

SUBJECT:
THE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE SAINTS
WHO ARE WILLING TO OPEN THEIR HOMES
Message Four
The Living for the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:20-21; Acts 4:23-31; 2:46-47; 2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 1:14; Acts
26:24 John 15:2, 5

- I. Christ is our life, the truth is our freedom, the church of the living God is our house; and the gospel is our living —Col. 3:4; John 8:32; 1 Tim. 3:15; Phil. 1:20-21:**
- A. As believers, we have a gospel-preaching life in us; this life can never be fully quenched—John 4:28; Acts 9:20.
 - B. The more we preach the gospel, the stronger our inner being becomes and the more feeling we have for the gospel—vv. 22, 29.
 - C. Preaching the gospel keeps us in a normal spiritual condition, full of the moving power of life—Phil. 1:27.
- II. Saints need to be perfected to preach the gospel by many means, to learn how to pray, how to preach the gospel, and how to prepare gospel tracts and good booklets; then the brothers must have the habit of distributing the booklets, mailing the tracts, and so on—Acts 4:23-31:**
- A. There are many ways to preach the gospel; the best way is to sing hymns to people; this kind of hymn singing should be informal; when the young people preach the gospel by singing hymns, their joy will touch their classmates—1:14; 16:25, 34.
 - B. Four gospel tools are gospel verses, gospel hymns, hymns on the assurance of salvation, and distributing gospel tracts.
 - C. By distributing gospel tracts, we maintain an atmosphere of the gospel, and we can break through our shyness.
 - D. The great American evangelist D. L. Moody had the practice of preaching the gospel to at least one person every day, even if he spoke only one sentence; we should all have such an attitude; we should be persistent—1 Cor. 9:16.
- III. Preaching the gospel in every home is the most effective way to preach the gospel—Acts 2:46-47; 5:42:**
- A. The most effective way is to preach the gospel in every home; if everyone preaches in this way, we will realize that everyone truly can preach the gospel; our preaching of the gospel should be continual—Rom. 1:14-16, 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - B. We should encourage every brother and sister to open their homes for the preaching of the gospel; preaching the gospel by opening our homes is different from preaching the gospel in the meeting halls, because there is no place for show or façade; it only requires everyone to exercise his or her spirit; preaching in this way attracts people, and it warms and comforts them—Acts 2:46-47.
 - C. We should lead the saints to preach the gospel in their homes—Mark 2:15.

1. Although this preaching may not be flawless, it will have a much better flavor.
 2. We should preach the gospel in a free atmosphere; the best way is to converse with our relatives and neighbors in our daily life and to establish a basis for friendship; when we contact people, we should invite them to come freely to hear the gospel.
- D. The best way to preach the gospel in our homes is to first give a personal testimony concerning our salvation and then speak a short word about the gospel—Acts 14:3.
 - E. We need to coordinate with neighboring saints to preach the gospel; this will not cause the free nature of preaching the gospel at home to be lost, and at the same time, there will be more impact in preaching the gospel—John 12:2-3.
 - F. The sisters are key in opening the homes; the responsible brothers who want to promote opening the homes need to fellowship with the sisters—Rom. 16:3.
- IV. We should grasp the opportunity to preach the gospel to the people around us; the students should grasp the opportunity to preach the gospel to their classmates; this can be compared to sowing seeds; we are bound to have results if we sow many seeds—John 4:37; 2 Tim. 4:2:**
- A. Even though our sowing may seem ineffective today, after twenty years a classmate or a friend may remember what we said and be saved—John 4:37.
 - B. We must sow the seeds; Paul says, “Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching” —2 Tim. 4:2.
- V. In order to experience the gospel as our living, we must follow specific steps in our work; we need to have a burden for the gospel; we should make a list and pray persistently for every person on our list in order to have a gospel spirit; we need to learn to be thick-skinned and crazy in spirit, and we need to realize that preaching the gospel is the way to bear fruit, which keeps us in a position to enjoy the riches of the Lord—Rom. 1:14, 9; Acts 26:24; John 15:2, 5.**