

Message Six
**Practicing the Priesthood of the Gospel
and Building Up the Vital Groups
for the Fulfillment of God’s Eternal Purpose**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 2:6; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 14:31

- Rom 15:16** That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Pet 2:5** You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Rev 2:6** But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Heb 10:24** And let us consider one another so as to incite *one another* to love and good works,
- Heb 10:25** Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting *one another*; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.
- Acts 1:14** These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- 1 Cor 14:31** For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

- I. For the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose, we must practice the priesthood of the gospel:**
- A. “That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit”—Rom. 15:16:
1. Paul’s being a priest of the gospel of God to minister Christ to the Gentiles was a priestly service to God, and the Gentiles whom he gained through his gospel preaching were an offering presented to God.
 2. By this priestly service many Gentiles, who were unclean and defiled, were sanctified in the Holy Spirit and became such an offering, acceptable to God; they were set apart from things common and were saturated with God’s nature and element, and were thus sanctified both positionally and dis-positionally.
 3. Such a sanctification is in the Holy Spirit; this means that, based on Christ’s redemption, the Holy Spirit renews, transforms, and separates unto holiness those who have been regenerated by believing into Christ.
- B. “You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”—1 Pet. 2:5:
1. The holy and royal priesthood (v. 9) as the coordinated body of priests is the built-up spiritual house; God wants a spiritual house for His dwelling, a priestly body, a priesthood, for His service.
1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 2. The spiritual sacrifices that the believers offer in the New Testament age are: (1) Christ as the reality of all the sacrifices of the Old Testament types, such as the burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering, and trespass offering (Lev. 1—5); (2) the sinners saved by our gospel preaching, offered as members of Christ (Rom. 15:16); and (3) our body, our praises, and the things that we do for God (12:1; Heb. 13:15-16; Phil. 4:18).
Lev 1:1 Then Jehovah called to Moses and spoke to him out of the Tent of Meeting, saying,
Lev 1:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When any one of you presents an offering to Jehovah, you shall present your offering from the cattle, of the herd or of the flock.

- Lev 1:3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah.
- Lev 1:4 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him.
- Lev 1:5 And he shall slaughter the young bull before Jehovah; and Aaron's sons the priests shall present the blood and sprinkle the blood on and around the altar that is at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.
- Lev 1:6 And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces.
- Lev 1:7 And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange the wood in order on the fire.
- Lev 1:8 Then Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire which is on the altar;
- Lev 1:9 But its inward parts and its legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 1:10 And if his offering is from the flock, of the sheep or of the goats, for a burnt offering, he shall present it, a male without blemish.
- Lev 1:11 And he shall slaughter it on the side of the altar northward before Jehovah, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 1:12 And he shall cut it into its pieces with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them in order on the wood that is on the fire which is on the altar;
- Lev 1:13 But the inward parts and the legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall present the whole and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 1:14 And if his offering to Jehovah is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall present his offering of turtledoves or of young pigeons.
- Lev 1:15 And the priest shall present it at the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar; and its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar.
- Lev 1:16 And he shall take away its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar toward the east, in the place of the ashes.
- Lev 1:17 Then he shall tear it open by its wings without dividing it, and the priest shall burn it on the altar on the wood that is on the fire; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 2:1 And when anyone presents an offering of a meal offering to Jehovah, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.
- Lev 2:2 Then he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests, and he shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil with all its frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as its memorial portion on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 2:3 And what is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'; it is a thing most holy of Jehovah's offerings by fire.
- Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.
- Lev 2:5 And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened.
- Lev 2:6 You shall break it in pieces and pour oil on it; it is a meal offering.
- Lev 2:7 And if your offering is a meal offering made in a pot, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.
- Lev 2:8 And you shall bring to Jehovah the meal offering that is made of these things and present it to the priest, and he shall bring it to the altar.
- Lev 2:9 And the priest shall take up from the meal offering its memorial portion and shall burn it on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 2:10 And that which is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'; it is a thing most holy of Jehovah's offerings by fire.
- Lev 2:11 No meal offering that you present to Jehovah shall be made with leaven, for you shall not burn any leaven or any honey as an offering by fire to Jehovah.
- Lev 2:12 You may present them to Jehovah, as an offering of firstfruits, but they shall not be offered up for a satisfying fragrance on the altar.
- Lev 2:13 And every offering of your meal offering you shall season with salt, and you shall not omit the salt of the covenant of your God from your meal offering; with all your offerings you shall present salt.

- Lev 2:14 And if you present a meal offering of firstfruits to Jehovah, you shall present for the meal offering of your firstfruits new grain roasted with fire, crushed grain of the fresh ear.
- Lev 2:15 And you shall put oil on it and place frankincense on it; it is a meal offering.
- Lev 2:16 And the priest shall burn as its memorial portion, some of its crushed grain and some of its oil, with all its frankincense, as an offering by fire to Jehovah.
- Lev 3:1 And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:3 And he shall present from the sacrifice of peace offerings an offering by fire to Jehovah. The fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:4 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage on the liver with the kidneys, he shall remove.
- Lev 3:5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is on the wood that is on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 3:6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offerings to Jehovah is from the flock, he shall present it, male or female, without blemish.
- Lev 3:7 If he presents a lamb for his offering, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:8 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:9 And he shall present from the sacrifice of peace offerings an offering by fire to Jehovah. Its fat, the entire fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:10 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage on the liver with the kidneys, he shall remove.
- Lev 3:11 And the priest shall burn it on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire to Jehovah.
- Lev 3:12 And if his offering is a goat, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:13 And he shall lay his hand on its head and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:14 And he shall present from it his offering, as an offering by fire to Jehovah. The fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:15 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage on the liver with the kidneys, he shall remove.
- Lev 3:16 And the priest shall burn them on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire for a satisfying fragrance; all the fat is Jehovah's.
- Lev 3:17 It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places that you shall not eat any fat or any blood.
- Lev 4:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 4:2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, If anyone sins without intent, in any of the things which Jehovah has commanded not to be done, and does any one of them,
- Lev 4:3 If the anointed priest sins so as to bring guilt on the people, then let him present a bull of the herd without blemish to Jehovah for a sin offering for his sin that he committed.
- Lev 4:4 And he shall bring the bull to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before Jehovah, and he shall lay his hand on the head of the bull and slaughter the bull before Jehovah.
- Lev 4:5 And the anointed priest shall take some of the blood of the bull and bring it to the Tent of Meeting,
- Lev 4:6 And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before Jehovah in front of the veil of the sanctuary.
- Lev 4:7 And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before Jehovah, which is in the Tent of Meeting; and all the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.
- Lev 4:8 And all the fat of the bull of the sin offering he shall take off from it: the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is upon the inward parts,
- Lev 4:9 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins, and the appendage upon the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys,
- Lev 4:10 As it is taken off from the ox of the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering.
- Lev 4:11 And the skin of the bull and all its flesh with its head and with its legs, and the rest of its inward parts and its dung,

- Lev 4:12 That is, all the rest of the bull he shall bring out to a clean place outside the camp, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.
- Lev 4:13 Now if the whole assembly of Israel errs, and the matter escapes the notice of the congregation, and they have done any of the things which Jehovah commanded not to be done and become guilty;
- Lev 4:14 And when the sin which they have committed becomes known, the congregation shall present a bull of the herd for a sin offering and bring it before the Tent of Meeting.
- Lev 4:15 And the elders of the assembly shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before Jehovah, and one shall slaughter the bull before Jehovah.
- Lev 4:16 And the anointed priest shall bring some of the blood of the bull to the Tent of Meeting,
- Lev 4:17 And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before Jehovah in front of the veil.
- Lev 4:18 And some of the blood he shall put upon the horns of the altar which is before Jehovah, that is, in the Tent of Meeting; and all the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.
- Lev 4:19 And all its fat he shall take off from it and burn it on the altar.
- Lev 4:20 Thus shall he do with the bull; just as he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. And the priest shall make expiation for them, and they will be forgiven.
- Lev 4:21 And he shall bring out the bull outside the camp and burn it as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the congregation.
- Lev 4:22 When a ruler sins and does without intent any one of all the things which Jehovah his God has commanded not to be done and becomes guilty,
- Lev 4:23 If his sin in which he has sinned is made known to him, he shall bring for his offering a male goat, without blemish.
- Lev 4:24 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the goat and slaughter it in the place where they slaughter the burnt offering before Jehovah; it is a sin offering.
- Lev 4:25 And the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering.
- Lev 4:26 And all its fat he shall burn on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest shall make expiation for him on account of his sin, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 4:27 And if any one of the common people sins without intent by doing any of the things which Jehovah has commanded not to be done and becomes guilty;
- Lev 4:28 If his sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring for his offering a female goat, without blemish, for his sin which he has committed.
- Lev 4:29 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.
- Lev 4:30 And the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and all the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar.
- Lev 4:31 And all its fat he shall remove, just as the fat is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah. And the priest shall make expiation for him, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 4:32 And if he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring it, a female without blemish.
- Lev 4:33 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it for a sin offering in the place where they slaughter the burnt offering.
- Lev 4:34 And the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and all the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar.
- Lev 4:35 And all its fat he shall remove, just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them on the altar upon Jehovah's offerings by fire. And the priest shall make expiation for him concerning his sin that he has committed, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 5:1 And if anyone sins in that he hears the voice of adjuration when he is a witness, whether he has seen or known about a matter, if he does not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.
- Lev 5:2 Or if anyone touches any unclean thing, whether the carcass of an unclean animal or the carcass of unclean cattle or the carcass of unclean swarming things, and it escapes his notice, and he is unclean, then he will be guilty.

- Lev 5:3 Or if he touches the uncleanness of man, whatever his uncleanness is with which he becomes unclean, and it escapes his notice, when he comes to know it, then he will be guilty.
- Lev 5:4 Or if anyone swears rashly with his lips to do evil or to do good, whatever it is that a man utters rashly with an oath, and it escapes his notice, when he comes to know it, then he shall be guilty in one of these things.
- Lev 5:5 And when he is guilty in one of these things, he shall confess that in which he has sinned;
- Lev 5:6 And he shall bring his trespass offering to Jehovah for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a sheep or a goat, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make expiation for him on account of his sin.
- Lev 5:7 And if he cannot afford a lamb, then he shall bring as his trespass offering to Jehovah for that in which he has sinned two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering.
- Lev 5:8 And he shall bring them to the priest, who shall present first that which is for the sin offering; and the priest shall pinch off its head at the front of its neck but shall not sever it;
- Lev 5:9 And he shall sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering upon the side of the altar, and the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar; it is a sin offering.
- Lev 5:10 And he shall offer the second as a burnt offering according to the ordinance. And the priest shall make expiation for him on account of his sin which he has committed, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 5:11 But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he shall bring as his offering for that which he has sinned, the tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it nor put any frankincense upon it, for it is a sin offering.
- Lev 5:12 And he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it as its memorial portion and burn it on the altar, upon Jehovah's offerings by fire; it is a sin offering.
- Lev 5:13 And the priest shall make expiation for him concerning his sin that he has committed in any of these things, and he will be forgiven. And the rest shall be the priest's, like the meal offering.
- Lev 5:14 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 5:15 If anyone acts unfaithfully and sins without intent in the holy things of Jehovah, then he shall bring his trespass offering to Jehovah, a ram without blemish out of the flock according to your valuation in silver by shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering.
- Lev 5:16 And he shall make restitution for the holy thing in which he has sinned, and he shall add to it a fifth part of it and give it to the priest. And the priest shall make expiation for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 5:17 And if anyone sins and does any of the things which Jehovah has commanded not to be done, though he did not know, he is still guilty and shall bear his iniquity.
- Lev 5:18 And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish out of the flock according to your valuation for a trespass offering. And the priest shall make expiation for him concerning the matter in which he erred without intent and did not know, and he will be forgiven.
- Lev 5:19 It is a trespass offering; he is certainly guilty before Jehovah.
- Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service.
- Heb 13:15 Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.
- Heb 13:16 But do not forget doing good and sharing *with others*, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- Phil 4:18 But I have received in full all things and abound; I have been filled, receiving from Epaphroditus the things from you, a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.
- C. “This you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate”—Rev. 2:6:
1. The Greek word translated “Nicolaitans” means “conquering the common people, being victorious over the laity”; *Nicolaitans*, then, must refer to a group of people who esteem themselves higher than the common believers.

2. This was undoubtedly the hierarchy established by Catholicism and Protestantism; the Lord hates the works, the behavior, of these Nicolaitans, and we must hate what the Lord hates.
3. In the proper church life there should be neither clergy nor laity; all believers should be priests of God—1:6; 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.
 - Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
 - Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
 - 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

II. For the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we must build up the vital groups—Heb. 10:24-25:

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another so as to incite *one another* to love and good works,

Heb 10:25 Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting *one another*; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

A. We must have an intimate and thorough fellowship in Christ as the element and sphere, by exercising our spirit with much and thorough prayer, concerning our status, spiritual condition, and present situation in and with the Lord.

B. We must be blended by much and thorough prayer, as fine flour of the wheat, with all the members of our group, with the Spirit as the oil, through the death of Christ as the salt, and in the resurrection of Christ as the frankincense, into a dough for the Lord—1 Cor. 5:6-7a; 10:17; 12:24; Lev. 2:1-13:

1 Cor 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1 Cor 5:7a Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; ...

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Cor 12:24 But our comely *members* have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the *member* that lacked,

Lev 2:1 And when anyone presents an offering of a meal offering to Jehovah, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.

Lev 2:2 Then he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests, and he shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil with all its frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as its memorial portion on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev 2:3 And what is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'; it is a thing most holy of Jehovah's offerings by fire.

Lev 2:4 And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.

Lev 2:5 And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened.

Lev 2:6 You shall break it in pieces and pour oil on it; it is a meal offering.

Lev 2:7 And if your offering is a meal offering made in a pot, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.

Lev 2:8 And you shall bring to Jehovah the meal offering that is made of these things and present it to the priest, and he shall bring it to the altar.

Lev 2:9 And the priest shall take up from the meal offering its memorial portion and shall burn it on the altar, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev 2:10 And that which is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'; it is a thing most holy of Jehovah's offerings by fire.

Lev 2:11 No meal offering that you present to Jehovah shall be made with leaven, for you shall not burn any leaven or any honey as an offering by fire to Jehovah.

Lev 2:12 You may present them to Jehovah, as an offering of firstfruits, but they shall not be offered up for a satisfying fragrance on the altar.

Lev 2:13 And every offering of your meal offering you shall season with salt, and you shall not omit the salt of the covenant of your God from your meal offering; with all your offerings you shall present salt.

1. We must confess the sin of individualism and individuality.

2. We must confess all our defects, shortcomings, wrongdoings, mistakes, transgressions, trespasses, outward sins, and inward evils, and ask for the Lord's forgiveness.
 3. We must confess our sinful nature, its defilements, its attachment to the contamination of the world, and its oldness, and ask for the Lord's cleansing with His precious blood.
 4. We must confess our dispositional problems and our peculiarity in our character.
 5. We must deny our self, our habit, and our old way of doing things—Matt. 16:24.
Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 6. We must have no more confidence in ourselves and no more trust in our natural ability.
 7. We must love all the members of our group with an equal love in the love of God—Phil. 2:2.
Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing.
- C. We must keep the oneness of the Spirit, the oneness of the Body, in the one accord according to the Lord's desire with much and thorough prayer—Eph. 4:3; Acts 1:14; 4:24:
- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
Acts 4:24 And when they heard *this*, they lifted up *their* voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
1. We must condemn all the self-exalting views and drop all the divisive opinions.
 2. We must forsake all self-preferences and disregard all personal tastes.
 3. We must follow the Spirit's direction and respect our fellow members' feeling.
- D. We must make, with much and thorough prayer, a corporate Nazarite's consecration for the Lord—Num. 6:1-4:
- Num 6:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
Num 6:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazarite, to separate himself to Jehovah,
Num 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink, nor shall he drink any juice of grapes, nor eat fresh or dried grapes.
Num 6:4 All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grape vine, from the seeds even to the skin.
1. We must let the Lord gain our whole group as one entity for the carrying out of His New Testament economy.
 2. We must not fulfill any kind of formal duty but serve the Lord according to the organic leading of the Spirit.
- E. We must be overcomers in this age with much and thorough prayer; this is according to the Lord's calling in His last words to the saints in the churches to replace the degraded church—Rev. 2—3.
- Rev 2:1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
Rev 2:2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false;
Rev 2:3 And you have endurance and have borne *all things* because of My name and have not grown weary.
Rev 2:4 But I have *one thing* against you, that you have left your first love.
Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived *again*:
Rev 2:9 I know your tribulation and poverty (but you are rich) and the slander from those who call themselves Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- Rev 2:10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
- Rev 2:12 And to the messenger of the church in Pergamos write: These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
- Rev 2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you, that you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat idol sacrifices and to commit fornication.
- Rev 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- Rev 2:16 Repent therefore; but if not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword of My mouth.
- Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.
- Rev 2:18 And to the messenger of the church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, He who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like shining bronze:
- Rev 2:19 I know your works and love and faith and service and your endurance and that your last works are more than the first.
- Rev 2:20 But I have *something* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, she who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and leads My slaves astray to commit fornication and to eat idol sacrifices.
- Rev 2:21 And I gave her time that she might repent, and she is not willing to repent of her fornication.
- Rev 2:22 Behold, I cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her, into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works;
- Rev 2:23 And her children I will kill with death; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the inward parts and the hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your works.
- Rev 2:24 But I say to you—the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they say—I put no other burden upon you;
- Rev 2:25 Nevertheless what you have hold fast until I come.
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
- Rev 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.
- Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.
- Rev 3:2 Become watchful and establish the things which remain, which were about to die; for I have found none of your works completed before My God.
- Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep *it* and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.
- Rev 3:4 But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy.
- Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Rev 3:7 And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:
- Rev 3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

- Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, those who call themselves Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will cause them to come and fall prostrate before your feet and to know that I have loved you.
- Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.
- Rev 3:11 I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown.
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Rev 3:14 And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:
- Rev 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
- Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.
- Rev 3:17 Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.
- Rev 3:19 As many as I love I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.
- Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
- Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.
- Rev 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

F. We must pray much and thoroughly for:

1. The New Testament priesthood of the gospel to seek, visit, and contact sinners for God's salvation, to make them the organic members of the Body of Christ, and to offer them to God as the New Testament sacrifice—Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.
 - Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
2. The nourishing and cherishing of the newborn babes in home meetings as nursing mothers—1 Thes. 2:7.
 - 1 Thes 2:7 But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children.
3. The perfecting of the saints by mutual teaching in group meetings for the work of the ministry to build up the organic Body of Christ—Eph. 4:12-13.
 - Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
 - Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
4. The prophesying by all the saints in the church meetings for the organic building up of the Body of Christ as the organism of the processed Triune God—1 Cor. 14:1-5, 12, 23-26, 31, 39a.
 - 1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.
 - 1 Cor 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one hears, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.
 - 1 Cor 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men.
 - 1 Cor 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

- 1 Cor **14:5** I desire that you all speak in tongues, but especially that you would prophesy; and greater is he who prophesies than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive building up.
- 1 Cor **14:12** So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church.
- 1 Cor **14:23** If therefore the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak in tongues, and some unlearned *in tongues* or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are insane?
- 1 Cor **14:24** But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;
- 1 Cor **14:25** The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on *his* face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.
- 1 Cor **14:26** What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- 1 Cor **14:31** For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
- 1 Cor **14:39a** So then, my brothers, desire earnestly the prophesying, ...