

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting 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

Knowing and
Experiencing the All-
Inclusive, Extensive Christ
– Week 4

Ministry Publication Reading

Life-Study of Jeremiah &
Lamentations

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1-14

Announcements

❖ Fellowship Concerning the Church Meetings

- All meetings: the church will continue to meet remotely by videoconferencing or by phone.

❖ June 2020 Semiannual Training will be held by video training only.

- Registration Due Date: June 14, 2020
- Registration Fee of \$100 per trainee (non-refundable) can be sent through Zelle or Popmoney (security verification code: 602-370-5813) to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Please indicate on the memo line "2020 Summer Training". Shared seating is not an option for this video training.
- To fill out the registration form, please click on the link provided in the email sent to the saints. Registration form contains two schedules: Schedule A (6/29 – 7/4) simulated live training schedule for full-time only trainees. Schedule B (6/29 – 7/18)- simulated video training schedule for both full-time and part-time trainees.
- All training messages will be viewed individually by the registered trainees in their homes at the times designated by the leading/responsible brothers.
- Each registered trainee will receive individual login credentials to access the messages. Sharing login credentials are not allowed.
- PDFs of the training outline publication in all languages will be available to the registered trainees when they log in to view the messages at: <http://training.lsmwebcast.com>
- Group study sessions (to be assigned by the leading/responsible brothers) and testing will be a mandatory requirement for registered trainees and will be conducted online by video conferencing software (ex. Zoom).

❖ Offerings

- All offerings are to be carried out electronically.
- Monies can be sent through Zelle or Popmoney (security verification code: 602-370-5813) to the church's bank account using the following email address: 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

[In Col.] 4:2 Paul charges us, "Persevere in prayer." To persevere in prayer is to continue persistently, steadfastly, and earnestly.

According to Paul's word in 4:2, the thing that requires our perseverance is prayer. We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight. Two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other. The meaning of the name Satan is adversary. Satan is both the enemy without and the adversary within. On the one hand, he is the enemy trying to defeat God; on the other hand, he is the adversary within God's realm seeking to cause damage. As the adversary, Satan opposes God from within God's realm, God's kingdom.

Although the battle raging in the universe is between God and Satan, another party is involved. This third party consists of God's chosen and redeemed people, the ones who will actually decide the outcome of the battle. If we take sides with Satan, God will lose, even though He is almighty. As the infinite, all-powerful Creator, God will not lower Himself to fight against one of His creatures. Thus, it is necessary for another of God's creatures--man--to fight against Satan. In a very real sense, God needs us. Without us, He would not have a way to carry on the battle against Satan. He must maintain His status as the Creator. For this reason, He needs us to carry on the actual work of warfare.

In order to fight on God's side against Satan, we need to persevere in prayer. This perseverance is needed because the course of the whole world is away from God. To pray is to go against the current, the trend, in the fallen universe. Persevering in prayer is like rowing a boat upstream. If you do not persevere, you will be carried downstream by the current. No doubt, to persevere in this way, either in rowing or in praying, requires a great deal of energy. The entire universe is under Satan's influence and is contrary to God's will. Hence, there is a strong current in the world in opposition to the will of God. As those who take sides with God, we find that the whole universe is against us and, in particular, against our prayer.

In light of the fact that there is great resistance to praying, let us now consider in a very practical way how to persevere in prayer. Before you try to persevere in prayer, you should first make a deal with the Lord concerning your prayer life. Pray to Him in a definite way and say, "Lord, I mean business with You about this matter of prayer. I call heaven and earth to witness that from this time forth I will have a life of prayer. I will not be a prayerless person. Rather, I will be a praying person." If you do not have such a prayer to the Lord, you will not be able to persevere in prayer. We need to say to Him, "Lord, I am desperate about this. I offer myself to You so that I may have a prayer life. Lord, keep me in the spirit of prayer. If I forget this or neglect this, I know that You will not forget it. Remind me again and again about prayer." This kind of prayer may be regarded as a vow made to the Lord. We all need to make a vow to Him concerning our prayer life. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, I know that if I forget this vow, You will not forget it. From the very beginning, Lord, I want to clearly hand the responsibility over to You. Lord, don't let me go. Remind me to pray."

After we make such a deal with the Lord concerning prayer, we should set aside definite times for prayer...During this time, prayer must be the top priority. Our attitude should be that prayer is our most important business and that nothing should be allowed to interfere with it.

Persevering in prayer has many benefits. By prayer we set our mind on the things above. In fact, prayer is the only way to have our mind set on the things in heaven. When we set our mind on things above by praying, we shall not pray for trivial matters. Instead, our prayer will be occupied with Christ's heavenly intercession, ministry, and administration. Because Christ is interceding for the churches around the world, we also pray for the churches. Let the Lord take care of all the small matters in our living. Our responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Since the Father knows our need, He will take care of us and meet our need.

When we set our mind on the things above during our times of prayer, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens. Through our prayer, Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth with the extension of God's kingdom.

When we pray, we enter into the Holy of Holies and approach the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for timely help." Prayer is the way to come forward to the throne of grace. Coming forward to the throne of grace, we receive mercy and grace to meet our timely need. When we pray, approaching the throne of grace, mercy and grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us. How rewarding this is! Receiving the flow of grace in prayer is actually more important than having our prayers answered. Whether or not our prayer is answered is secondary. The primary thing is that grace flows like a river from the throne and into our being.

Another benefit of praying is related to fellowship with the Lord. We all love the Lord's presence and anointing, and we all love to have fellowship with Him. But how can we enjoy the Lord's presence and have fellowship with Him? The only way is to pray. When we pray, we enter into fellowship with the Lord and become conscious of the fact that we are truly one spirit with Him and that He is actually one spirit with us. The more we pray, the more we experience being one with the Lord, and the more we enjoy His presence and have fellowship with Him. What a marvelous reward!

Life-Study of Colossians, Message Sixty-Five, pp. 579-584