

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 6 – Saturday

Eph. 6:1-4 – Footnotes 1¹, 3¹, 4¹

Then we asked them, “If you could change one thing in your young people’s meeting, what would it be?” The answers were also very interesting. We asked, “What would you like the serving saints to cover in your young people’s meeting?” When we asked the high schoolers, “What would you like to change?” I had something in my mind about what they might answer, but by far they answered, “We would like the meeting to be more mutual so that we could know one another better. Especially, we want to get to know the serving ones better. So can we have more contact outside the meetings? Things like outings, not for fun but to get to know the serving saints in a more human way and to have something to which invite our friends who have stopped meeting.” That is what is on their hearts. I was so touched by these answers. They are so concerned for the ones who haven’t been with us for some time. And to my great surprise, they are longing to know the serving saints. In the meeting setting you can’t do that.

Then concerning the topics, most of them did not give actual topics; mostly they said, “We just want the topics to be relevant.” That is the word they used. They wanted something that they could apply to themselves today. The last two things were: “What is your biggest obstacle in following the Lord?” and “What is your biggest obstacle in preaching the gospel?” When the young people have the way to answer honestly and we can know them, then we can give them help, we can reach them. Actually, all of this is just talking about communication; we need to be able to have the proper communication. I come back to the Lord’s example: asking the proper question. We are in the midst of a warfare and the enemy zeros in on our next generation. We need to corporately rise up and guard them, but our guarding is not by just giving them Bible knowledge. We surely need to do that in its measure and we need to avoid as much as we can premature knowledge because that damages. But actually we need to gain their hearts and that comes by being Jesusly human.

Watchman Nee has a very good chapter on the matter of parenting in the books entitled *Messages for Building Up New Believers*. One section of that chapter talks about building up an atmosphere of love in every family. He stresses that in our family, when the children fail there should be an atmosphere that they can come to us and confess, even that we would be the first one that they tell. Then when they have a success, we would be the first one that they tell. But in many homes we build up an atmosphere of a judge; especially the dad is like a judge with a gavel. When the children come it is like coming in front of a judge: “Yes, you honour.” We need to shepherd according to God. I think that the way we see the Lord interacting with people, not just in the two chapters I spoke about but in all the gospels, we could pick up a lot concerning how to shepherd.