25:14-30)

- A. Reacting immediately – our time (Matt. 25:16; Rev. 1:3)
- B. Going forth and trading with what we have received  
(2 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 8:32; Matt. 25:15; 2 Cor. 6:1)
- C. Gaining more talents (Phil. 3:8; Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:10)
- D. The joy of the Lord (Matt. 25:21)

### **Message 8**

#### **Walking by the Spirit in our spirit** (Rom. 8)

##### **I. God dwells in Christ as the Spirit in our spirit**

- A. Christ in us – the hope of glory (Col. 1:27)
- B. A treasure in earthen vessels (2 Cor. 4:7)

##### **II. We are in Christ – the prerequisite to walk in the Spirit**

- A. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:1-4)
- B. We are placed into Christ  
(Gal. 3:27; Rom. 8:9-12; John 15:4-7)

**III. Our cooperation to walk in the Spirit**

- A. Exercising to be spiritually minded  
(Rom. 8:5-6; Gal. 5:16, 25; Col. 3:1-3)
- B. Taking heed to the inner speaking of the Anointing  
(1 John 2:27; Heb. 3:7-8, 15; 4:7; Rom. 12:11)
- C. Not holding fast to our soul life (Matt. 16:24-26)

**VI. Not accepting any condemnation**

- A. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus  
(Rom. 8:1)
- B. God lets all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28-30)
- C. Nothing can separate us from the love of God  
(Rom. 8:31-39)

**Message 9****Realizing the Strategies of the Enemy** (2 Cor. 2:11)**I. To hate the flesh, the self, and the soul life**  
**(Matt. 16:21-28)**

- A. The devil is a murderer and a liar from the beginning  
(John 8:44; Gen. 3)
- B. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God  
(Rom. 8:7-8; Eph. 2:1-3)
- C. The fallen soul life disputes with the Lord  
(Matt. 16:21-23)
- D. Our way out is the Cross and the Spirit  
(Matt. 16:24-25; Rom. 8:9)

**II. To overcome the world**

- A. Do not love the world (1 John 2:14-17)
- B. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one  
(1 John 5:19)
- C. By faith we can overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5)

---

### **III. To see through religion – Babylon, the Great**

(Rev. 17-18)

- A. Babylon is a mystery which can only be discovered in the spirit (Rev. 17:3-5)
- B. Babylon is characterized by mixture (Rev. 18:12-14)
- C. Babylon cannot be healed (Jer. 51:9)
- D. We need to come out of Babylon and not partake in her sins (Rev. 18:4)

### **Message 10**

### **Knowing Life**

#### **I. God is the Life – our Life**

- A. Jesus Christ is our life  
(John 1:4; 14:6; Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:11-13, 20)
- B. The Spirit gives life (John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 15:45)
- C. The preciousness of this life (1 Pet. 2:6-7)

#### **II. Two trees and two kinds of people (Gen. 2:9)**

#### **III. Christ has prevailed (Rev. 5:5)**

#### **IV. To obtain life by faith and to overcome our narrowness**

(John 20:31; Gal. 3:2)

- A. Jumping over walls with my God (Ps. 18:30)
- B. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength  
(Is. 40:31)
- C. Call to Me! (Jer. 33:3)
- D. All things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23)
- E. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me  
(Phil. 4:13)
- F. We have this treasure in earthen vessels  
(2 Cor. 4:7)

**V. Two things that hinder life** (Matt. 13:58; 19:21-23)

**VI. Consecration and obedience: Following the life and the Lamb until the end** (Rev. 14:4)

## **Message 11**

### **Applying this Life**

#### **I. Nourishment through life**

- A. We nourish ourselves from Christ and enjoy Him for the sake of His purpose (John 6:33-35, 54, 57)
- B. We nourish the brothers and sisters with Christ, nurse them and build them up (1 Thess. 2:7)
- C. Through life we serve the Lord in a practical manner for the building up of His body (Rom. 1:9; 1 Cor. 4:12)

#### **II. Discerning life**

- A. Choosing life and rejecting all death (Deut. 30:19)
- B. Discerning the soul from the Spirit (Heb. 12:4; 1 Cor. 2:14)
- C. Discerning the spirits (1 Cor. 12:10)
- D. Discerning the body (1 Cor. 11:29)
- E. Signs of death and religion (Gal. 5:19-23)
- F. The body judges and discerns (Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 14:29; Phil. 1:9-10)

**III. The Lord cleanses and sanctifies His church in love** (Eph. 5:25)

**IV. The blessing of unity of the body – life forevermore – the bride** (Ps. 133; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9-10)

---

## **Message 12**

### **Having a repenting heart**

#### **I. Walking in the light (1 John 1:7-9)**

- A. Having a good and healthy conscience  
(1 Tim. 1:19; Acts 23:1; 24:16)
- B. Casting off the hidden works of darkness  
(Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:11)
- C. Hating the garment defiled by the flesh (Jude 23)
- D. Having our heart checked routinely by the Lord  
(Ps. 139:23-24; 26:2)

#### **II. Confessing our sins to the Lord**

#### **III. Being washed constantly**

- A. By the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14; 22:14)
  - 1. It cleanses us from all sin
  - 2. It cleanses our conscience (Heb. 9:14; 10:22)
  - 3. It is the basis for overcoming the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10-11; Rom. 5:9)
- B. By the water of life in the Spirit and in the word  
(Eph. 5:26-27; Heb. 10:22; John 15:3; Tit. 3:5)
- C. By the name of the Lord (1 Cor. 6:11)

## **Message 13**

### **Our exercise to obey the Lord**

#### **I. Individually – in our personal life**

- A. To obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:1-23)
- B. Striving to have a conscience without offense toward God and men (Acts 24:16)

## **II. Corporately – in the building up of the church**

- A. Seeing to it that we do everything according to the pattern which God shows us (Heb. 8:5; Ex. 25:9, 40)
- B. The pattern of the church life in the New Testament
  - 1. The expression of the church: unity
    - a. A continuous principle in the New Testament: one locality, one church, one council of the elders
    - b. Regionally autonomous – above regional level one fellowship
  - 2. The substance of the church
    - a. No “membership”: In the church, only born again Christians belong to the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5)
    - b. Nobody is “the” pastor or leader (Eph. 4:11), we are all brothers (Matt. 23:8)
    - c. Not serving the Lord as professional theologians („hirelings“, John 10:12), but voluntarily as slaves (Rom. 12:11)
    - d. Not having the deeds of the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6), instead everyone shares for edification (1 Cor. 14:26)
    - e. No mixture of soul and Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14), but instead division through the word (Heb. 4:12)
    - f. Not arguing over doctrines (1 Cor. 11:16; Rom. 14:5; Phil. 3:15), but receiving one another, just as Christ has received us (Rom. 15:7)
    - g. Not necessarily owning everything corporately (cp. Acts 2:44-45; 4:32), but reigning over material things (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 9:6-9)