

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Jan 10, 2021

The church in Phoenix

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 4

Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer – Chapter Two

Scripture Reading

Gen. 18:17, 22, 33; John 15:7

Announcements

❖ 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.

Persevere in Prayer

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

❖ Intercessory Prayer in North America:

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

Riches from the Ministry

[John 15:7](#) says, "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." This verse presents three crucial points. First, we must abide in the Lord. To abide in the Lord is to have fellowship with the Lord. Second, the Lord's words must abide in us. When we abide in the Lord and are in constant fellowship with Him, He speaks within us. Third, we ask the Lord according to our heart's desire. Such asking, or praying, comes from the Lord's speaking within us. If we are in fellowship with the Lord, He will speak within us. When the Lord speaks, we have the words with which to ask Him, that is, to pray to Him.

Very few people have a thorough and accurate concept regarding prayer. Very few know that we can pray to God just as we speak with other human beings. Since most people have the concept that God is so great and man is so small, that God is high above and man is far below, they think that we must be solemn and reverent when coming to God. They also think that we must implore God for His care and mercy so that our requests may be granted and our desires fulfilled. This is the concept of most people, and I was not an exception.

In Genesis 18 God wanted Abraham to pray to Him, so He came to be Abraham's friend. God did not lift Abraham up to the heavenly sanctuary of glory; instead, He humbled Himself and went to the lowly tent in which Abraham dwelt.

...God had two purposes for appearing to Abraham. One purpose was to tell Abraham that he would beget Isaac according to the time of life. This was related to Abraham. The other purpose was to tell Abraham that He would destroy Sodom. This was related to Abraham's nephew Lot. God told Abraham the matter that was related to him near his tent. God was to give Abraham a son. It was easy for God to tell Abraham this because it was something that God would do for Abraham. However, this was only part of God's purpose in visiting Abraham. It was not easy for God to tell Abraham the second purpose, for God had to find someone on the earth who would pray for Lot to be saved. This is what God wanted Abraham to do; hence, it was not easy for God to bring up this matter. Before God can do something in a brother, He must first find someone to pray for that brother. This is a major principle of God's work.

Before God saves, edifies, or works in someone, He must find a person to pray for the things that He is about to do. Without our prayer, God cannot work. God visited Abraham so that Abraham would intercede for Lot to be saved. It is possible to say that God was asking Abraham to do something; hence, it was not easy for God to bring it up. It is easy to tell a person what we will do for him, but it is not easy to ask someone to do something for us. God wanted Abraham to do something, but in order to see if Abraham was willing, He did not bring it up quickly...It was when Abraham walked with God to send God off and lingered in God's presence that God said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" (v. 17). God spoke with Abraham as if He was speaking with a friend.

God went to Abraham so that Abraham would pray for Lot. Genesis 19:29 says that when God destroyed Sodom, He remembered Abraham and rescued Lot. God's purpose was for Abraham to pray for Lot, but instead of being like a master commanding a servant, He was like a person needing a friend's help. God did not say, "Abraham, I want to destroy Sodom; hence, you must pray for Lot." That would have been a master commanding his servant, not a conversation between close friends. Instead, God stood in front of Abraham that day as Abraham's friend. He and Abraham stood and talked as friends about the things on His heart. He said, "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah, how great it is; and their sin, how very heavy it is! I shall go down and see whether they have done altogether according to its outcry" (18:20-21). Abraham immediately understood that God wanted him to pray for Lot, who dwelt in Sodom. God seemed to be speaking in a riddle; it was as if He had said something yet said nothing. Abraham was very wise and did not say, "God, Lot is still there; will You destroy him also?" Neither God nor Abraham mentioned Lot's name, but Lot was their goal.

The best prayers are prayers to God as a friend. Such prayers are not uttered by men who are far below a very high God. Such prayers are spoken by men to a God who is on their level. Some may condemn this and say that it is heresy to uplift man to the same level as God. However, in the matter of God communing with man, of His wanting man to pray, God likes to be on the same level as man. Thus, real prayers are made by men who stand on the same level as God and consult with God. This is not man uplifting himself but God humbling Himself. It is not our going to God's palace but God coming to our tent. Every real prayer is God condescending Himself in order to draw near to us, humbling Himself to come to us, and placing Himself on the same level that we are on so that we may be at ease to speak with Him. This is real prayer.

To pray by letting God speak and express Himself is to pray according to the Lord's word in [John 15:7](#). When we abide in the Lord, have fellowship with Him, and let Him speak within us, what we ask will be according to His words. Such prayer is not out of our self, nor is it initiated by us; rather, it is out of the Lord, and He is its source. We are not uttering our own words but the words that the Lord has spoken within us. Such prayer is not the expression of our will but the Lord's will, and it is not our asking apart from the Lord. Such prayer is our praying to the Lord by abiding in Him and being mingled with Him. Such prayer is the issue of our mingling with the Lord. This is the best prayer!