

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

8:00 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 11

Ministry Publication Reading

Life-Study of
Deuteronomy:
Messages 21 & 22

Scripture Reading

Matt. 18:19

Announcements

❖ 2020 Memorial Day Conference

- Saints who made their hotel reservation with Marriott Marquis in Atlanta for the 2020 Memorial Day Conference with the LSM group code will need to contact the hotel directly to cancel their reservation. The hotel will no longer be responsible for cancelling the reservations made under the LSM group code.
- All the messages of the 2020 Memorial Day Conference will be streamed beginning at the following time in each locality's time zone.
Message 1: Friday, May 22; 7:00 pm
Message 2: Saturday, May 23; 10:00 am
Message 3: Saturday, May 23; 7:00 pm
Message 4: Lord's Day, May 24; 10:00 am
Message 5: Lord's Day, May 24; 7:00 pm
Message 6: Monday, May 25; 10:00 am

❖ 2020 European Young Peoples' and Parents' and Children's Conference – conducted via Zoom

- YP Registration: May 2-9; <https://ypconference.eu/>
Part 1 – Saturday, May 16
Part 2 – Saturday, June 20
Part 3 – Friday, July 31 – Monday, August 3
Part 4 – Saturday, August 29
- Parents and Children's Conference Registration:
May 2-9; <https://ypconference.eu/>
Parents Conference – June 5-7
Family Conference – June 26-28

❖ Monthly Brothers' Meeting

- Saturday, May 2
- 8:30 am via Zoom

❖ Offerings

- All offerings are to be carried out electronically. Cash will not be collected and do not send checks to the meeting hall nor to any of the brothers.
- Zelle: If your bank is enrolled with Zelle, you can send money directly between your bank account to the church's bank account. The email address is offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Persevere in Prayer

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

Riches from the Ministry

We have seen that the church should bind what God wants to bind and loose what God wants to loose. How does the church bind and loose? The Lord tells us in verse 19, "Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter, any matter that they ask will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens" (alternate translation). Verse 18 concerns earth and heaven. Verse 19 also concerns earth and heaven. In verse 18, when the earth binds, heaven binds, and when the earth looses, heaven looses. Verse 19 says that whatever one asks on earth will be fulfilled by the Father in heaven. The emphasis of the Lord Jesus here is not on asking in harmony, but on being in harmony concerning any matter and then asking concerning such matters. According to the original language, "any matter" belongs to both "in harmony" and "that they ask." The Lord's intention is not to tell men to pray for a certain matter in harmony, but to be in harmony concerning any matter. If we are in harmony concerning any matter, then our Father in heaven will accomplish whatever we ask concerning a particular matter. This is the oneness of the Body, the oneness in the Holy Spirit.

On the one hand, there is the harmony concerning any matter. On the other hand, there is the prayer concerning any matter. God must bring us to this point. Christian harmony can be found only in the Body of Christ; it cannot be found anywhere else. Harmony is something found in the Body of Christ. Only in the Body of Christ is there no striving, and only in the Body of Christ is there harmony. When our natural life is dealt with by the Lord, and we are brought to the point where we truly know the Body of Christ, we will be in harmony. Then when we come together to pray, our prayer will be in harmony. When we stand on a harmonious ground, the things we do will be in harmony. When we are in harmony in the things we see, we can be the mouthpiece of God's will. Brothers and sisters, when you are about to pray for certain things, and you hold a different view, you have to be careful; you may make mistakes. But if the whole church gathers together and is in harmony concerning a certain matter, that matter must be what heaven intends to accomplish. We have to trust the church.

We must remember that prayer is not the first thing. Prayer is something that comes after harmony. If the church is to have this kind of ministerial prayer on earth, every brother and sister must learn before the Lord to deny the fleshly life. Otherwise, nothing will avail. The Lord's word is very significant. He does not say that the Father will answer if we pray in His name. Neither does He say that the Father will answer if He prays for us. He says, "If two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter, any matter that they ask will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens." If we are in harmony, the heavens will be open to us!

The prayer ministry of the church is a prayer on earth that results in a move in heaven. Brothers and sisters, we must remember that the prayer in Matthew 18 can never be covered by prayers that are in the nature of spiritual edification. It can never be covered by personal prayers. We often can ask God for what we lack, and God answers our prayer. There is a place for personal prayers. We often feel that God is near to us. Thank the Lord, He hears prayers that are for spiritual edification. We should not despise this kind of prayer...However, we must also see that prayers are not just for individuals and for spiritual edification. Prayer is for ministry and work. This prayer is the ministry of the church on earth; it is the work of the church. It is the responsibility that the church bears before God. The prayer of the church is the outlet of heaven. The prayer of the church means that when God wants to do something, the church prays about that matter first so that it can be fulfilled and God's goal can be accomplished.

...God has many things stacked up in heaven. He cannot accomplish any of them because there is no outlet for Him on earth. There are numerous things stacked up in heaven. Yet God cannot resolve them because the church has not exercised its free will to stand on God's side and fulfill God's goal. Brothers and sisters, you have to remember that the highest and greatest work of the church is to be the outlet of God's will. The church becomes the outlet of God's will through prayer. This prayer is not a fragmentary prayer but a prayer that is in the nature of a ministry, a prayer that is in the nature of a work. God gives man vision and opens man's eyes to see His will. When this happens, man takes his place to pray.

The Lord also shows us in these verses that individual prayers do not work. There must be at least two persons. If you do not see this point, you will not understand why the Lord says what He says. All the prayers in the Gospel of John are individual prayers. When John 15:16 records, "Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you," the number of people is not a condition. But in Matthew 18 the number is a condition; there must be at least two persons. The Lord says, "If two of you are in harmony on earth." There must be at least two because this is a question of fellowship. One person cannot accomplish this. One person cannot be God's outlet; there must be two. The principle of two is the principle of the church, the principle of the Body of Christ. Although there are only two in this kind of prayer, the "harmony" is indispensable. The two must be in harmony, and they must stand on the ground of the Body. They must know the Body life. There is only one goal with them, which is to tell God, "We want Your will to be done, in heaven and on earth." When the church prays in this position, whatever it asks will be done for it from the Father who is in the heavens.