

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – Prayer Meetings

- Districts 1 & 2
- Spanish-speaking in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking
College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking
Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

7:00 pm – Young People's
Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the
Ministry and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study on
Deuteronomy –
Week Five

Ministry Publication Reading

Life-Study of
Deuteronomy:
Messages Nine & Ten

Scripture Reading

Eph. 4:23; 2 Cor. 4:16;
Rom. 12:2; 8:29

Announcements

❖ Fellowship Concerning Temporary Modifications to Our Meeting Schedule for the Remaining of the Month of March

- Heb. 10:25 - We ARE NOT abandoning our own assembling together by changing our meeting format in these days. We should be EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER to connect with each other even more intimately and mutually in smaller numbers via the internet, phones, and various online conference platforms.
- John 4:24 - The place the New Testament believers gather to worship is the corporate spirit which is the true dwelling place of God.
- Monthly brothers' meeting for Saturday, March 21 – Cancelled
- All small group meetings should meet remotely via videoconference or phone and not in person.
- There will be no Lord's Day meetings on 3/22 and 3/29 in the meeting halls. We encourage small groups to meet via videoconference or phone for fellowship.
- Prayer meetings on 3/24, and 3/31 will be held remotely by small group via videoconference or phone.
- The young people's meetings on 3/21, and 3/28 are cancelled.
- We anticipate that more guidance will come out from the prayer and fellowship of the leading brothers in the church. We will do our best to keep the saints informed. Please check for updates on the church's website <http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

Persevere in Prayer

- ❖ **If TWO are in harmony (with the heavens and each other), they can bind and loose based on the will of God - Matthew 18:19-20**

Riches from the Ministry

After being born again, we are still mostly in the old creation, so the Bible continues to show us that after regeneration we need to be renewed (Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:16). Second Corinthians 3:18 shows us that as we behold the Lord with an unveiled face, we are being transformed into His image. Romans 8:29 tells us that we need to be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God. The model to which we are being conformed is Christ as the firstborn Son of God. He is altogether different from the natural man, from us. We need to be renewed, transformed, and eventually conformed to Christ's image. After we have been regenerated, we may be loving the Lord and seeking after Him. We may be very religious, pious, and even "godly," but we are in the old creation. We all need to be renewed, transformed, and conformed to the image of Christ.

This is why I have done my best to adjust the way you pray. Our former way of prayer was not the prayer from the new creation but the prayer from the old creation according to the old and natural way. Now I would like to read and comment on something Brother Watchman Nee spoke in his fellowship concerning the prayer ministry of the church. Brother Nee said:

During our prayer, we must also guard against the prayers that are not prayers.

I want to emphasize Brother Nee's word that we should guard against the prayers that are not prayers. We may pray much, but what we pray may not be real prayer. This is why I have adjusted our prayer. We may think that as long as one prays, that is wonderful. When someone prays, we may feel that merely because he has prayed, that is prayer. But Brother Nee said that during our prayer, we must guard against the prayers that are not prayers.

Brother Nee continues:

Satan will not only take away our time of prayer, but also strip us of the strength to pray. He will come in even while we pray to make us speak many unrelated, confused, unimportant, and vain words. He will cause us to ask in vain and to waste our time of prayer.

These unrelated, confused, unimportant, and vain words can be uttered when we pray long prayers. Long prayers are full of such words. Satan uses these long prayers to exhaust us, to strip us of our energy. We may pray for ten minutes, but these ten minutes could be a waste of our time.

Brother Nee continues:

He will try to occupy our time of prayer so that the effect of our prayer will amount to nothing. Many fleshly, old, long, mundane, heartless, and aimless prayers are time-consuming and wasteful prayers.

The word mundane does not merely mean commonplace but worldly, natural, and fleshly. Something mundane is not spiritual but fleshly, not sanctified or heavenly but worldly. Such mundane and long prayers are time-consuming and wasteful prayers. We should realize that many times in our meetings in the past, our prayers were like this.

Brother Nee went on to say:

It may seem that we are just praying out of habit. But actually within these prayers are suggestions, instigations, and deceptions of Satan.

Brother Nee was more strict than I am. He considered that in these long prayers, there were even suggestions, instigations, and deceptions of Satan.

He said:

If we are not watchful, our prayer will become meaningless and fruitless. One brother mentioned a story he read in the biography of Evan Roberts. Once a few people were in his home praying for something. Halfway through one brother's prayer, Mr. Roberts went over and covered that brother's mouth, saying, "Brother, don't go on. You are not praying." The brother reading this story said within himself, "How could Mr. Roberts do this?" But later he realized that Mr. Roberts was right. Many words in our prayers are spoken by the flesh through the instigation of Satan. These prayers may be long, but many of them are impractical and useless. Brothers and sisters, this is a fact. Many times in our prayer, we seem to circle around the whole world. Time is wasted and strength is exhausted, yet nothing that is to the point is prayed about. We cannot expect God to answer this kind of prayer. This kind of prayer does not have any spiritual value. Hence, when we pray, we have to be watchful and not spend too much time or give too many reasons.

When we pray, we should not give too many reasons. Instead of giving the Lord a description with many reasons, we should simply tell Him what we want... We do not need to give the Lord the reasons why we need power. We should simply pray, "Lord, give us the power." The reasons are just a decoration to our prayer. We decorate our prayer with many reasons which make our prayer wasteful.

Brother Nee goes on to tell us how we should pray:

Rather, we should speak what is in our heart to God in a sincere way. We must never fill up our prayer with many empty words.

This shows us that we need to be transformed not only in our daily life but also in our prayer in the meetings.