

THE PRACTICE OF BLENDING IN THE GROUPS

- We need to practice intimate and thorough fellowship, and learn to be genuine with one another, feeling free to tell others about our inward situation, and to respond to others in a way that is frank and full of love
- We need to seek to be blended by fellowshipping with each other in a spontaneous way so that we may learn, be inwardly adjusted, and transformed
- We need to come together to pray in a way that releases our spirit so that we may be released, happy, and blended together

Practicing Intimate and Thorough Fellowship and Learning to be Genuine with One Another

If we do not have the one accord, God cannot answer our prayer, because we do not practice the Body. Our not being in one accord means that we do not practice the Body. According to the proper interpretation of the New Testament, the one accord is the one Body. We must practice the principle of the Body; then we will have the one accord. Although we may not fight with one another, we still may not have the one accord. Because we have remained together, we have seen the Lord's blessing, but only in a limited way. Therefore, we need to have the one accord to practice the Body.

It is difficult for us to open ourselves to one another, but it is even more difficult, after listening to one another's fellowship, to speak something in response in a way that is frank and full of love. After coming together in our groups, we should be free to tell the others concerning our inward situation with the Lord. Likewise, the others should be free to respond. Because we are afraid to expose ourselves and are afraid of offending others, we pretend with one another and are unwilling to let people know our real situation. We need the intimate and thorough fellowship. Of course, we need to be careful concerning what we open to one another in public. In certain cases the public confession of sins has caused serious trouble in the past. I do not mean that we should open ourselves in a careless way. Nevertheless, we need to find a way to be blended. Otherwise, the Lord has no way out of our present situation. We need to be blended until we have an intimate love for the members of our group. If we continue to hide ourselves and keep a distance from one another, when we go out to visit

people, we will not have the impact. The people whom we visit will sense that we are not one.

Our situation today is very different from that of Peter, James, and John. When they were together following the Lord as His believers, they were genuine, as seen in the fact that they fought with one another. In Matthew 20, while the Lord Jesus was unveiling His death and resurrection to them (vv. 17-19), it seems that they did not hear what He was speaking. After the Lord Jesus finished His speaking, they had a contention among themselves (vv. 20-24). This indicates that they were very genuine. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, Chapter 10, Section 5)

Seeking to Be Blended

In order to be blended, we need to release our spirit. Actually, when I say that we need to be released, this does not only mean to pray. When we come together in the vital groups, we should release ourselves by opening up to one another. We may have been with one another for years, but we do not really know one another. Instead, we like to hide ourselves in certain things from the saints. I am afraid that not one of us is really open. All of us are pretending to be "good" members of the vital groups. We may show up on time and behave ourselves as nice ladies and gentlemen, but this is seclusion. We do not want to talk openly with the saints in our vital group because we are secluded. To talk openly with the intimate and thorough fellowship in Christ is to be released.

We do not open up to others, because we are afraid to be known by them. As a result, we cannot receive the inner healing from the Lord. If we open ourselves up in a proper way to the other saints in our group, we will be healed. But instead of opening up, everyone is hiding. Some of us are released, but we are not absolutely released, because we are not used to being open to others.

I have said that the group meetings are eighty percent of the church life, and the first item of the group meetings is to come together to fellowship in an intimate, thorough, and spontaneous way. Maybe a sister would open up by saying, "I can't tolerate my children. Would you tell me how to overcome my temper?" Why would we not open up to one another in this way? Instead of seeing a scenery of intimate fellowship in the vital groups, I see a

very behaving scenery. Everybody behaves. No one wants to make a mistake. Everyone wants to be a “good boy” and a “good girl.”...Gradually, we have drifted into practicing a routine church life, but where is the Spirit and where is the leading of the Lord? There is not much leading of the Spirit among us. Instead, you act by your way, and I act by my way. You pray by your way, and I pray by my way. Who is going to be adjusted? Who is going to learn? If we are not inwardly adjusted and transformed, then where is the church life? (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, Chapter 15, Section 3)

Releasing Our Spirit through Prayer

Prayer must exercise our spirit and release our spirit. When our spirit is released by our prayer, we are released persons. When we are no longer bound but released, we are always happy. This is why Paul said, “Always rejoice, unceasingly pray” (1 Thes. 5:16-17). To rejoice all the time is related to praying unceasingly.

Furthermore, if we are not released, we cannot be blended with others. If we come to the meeting with a quiet spirit, we are bound. If we attend the vital group meetings in this way, there is no possibility of our being blended. When you are released, when I am released, and when everyone is released, that is the real blending. The way for us to become blended is through prayer that releases our spirit.

Acts 1:14 says that the one hundred twenty continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, “together with the women....” We need to consider why the Bible says “with the women” in this verse. Every word in the Bible is written with a purpose. I hope the sisters would give me the permission to speak a frank word. The one accord is always troubled by the women. When the sisters have no problem in the church, the church will most likely have no problem. In the church life there are generally more sisters than brothers. In the home in Bethany spoken of in John 12, there were two sisters and one brother (vv. 2-3). We can see from this that the church life greatly depends upon the sisters. When the sisters are okay, the church life will most likely be okay. The vital future of the vital groups greatly depends upon the sisters. If the sisters are blended, the blending of the groups will

be successful. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, Chapter 12, Section 3)

Fellowship Questions:

1. Why is opening to one another necessary for blending. Why has this been difficult for us to do? Why do you think that it is even harder to respond to someone’s fellowship in a way that is frank and full of love?
2. What is the connection between a fear of being known by others, a lack of blending, and a routine church life? How is this related to pretending to be “good”?
3. Do we have experiences of receiving inner healing as a result of opening to one another for the sake of blending?
4. How can we release our spirit if we sense that we are bound? Why is this kind of release necessary for blending?

Additional Reading: *Messages Given During the Resumption of Watchman Nee’s Ministry*, Chapter 64, “The Whole Body Serving, Co-Workers Meeting (20)”