

# WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Jan 17, 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 5

### Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer – Chapter Three

### Scripture Reading

Isa. 62:6-7; 45:11; Ezk. 22:30

## 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
  
- ❖ **Featured Podcast on livingtohim.com**
  - Website: [livingtohim.com/the-living-to-him-podcast/](http://livingtohim.com/the-living-to-him-podcast/)
  - New featured series of podcasts titled *Being Vitalized for a Normal Christian Life and Service*
  - Featured sharing by brother Andrew Yu on:
    - “A Normal Life and Service” – As Christians, how should we live our lives today?”
    - “7 Points on Vital Living” – “What is to have a Vital Living?” “There should not be a condemnation of where they are, but an aspiration of where they want to be!”
  
- ❖ **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

...Absorbing and expressing God in prayer are actually our preparation for prayer that enables us to fulfill God's purpose in prayer. Hence, we will now consider how God's purpose is fulfilled in prayer.

A person who knows how to pray is a man of prayer who co-works with God. We may say that the purpose of prayer is to co-work with God. Our prayer is not only to absorb God and express Him but also to co-work with God, that is, to work together with Him.

...If man does not pray, God will not work; if no one prays, God has no work to do. At any given time God must find some people or a person to co-work with Him to pray for what He intends to do on earth. If no one prays, God does not have a co-worker, and He cannot work...[I]n an effective prayer, God accomplishes what we pray for, and He accomplishes as much as we pray for...The extent to which we pray is the extent to which God works. Those whom we touch in prayer are those on whom God works, what we pray for is what God does, and how we pray is how God fulfills. This is a great principle of prayer.

For this reason prayer is a dignified matter in the sight of God. God needs our prayer to lead His work. The extent of our prayer is the extent of His work, and what we pray about is what God does. It seems that our prayer leads God's work and that His work follows our prayer. If we are lacking in God's work, we are lacking in prayer. If we do not see God saving people, we are not praying for people to be saved. If we do not see God moving in the church, we are not praying for His move. God does not work when man does not pray. The extent of God's work depends on the extent of our prayer. When we pray a little, God can only work a little. If God is not working much, it is because man is not praying much. We should never think that God's work precedes our prayer. Our prayer takes the lead, and God's work follows. The key lies with us. If we pray, God will work, but if we do not pray, He will not work.

Since prayer is so important, real prayer must contact, absorb, and express God. Otherwise, it is not real prayer, and it will not move God to work. Prayer that does not touch or express God is man's expression, not God's expression. Such prayer is out of the self, not out of God. As a result, man may pray, but God will not work. Although man wants God to work, He will not; hence, such prayer is of no avail. If we want God's work to follow our prayer and to fulfill the extent of our prayer, then our prayer must touch, absorb, and express God. This is the way for our prayer to be God's expression. In such prayer God is praying in us. This is our co-working with God, that is, our working together with God. Then the extent of our prayer is the extent to which God will work. Hence, in real prayer God follows man. Prayer that does not cause God to follow is not real prayer and is not of much value.

In Isaiah 62:6-7 Jehovah said, "Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, / I have appointed watchmen; / All day and all night / They will never keep silent. / You who remind Jehovah, / Do not be dumb; / And do not give Him quiet / Until He establishes / And until He makes Jerusalem / A praise in the earth." According to these verses, in order for God to make Jerusalem a praise, He first needs to appoint watchmen to remind Him of this matter all day and all night. Had the watchmen prayed ceaselessly, they could have caused Jehovah to work ceaselessly. Here is a principle: without man's prayer, God cannot work. If we pray ceaselessly, we make God work ceaselessly. God wants to work, but He needs us to pray, to co-work, and to coordinate with Him.

Verse 11 of chapter 45 says, "Thus says Jehovah, / The Holy One of Israel and the One who formed him, / Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, / And concerning the work of My hands, command Me."...[I]n prayer our position is active, and God's position is passive. Good prayers are prayers that command God...God will do what we want Him to do, and He will do it according to the desire in us that expresses Him.

This is a great spiritual principle: our prayer comes first, takes the lead, and God's work follows. Our prayer takes the initiative, and God's work fulfills. Prayer is crucial. The purpose of prayer is to co-work with God, that is, to coordinate with God's work such that it initiates what He fulfills. We pray, and God fulfills. Our praying is our ordering God, our commanding Him, and His fulfilling is His carrying out our order, His obeying our command. The extent to which we command is the extent to which He works.

...God's work matches our prayer, and His work is as extensive as our prayer. God wants to do many things, but He cannot do anything if we do not pray. A person who knew God said once that God's work is like a train, and our prayers are like tracks; wherever the tracks have been laid, there the train can go. Hence, our prayers pave the way for God's work. Strictly speaking, however, our prayers not only pave the way for God but are also a part of God's work. Our prayers are our coordination with God's work. If we do not pray, God has no co-worker to coordinate with Him, and thus, He can do nothing.

Those who love God must see that the purpose of prayer is to touch God, coordinate with Him, and be His co-worker. We become God's co-workers who coordinate with Him by touching Him, absorbing Him, and letting Him be expressed. Then God will take notice of whatever we bring up, He will provide what we request, and the extent of our prayer will be the extent of His work. This applies to God's work in the church, on the people around us, and in the saints.

As those who are learning to pray, we must exercise until we can touch God, express Him, and coordinate with Him as His co-workers. Then our prayers will become prophecies that He will fulfill. God will fulfill whatever we ask, and He will work according to our prayers. How glorious to be such persons on earth, that is, to be persons who command God! Such persons are glorious and dignified. (Lee, *The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer*, Chapter Three)