

A Testimony of Our Experience on the Governing Principles (GP) meeting 6.10.2017

As the meeting opened it was amazing to us to think on this body of believers coming together with a broad range of personal thoughts about the GP but willing to proceed “not knowing beforehand the things which (we) should do nevertheless (we) went forth.”

We met many new people and felt a general sense of love and desire for fellowship in spite of any disagreements, or differing opinions, we may have. Everyone demonstrated deep desires to be “determined in one mind and in one heart united in all things.” After sacrament and music we began in earnest when it was immediately testified to us that the inspiration that resulted in the GP (from The Lord through Jeff Savage) came because of Jeff’s labor over it in the spirit and that this meeting would be OUR labor, which was required, to come to common consent about what The Lord gave and would give us as a body of believers.

There was one view presented early that we should pray and get revelation and if we did not have the heavens opened to us collectively, we should leave and pray separately until we do get revelation, this—to us—was one possibility, but seemed unlikely because WE had not yet labored, like Jeff, to receive anything from The Lord.

We received the witness at that time that The Lord required this labor of this body of believers for Him to bring unity regarding what His will is concerning the GP.

After the initial round of discussion concerning the purpose of such a document (we felt not to say anything of ourselves at this point as we desired The Lord to direct us if we were to say anything). We took a break and gratefully ‘supped’ together.

When we began again it was very apparent that this was not going to be an easy process by any meaning of the word. We all agreed initially agreed to move through the GP given Jeff Savage one paragraph at a time until we had come to common consent on the whole of it. We reached the conclusion that it is wisdom for those who had a differing idea/opposition to any part to share their thoughts at the beginning of that section. All present were invited to speak up, to express concerns, to share ideas, to use Godly principles (persuasion, kindness, etc.) in dealing with one another.

We spent a good portion of time discussing the opening heading. And the body presented wide and differing views and options. It seemed we were not going to be able to agree or to even be able to consider all views. We watched (participating a little) as discussions gave way roughly to common ground over the sections.

As we progressed some participants left the meeting and the body began to dwindle to exactly half of the former body (38 to 19). We are left to assume that those who left early did so because they needed to for whatever reason that was. In our personal view we could see no other place more important to be than in this meeting at this time (except grave emergencies perhaps). We had personally committed to do all that would be required to receive the will of The Lord and for us that meant we would stay and endure every discussion and every dispute until the necessary revelation/consent/will of God was achieved. We could not leave this work undone, nor could we leave it to others to do for us. We had to be actively engaged and searching for HIS WILL no matter what our thoughts were. We (Troy and Kelly) independently, have never been so engaged in solemn and ponderous prayer while in the moment reading, hearing thoughts and views, and pleading to know He wanted. Nothing else mattered.

For me (Troy) I commented probably more than what I needed to, but always sought to represent what I understood the will of The Lord to be. (The Lord helped me with this as I developed a headache that increased into a migraine that left me present and a witness to all, but unable to say much at all by the end. This migraine was truly healed by the blessing of The Lord through my wife right after the meeting as another witness to us of His hand in these proceedings). As we approached the end, the discussions never ceased to be full and to us everyone appeared to be open and receptive. Persuasion was the word of the day and was used with prudence and with skill. Some sections were perfect as they were, many required lengthy discussion and some revision to make them 'consent-able' by all who remained. Of particular note to us (to our great joy and gratitude) were the discussions surrounding the few word-for-word revelations given in the document. I believe God alone gave to each of us a witness of those portions. NONE present wanted to alter a single word given by revelation from The Lord! We unanimously and vocally voted to restore those portions to exactly what they were when they were given (some portions had been slightly altered by prior voices opposing the specific language).

By the end, those who remained experienced a unity and a love that can only be achieved by this kind of uninterrupted labor together. We closed with a prayer circle that included the prayers of many who remained. That prayer beseeched The Lord to accept this work or to correct us through any present. It ended with His acceptance and an Amen, Amen by the body of believers who labored to discover His will.

This is our witness and our testimony which fulfilled the witness born to us early in the meeting as to why we were meeting together, to fulfill our required labor to arrive at unity and common consent concerning the will of The Lord regarding the GP. And thus it is, Amen.

KelTroy (Troy and Kelly) Erickson
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