

REFINED IMMERSION IN THE PROPHETIC WORD

Series: Genesis – The Beginning

Message 31

Abraham in Gerar and the Birth of Isaac

Bible Reading: Genesis 20:1-18; 21:1-34



This material is intended to help you practice immersion in the prophetic word in your daily living and church meetings. We highlight some points from the notes of the message given by brother Pedro Dong for you to ruminate, understand, and apply. Read each day's passage prayerfully and highlight its key words. Speak, repeat, emphasize, and proclaim the key words. The refined immersion of the word aims to make us enter the depths of the feeling of God by speaking the word to us and making us feel in our spirit what His feeling was at the moment He spoke it. Quieting ourselves, we seek what is the direction received in the immersion text and what is its admonition to us, that is, in what aspects we are at fault with the Lord. After understanding the Lord's feeling and seeking light as to what He really wants to talk to us, we must transform this feeling into our prayer, with the purpose of putting it into execution.

MONDAY

1. When Abraham went to Shechem, he stayed near Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Gerizim represents blessing, and Ebal, the curse. Centuries later, the people of Israel arrived at this place before entering the good land of Canaan. If Israel chose to listen to the word of the Lord and keep it, they would choose life and blessing (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).
2. Abraham's heart was pure, and he desired only to seek and serve the True God, without personal ambition. Upon finding the God of glory, he surrendered his whole life to Him and began to live to serve Him. His nephew Lot, however, did not act in the same way. As he became wealthy by being with Abraham, his ambition grew and began to dominate his heart (Acts 7:2-3; Genesis 13:5-11).
3. Our security is grounded in being "close to Abraham," that is, walking closely to God's word and the Lord's presence. We must love the Lord with all our heart and value His word with simplicity and reverence. God blesses those who seek Him in this way (2 Tim 3:10; Isa 66:2).
4. "After the fall, a hope was kindled for humanity: God would cause the woman to produce a descendant who would defeat the serpent. This descendant, as we know, is Christ, for God had already appointed Him Heir of all things [...] (Heb 1:2)" (Gen 3:15) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Monday, p. 6).

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TUESDAY

1. When the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah occurred, Abraham was in Hebron, which means *fellowship*. Abraham lived in fellowship with God, and there is nothing better than living this way. It is in fellowship that the Lord guides us, speaks to us, gives direction, and causes all things to flow properly (Genesis 13:18; 1 Corinthians 1:9).
2. When we stray from fellowship with God, we easily make mistakes. Abraham left Hebron, and the consequence was repeating the same mistakes he made in Egypt. This reminds us that we still live in the old creation, under the constant influence of the old man, and therefore we need to be vigilant and remain in the presence of the Lord. (Genesis 20:1-3; 12:10-13).
3. When we walk in God's presence, practicing and keeping His word in our hearts, we become very fruitful. The word that enters us causes us to identify with God and with Christ. Thus, once saturated with the living word of God, He speaks to us and... God can use us as prophets. God wants to use you as a prophet, someone who expresses His will and His word (Genesis 20:7; Romans 6:5).
4. "When God speaks of man, He refers especially to the man Jesus, the Descendant of the woman, who will inherit the kingdom. Therefore, although we are in the midst of a struggle between kingdoms, facing many battles, sufferings, and persecutions, the kingdom for which we fight is victorious; it is the kingdom of Christ!" (Genesis 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Tuesday, p. 8).

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WEDNESDAY

1. When God was about to destroy Sodom, He revealed to Abraham what He was about to do. God reveals His heart to those who walk with Him. Everything He is about to do, He first reveals to this type of person. Abraham then prayed and interceded for Lot. One of the functions of a prophet is to intercede for people (Genesis 18:16-17, 22-32).
2. A prophet feeds on the word of the Lord, "eats" His words. The word of the Lord is joy and gladness to the heart. Prophets are called by the name of the Lord. By immersing themselves in the word, they are identified with Christ, with the Lord Himself. When they open their mouths, it is God who speaks through them (Jeremiah 15:16).
3. The word that comes from the mouth of God is the word of life. This word introduces us into the fellowship of life, and the fellowship of life is with God Himself, with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what makes someone a true prophet of God in everyday life, including in the streets, by speaking and interceding for people (1 John 1:1-3).
4. "The Lord Jesus lifted up on the cross, like the bronze serpent, in the likeness of a man, yet in Him there was no sin. To look at the bronze serpent, Christ, means to believe. Whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:14-15)." (Romans 8:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Wednesday, page 12).

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THURSDAY

1. The word of God produces love among us. If our lives are full of complication, conflict, resentment, and bitterness, this shows a lack of fellowship in life. Fellowship in life comes through the word of life. Those who dedicate themselves to the word of God every day certainly have hearts full of divine love (1 John 1:3; 4:7-8).
2. When we continually immerse ourselves in the Word, keeping contact with the Word of life and living in fellowship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ, love is generated in our hearts. We unite with God, and are identified with Him, so that we gain confidence that what we do is under His will. In this state, everything we ask for corresponds to what God Himself leads us to ask for, and He grants it to us (1 John 5:13-15; John 15:7).
3. During his time in Egypt, Abraham became very rich. As he passes by Gerar, he received permission to remain there. This shows us that the best thing is to live in God's presence. He cares for us and grants us the best. If you are insecure about the future, do not leave the Lord's presence. He cares for you and knows what you need (Genesis 20:15-16; Genesis 17:1).
4. "Love the word, closely follow the Lord's speaking, and the truth will set you free. Thus, all will be engaged and faithful in the responsibility that the Lord has entrusted to them! The male child will be born and will be victorious; the dragon will not be able to devour him! As soon as he is born, God will take him to Himself!" (John 8:32; Revelation 12:5) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Thursday, p. 15).

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FRIDAY

1. The promises God made to Abraham involved the good land of Canaan and descendants. The word "descendants" always appears in the singular. The promises were made to Abraham and his descendant. The term "descendant," here in the original, is "seed," and Abraham's seed is Christ (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:16).
2. Isaac means "he laughs." Abraham questioned how he, at one hundred years old, could have a son, and how Sarah could give birth at ninety years old?" (Genesis 17:17). Humanly, this was impossible; therefore, Sarah laughed and named her son Isaac. However, the powerful God who appeared to Abraham is able to resurrect the dead and bring into existence what does not exist (Genesis 18:12; 21:5-6; Romans 4:17).
3. When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. The number eight in the Bible represents resurrection— Christ rose on Sunday, the eighth day of the week. Circumcision is a sign of putting off the body of the flesh. The new life we obtain in Christ is not lived out by the flesh, but by the Spirit. God desires to strip us of the strength of the old man and wants us to live in resurrection (Genesis 21:4; Colossians 2:11-12).
4. "To overcome, first, we must lay hold of the blood of the Lamb. Second, we overcome Satan because of the word of testimony we give, that is, the word we receive weekly and ruminare on daily, instilling it in our hearts through ultra-refined immersion. It is in this way that the word becomes our reality, our testimony. We are not only preachers, but witnesses of the word" (Rev 12:11) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Friday, page 16).

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SATURDAY

1. To Abraham, it seemed extremely cruel to expel Hagar and her son. However, this has profound spiritual meaning: that which is born according to the flesh cannot coexist with that which is born according to the Spirit. We either live according to the Spirit, or we live according to the flesh. Therefore, let us walk according to the Spirit (Genesis 21:8-12; Galatians 5:16).
2. Sarah's barrenness represents the barrenness of humanity. Man was created in the image and likeness of God and blessed to multiply and fill the Earth. However, because of disobedience, death reigned, and man became spiritually barren. Today, in Christ, man becomes fertile and fruitful again, producing fruit for God (Genesis 1:28; Romans 5:12; Galatians 3:28-29).
3. As last-hour workers, we are called to restore the fruitfulness of the church. The Lord needs to return, and for this, many workers are needed: colporteurs, teenagers, young people—like troops and captains—middle-aged men, like David's Mighty Men, and mature brothers providing support as senior stewards. Let us produce much fruit for the Lord! (Matthew 20:1-7; Genesis 1:28).
4. “When the salvation of our spirit and soul is complete, our body will finally be transfigured at the coming of the Lord. This is the complete salvation that God has prepared for man, about which we read in Romans. In this moment all creation, which had been cursed in the fall of man, will be freed from the bondage of corruption” (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 8:19-23) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Saturday, p. 18).

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SUNDAY

1. Jesus died, rose again, and was glorified. He became the Spirit, who is the source of our water supply. Today, by believing in Jesus, we receive within ourselves this source of living water, which is the Spirit. For this reason, the church survives, owns abundant water, and can quench the thirst of those who seek it (John 4:10, 13-14; 7:37-39).
2. Abraham planted tamarisk trees in Beersheba. The tamarisk tree is a tree that survives in dry, saline soils. Where other trees do not survive, the tamarisk thrives and even produces sweet dates, even under the strong sun. It is a symbol of resilience, strength, and prosperity in arid conditions. There, Abraham called upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 21:33; Isaiah 12:1-4).
3. How do we draw water from the wells of salvation? Calling on the Lord. We are no longer barren; we have water to bear fruit. Our "foliage" does not wither, and everything we do will be successful. We will bear fruit for the Lord: many spiritual children (Isaiah 12:1-4; Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8).
3. "In Revelation 22, we read that there is a river, the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and on both sides of the river is the tree of life. Therefore, the tree of life was on God's throne, and whoever ate of its fruit would be under God's rule, subject to His authority" (Rev 22:1-2) (Daily Food, book 4, week 1, Sunday, p. 21).

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