

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

Message Four

**Cooperating with God for His Move as Parents Entrusted
With Their Children to lead them to the Knowledge of the Lord**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 26:6-13; Psa. 110:3; Luke 10:38-42; Matt. 6:33;
Eph. 6:4; Gal. 6:7-8

- I. The fulfillment of the Lord's prophecy concerning the building up of His church, the preparation of His bride, will bring Him back; now is the time for the Lord to fulfill His prophecy through the overcomers, who cooperate and coordinate with Christ in His heavenly ministry for His up-to-date and ultimate move—Matt. 16:18; Rev. 19:7-9; Matt. 24:14.**
- II. To be the Lord's overcomers, we must love the Lord and grasp the opportunity to love Him—26:6-13:**
 - A. To love the Lord with our best requires that we take time to behold Him, listen to His word, and receive a revelation concerning Him; the overcomers have the highest revelation of Christ and offer themselves willingly to the Lord in the splendor of their consecration—Psa. 110:3.
 - B. Mary sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word; having heard and received the Lord's word and revelation concerning His death, Mary looked for the opportunity to anoint Him before He died—Luke 10:38-42; Matt. 26:1-2, 12; cf. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19.
 - C. The Lord prefers His saved ones who love Him to listen to Him (Luke 10:39) that they may know His desire, rather than do things for Him without knowing His will—cf. 1 Sam. 15:22; Eccl. 5:1.
- III. The fulfillment of God's economy requires our cooperation, and to cooperate with God means to be bound together with Christ and to have one living with Him by one life—John 14:19a; 6:57; Gal. 2:20:**
 - A. God's heart is to carry out His economy; God's economy is not merely that we should be good, spiritual, holy, or victorious; He desires neither a good man nor a bad man but a God-man.
 - B. Instead of usurping God by praying for our prosperity, health, or family without any consideration of God's economy, we should pray, live, and be persons according to God's heart and for His economy—Eph. 1:9-11.
 - C. All things necessary for our human existence need to be under a divine limitation; anything that exceeds our need becomes worldly, and it frustrates us from the economy of God's purpose; in everything God's economy must be the deciding factor.
 - D. When God's economy is carried out among His people, they are blessed:
 1. Our welfare, our well-being, is linked to the carrying out of God's economy, and we should not seek our well-being apart from God's economy—Matt. 6:33.
 2. We should not expect prosperity for ourselves; rather, we should expect that through us the Lord will do as much as possible to accomplish His economy.

IV. In our family life, to cooperate with God means that we have a sense of being entrusted; our children have come to us from God and are for Him; we do not want to see our children needing to be rescued back from the world:

- A. We are wrong if we do not take care of our children; please remember that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children turn out the right way.
- B. When the children are young they are in your hands and can do nothing much themselves; if you are loose with yourself, you will also be loose with them; we must realize that parents must exercise self-control, sacrificing their own freedom.
- C. None of the saints should depend on others to build up their children; it is a wrong concept to depend upon the church to have certain kinds of meetings to build up your children.
- D. We should raise up our children according to the Lord's teaching but eventually their salvation and seeking of the Lord depend upon God's eternal choosing and predestination; if our raising of our children could decide their spiritual future, this would be against God's predestination—Eph. 1:4-5.

V. We should nurture the children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord; You should tell them what a proper Christian is by teaching them the discipline of the Lord—Eph. 6:4:

- A. Parents must help their children to have proper aspirations; how you live affects the aspirations of your child; parents must learn to channel the ambitions of their children in the proper direction.
- B. Many parents cultivate their children's pride and encourage them to go after vainglory by heaping praises upon them in front of other people; we do not need to hurt their self-esteem, but we must point out their pride to them.
- C. A Christian needs to know how to appreciate others; it is easy to be victorious, but it is hard to accept defeat; when they are defeated, you need to teach them to accept their defeat with grace.
- D. From their youth, we should give our children a chance to make their own choices; we should not make every choice for them until they reach the age of eighteen or twenty or else it will be impossible for them to make any decisions when they grow up.
- E. As Christians, we have to train our children to manage their things properly; we must give them the opportunity to take care of their personal belongings, to manage their own shoes, socks, and other affairs; let them know how things should be handled from their youth.