

**THE CHURCH LIFE AS THE FAMILY OF NOAH
RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR THE LORD'S MOVE**

Message One

**Knowing the Age and
Raising up the Next Generation as Gospel Seeds**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 22:20; Matt. 24:14, 37-39; Rom. 1:14-16; 10:10;
Matt. 10:32-33; Eph. 4:12-16

- I. We all need to know what age we are in, what the present revelation is from God, where we should be, what we should do, and what flow we should enter into; time is short, and the day of the Lord's second coming is approaching—Rev. 22:12, 20; cf. Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Tim. 3:1-3.**
- II. If the Lord delays His coming back for five, ten, fifteen, or twenty years and He wants to accomplish something, the commission will have to be entrusted to the young people—Matt. 24:14; 28:19-20.**
 - A. The future of the Lord's move and the spreading of the recovery is altogether dependent on the next generation; the Lord needs children and young people for the future of His recovery—1 Tim. 4:12.
 - B. "Your eyes have to be open. Do not be too busy outwardly. You should work on the young people, the junior highers, and the high schoolers. You should also work on the children until each week there are at least ten thousand children being taught by us. Those who are six or seven years old now will be high schoolers in ten years. If you are willing to do this, you can definitely succeed." (*The Ultimate Significance of the Golden Lampstand*, p. 55)
 - C. No family will disregard its children; as a priority a family looks after its children, raises them, and teaches them; hence, we must serve the many children in God's family—2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5.
 - D. All the churches must have a children's work; if we work with these children, they will all be young brothers and sisters after six to seven years.
 - E. Our work for the Lord should have a long-term view; the benefit from this will be very great; hence, I am pleading with the elders and the co-workers to promote the children's work, to lead all the sisters to take part, and to select and train some young sisters to be teachers.
 - F. The Lord has prepared this environment for us; we are foolish not to take hold of this opportunity; we should take advantage of this opportunity to gain more children so that we can produce useful ones for the Lord's service:
 1. In spite of all the effort we use to preach the gospel, we may not be able to bring so many people to salvation in a year; if we cultivate our children, they will all become young brothers and sisters in six or seven years.
 2. If we are willing to labor faithfully in this matter, when the children who are five or six years old are eleven or twelve years old, they will be saved and baptized; this is a much more effective way to gain the increase than preaching the gospel; moreover, those who are gained in this way will have a good foundation—1 Tim. 6:19.

III. In the past our work focused on people in the community; we did not pay sufficient attention to the young people's work; today people in education and in business put all their energy into the young people; they focus on the second generation; the churches should do the same—Matt. 13:3:

- A. Suppose the church would gather all the children into children's meetings and spend six years to give them a spiritual education; after six years they would all be young saints:
 - 1. Without going out to preach the gospel, in six years we could have many young saints; this is more effective than our gospel preaching.
 - 2. After these children are baptized, they will enter junior high schools and become gospel seeds in their schools; we could preach the gospel through them and save students in their junior high schools.
 - 3. After they receive our care, these saints will be gospel seeds when they enter high school; when they preach the gospel in their high schools, students will be saved and nurtured.
 - 4. When they graduate from high school and enter college, they will again be gospel seeds; in this way we will multiply endlessly; what a precious work that will be!
- B. There are many young people and children in the churches; our brothers and sisters are in many of the high schools and universities:
 - 1. The Lord has prepared this environment for us; we are foolish not to take hold of this opportunity.
 - 2. We should take advantage of this opportunity to gain more children and young people so that we can produce useful ones for the Lord's service.

IV. We should help the new believers and young people to be in the gospel immediately after their salvation—Rom. 10:10; cf. Acts 9:20:

- A. As soon as one believes in the Lord, he should confess the Lord before men; if he cannot speak when he is young, he probably will not be able to speak when he grows up.
- B. The Bible strongly stresses the need to confess with the mouth in addition to believing in the heart—Rom. 10:10:
- C. If we do not confess with our mouth, if we are a Christian secretly, we will experience much more difficulty than those who are Christians openly; our temptation will be many times greater than the temptation of those who openly confess the Lord—Matt. 10:32-33; John 9:22; 12:42-43.

V. We need to perfect and train the young people; when the young people rise up, we should not only help them grow but also perfect and train them—Eph. 4:12-16:

- A. We need to seek the Lord's leading; we should beseech the Lord not only to prepare a larger place for a training but also to lead us in how to carry out such a training.
- B. After these two trainings we can mobilize the students for a gospel move; the students can be in charge of the invitations, ushering, and love feasts and they can even be responsible for the testimonies; in turn, we will help them by providing a strong gospel message.