

## 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

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry  
and the Word

### Holy Word for Morning Revival

The All-Inclusive, Extensive Christ Replacing the Culture for the One New Man – Week 3

### Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer – Chapter One

### Scripture Reading

Psa. 27:4, 8; Gen. 18:23, 33

## Announcements

### ❖ Brother Andrew Yu Memorial Meeting Announcement

- Our Brother Andrew Yu was taken to be with the Lord in the evening of December 20, 2020. We thank the Lord for our brother's long and faithful service to Brother Lee and to his ministry office. This is a great loss; nevertheless, we expect the Lord's continued blessing on the ministry of the age.
- We continue to stand with and pray for our Sister Marilyn, their children, and Andrew's relatives.
- The Church in Anaheim will host an **online memorial meeting for our brother on January 8, 2021, at 5:00 pm (PST)**. To stream this online memorial, go to [www.memorial-meeting.org](http://www.memorial-meeting.org); the meeting will automatically begin at 5:00 pm (6:00 pm Phoenix time). You can select English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Spanish as your language.
- An email address has been set up by Andrew's family called [AndrewYuMemories@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewYuMemories@gmail.com) for those who want to share memories or photos of him. Please feel free to contribute any messages to this email account.

### ❖ The Holy Word for Morning Revival: The All-Inclusive, Extensive Christ Replacing the Culture for the One New Man available for sale at Two Locations.

- District 1 at Michael & Helen Rhodes' front door from 9am-5pm.
- District 2 at Ellen Arnolds' front porch from 9am-5pm.
- Cost: \$7.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix

### ❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle or Popmoney to the church's bank account using the following email address: [offerings@churchinphoenix.org](mailto:offerings@churchinphoenix.org).

Persevere in Prayer

### ❖ Church Prayer Burdens: <http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

### ❖ Intercessory Prayer in North America:

- Sign up at <http://www.beseeking.org> to receive daily emails containing a prayer burden, along with crucial verses and ministry portion.

## Riches from the Ministry

Some believers think that prayer is simply to talk to God or to cry out to Him. This meaning is not bad, but prayer is not merely talking to God or crying out to Him. If God would open our eyes to see His view of prayer, we would realize that we do not understand prayer...Therefore, I have a heavy burden to speak to the saints concerning the meaning of prayer.

First, prayer is to absorb God; prayer causes man to obtain God. God is reality; hence, He is contactable and obtainable. The God whom we worship is not doctrine, theory, philosophy, or ideology, nor is He an empty character or a vain idol. The God whom we worship is Spirit; He is a real spiritual entity. He is as real as air, water, and sound. Just as air, water, and sound are in the universe, so also God, who is Spirit, is in the universe. We can worship Him, and we can also contact, absorb, and obtain Him.

We can obtain God through prayer. In order to obtain water, we must drink; in order to obtain air, we must breathe; and in order to obtain sound, we must listen. If we want to obtain God, we must pray. Hence, the first meaning of prayer is to obtain God. Regrettably, many believers pray often and for long periods of time, but they do not seem to obtain much of the element of God, because they do not understand the meaning of prayer. They have not seen that prayer is to contact God and obtain Him.

Ironing is an example. Clothes that are placed under an electric iron absorb heat from the iron and, as a result, get hot. A sister in Taipei was ironing her clothes one night and forgot to unplug the iron when she finished. As a result, the ironing board absorbed heat from the iron and caught on fire. This illustration of absorbing heat through contact with an electric iron explains the meaning of prayer. To pray is to contact God and to absorb Him in that contact. Thus, the importance of prayer does not depend on how much we say to God or on how much we cry out to Him but on how much we contact Him. The more we contact God, the more we will absorb Him, and the more we absorb Him, the more we will enjoy God and salvation.

God is Spirit; hence, our contacting and absorbing Him do not depend on our words. Some people utter many words when they pray, but their words are like sounding brass or clanging cymbals; they do not have much value before God. We may not say anything when we come to God, but our whole being, including our heart, should face God. While we look to God, we may sigh and confess that we are incompetent, weak, unable to rise, unpresentable, and thirsty and that we lack words for the gospel and are not inclined to fellowship with the saints. We should lay our inner condition before God and even tell Him that we are short in every matter. No matter what our inner condition is, we should bring it to God. There is a hymn that says, "Just as I am" (Hymns, #1048). This means that we should come to God just as we are without trying to improve or change our condition. Our attitude when we come to God should be to come just as we are.

God is everything to us. The expectation to be strong and have words for prayer without contacting God is vain. God does not want us to have such expectations. He is not concerned about whether we are bad, weak, or wrong. Our condition does not bother Him. He is concerned only about our seeing and contacting Him. As long as we come to Him, He has a way because He is the way. If we are weak, He is power. If we are not presentable, He is presentable. If we are unable to rise up, He is rising up. If we lack leading, He is the leading. If we do not have words, He is the Word. He is everything. We do not have to wait or improve ourselves. The more we come to God according to our condition, the better.

The first meaning of prayer is to absorb God, and the second meaning is to express God. These meanings are related. To express God means to let Him speak, that is, to let God be expressed. Prayer is not our speaking or expressing ourselves. Prayer is our letting God speak and express Himself.

Whenever we pray, we should let God speak and let Him finish speaking. In the New Testament Martha had much to say [John 11:21, 25-27]...What Martha said did not correspond with what the Lord revealed to her. Because she kept speaking, the Lord's words could not get into her. Everything she said was an expression of herself. That was not real prayer; it was man's natural crying out. Real prayer is our coming to God and letting God speak and express Himself instead of speaking our own words and expressing ourselves. We are often like Martha in our prayer. Our only care is to express ourselves, not to let God express Himself.

Although it was Abraham who continued to inquire in that prayer [in Genesis 18], it was mainly God speaking, not Abraham. Hence, at the end of the chapter the Bible says, "Jehovah went away as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham" (v. 33). The best and most valuable prayer is not one in which we speak but one in which God speaks. The best and most valuable prayer is not one in which we cry out or beseech but one in which we inquire and let God speak. To cry out is to tell God the things of man, but to beseech is to beg for the things of God. The best prayer is to inquire. To inquire is to let God speak so that the words spoken are God's speaking within man, God's expressions. This is the best prayer.

In conclusion, to pray means to absorb God and to express Him. Every prayer should touch God and let Him pass through us and be expressed. When we pray in this way, we will be anointed by God and be mingled more with Him. Then we will know that God is our everything. We will also see that He is always with us and is our supply in every need.