

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 5 – Tuesday

Acts 2:37-39

Acts chapter 2 is very particular in our history; it is the beginning of the church. On the night of the Lord's resurrection He breathed into the disciples. You could say that the church was brought forth that night because we were regenerated in the Lord's resurrection, but officially we need to take Acts chapter 2 when the Spirit was poured out on the Body on the day of Pentecost as the time when the church was formed. That day the children are mentioned. I read these verses many times, but never noticed that on the first day of the church God paid attention to the children. Peter was preaching the gospel "And when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, What should we do, brothers? And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise and to your children" (vv. 37-39a). The promise is to you and to your children.

Verse 39 continues, "And to all who are far off". Many brothers have a burden for the gospel but their first attention is to those who are far off. They are burdened for coworkers; they are burdened for students; they are burdened to preach the gospel to the community. That is wonderful but don't ignore your children. First the gospel is to you and to your children, then to those who are far off. It is not written with a comma between *you and your children*; the comma is before *those who are far off*. This indicates that there is a priority; the first ones we must be burdened for are our children. The church must always have the burden for the gospel, but first to the children. Satan is afraid of the increase of God's people; he fears the increase of God's people. Where does our increase come from? From our children and from preaching the gospel to those outside, always from these two sources. Both Brother Nee in his ministry and Brother Lee in his ministry said strongly that our increase should be 50% from each of these sources. However, with many of the churches most of the increase is from outside. You have a very unique opportunity here because the Lord is blessing you with so many children. The only places that I have seen this fulfilled is in the Philippines and Belize which have 50% increase from inside and from outside. I hope that all the churches would pay attention to this matter.