

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 Seven

Ministry Publication Reading

Life-Study of
Deuteronomy:
Messages Thirteen &
Fourteen

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:41; Acts 13:52

Announcements

❖ Fellowship Concerning the Church Meetings

- All meetings: meet remotely via videoconference or phone and not in person.
- Please refer to the church's website for links to the Fellowship/Announcement letters, the Prayer Burdens for the current week, and any other important guidelines at:
<http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

❖ Holy Word for Morning Revival: Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy Volume Two available for sale on Lord's Day, 3/29, at Two Locations

- District 1 at Michael & Helen Rhodes' front door from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- District 2 at Ellen Arnolds' front porch from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Cost: \$6.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix
- Please avoid face-to-face contact or conversation. Just quickly pay the \$6.00 cost, pick up your book, and go home.

❖ Offerings

- Beginning today (3/29/20), all offerings are to be carried out electronically.
- Bank Transfer: You can transfer money electronically between your bank to Chase bank. Please email or text Michael Lyczewek or Roger Chua for routing & account numbers.
- If you choose to, you can designate your offering on the provided "memo" field.
- No cash will be collected and do not send checks to the meeting hall.

Persevere in Prayer

❖ Seizing the Opportunity and Rising Up to Pray - 24-hour Global Watchman's Prayer on March 31

- Sign up link for prayer time:
<http://mswe1.org/globalprayer3312020en>

❖ Please refer to the church website at <http://www.churchinphoenix.org> for full detailed items of the prayer burdens

Riches from the Ministry

We need to remember that our groups must be vital groups. The Bible talks about vital people. What is an overcomer? An overcomer is a vital person. Then what is it to be vital so that we can be overcomers? A vital person, an overcomer, is a praying person. You must have the real burden for the real prayer.

We have seen in a previous message that Brother Nee said we should not pray anything that is not real prayer. Many prayers that we pray actually are not prayers. They are repetitions of statements according to our tradition. The real burden of prayer is not a composition. When the blind man prayed to the Lord, he did not pray a composed prayer. When the Lord Jesus asked him what he wanted, the blind man said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight!" (Luke 18:41). This is real prayer out of a real burden. He was burdened to contact Jesus so that he could see, and the Lord answered his prayer. But our prayers mostly are not like this. Our prayers, even our personal prayers, are mostly a religious form and a kind of performance.

Then we may ask, "How can we be burdened for prayer?" This is a matter of the Lord's mercy. I cannot forget the vital groups, because that is my real burden. I cannot forget the Lord's recovery, because His recovery is my burden. I always have to pray to the Lord for His recovery. When I pray and cry, "O Lord, the recovery," this is out of some burden. Once we begin to pray for the recovery, we realize that we cannot finish our prayer. There are many places and persons for which we have to pray. We need to be vital, and to be vital is to have the real burden for prayer. There is the need of the real prayer among us.

I recently checked with some of the groups concerning what they were doing, but no one told me that they were praying desperately for the vital groups. Instead they told me about other activities in their groups. When I heard this, I was concerned that we were making the groups something that is not vital. The vitality is not in your doing. The vitality is in your prayer. If someone asks you what you are doing in your group, it would be wonderful to hear you say, "We just cannot live without prayer. We are desperate with the Lord. Everybody prayed. We only have the time to pray." This is what I like to hear. You must have some vital prayer with some vital burden.

If you have this kind of prayer with a burden, every time you pray you will get the Spirit. You will get the infilling Spirit and the outpoured Spirit. Our meetings should not be an empty performance but meetings full of the Spirit. Our vital group training meeting is not a common meeting. This is a meeting for the overcomers to rescue the church from its degradation. If the vital groups fail, there is no way for the Lord to do anything. ...Whether or not the vital groups work depends upon how much prayer you offer to the Lord. Then you will have the Spirit. You will be a Spirit-filled person according to what Acts 13:52 says—"The disciples were filled...with the Holy Spirit." If you are a person of prayer, you will be a person living, walking, and doing everything in your spirit. You will not be so loose and easily talk about others. You will be greatly limited, restricted, in your spirit.

I hope that my word here will encourage us. We should be desperate for the Lord's interests on this earth. This is our destiny. We need to aspire to be the overcomers to rescue the church from its degradation. There is no verse in the New Testament which tells us that the closer we are to the Lord's coming, the better the church will be. There is not such a thing. On the contrary, the closer we are to the Lord's coming, the more degraded the church will become. The victory will be with the overcomers. They will be raptured early, and they will be the ones who will consummate this age. This age will be consummated only because of the overcomers. Of course, we still need a church life. No one can be an overcomer without a church life. If you isolate yourself from the church and neglect the church, there is no way for you to be an overcomer.

The book of Judges shows us that Israel became degraded to the uttermost. But still that degraded nation of Israel kept a piece of land on which Christ could come to tread. Without the degraded nation of Israel, that piece of land would not have been there. Also, Israel produced Boaz and Ruth to bring forth Obed, who begot David's father, Jesse (Matt. 1:5-6), and it also produced another couple, Mary and Joseph, to bring forth Christ. The church may be defeated, but God can never be defeated. He has His way. We still need the church life that can maintain us in the overcoming life, but we should not be satisfied just to be in the church. To be in the church is one thing, but to be in the church and to be an overcomer is another thing.

The vital groups need overcomers. Even the vital groups need some vital groups within them to rescue them. After a little degradation, we are no longer vital. Without prayer, without being in the Holy Spirit and your human spirit, you can never be vital. Do not think that if you attend all the vital group meetings, you are vital. Being vital depends upon whether you are vital in prayer in the Holy Spirit and in your human spirit.