

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Jan 24, 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 6

Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer – Chapter Four

Scripture Reading

Matt. 6:31-33; John 6:27;
James 4:8a

Announcements

❖ Phoenix Conference with brother Ron

- March 5-7, 2021
- Conference messages will be given live via Zoom.
- Details regarding meeting schedule and Zoom information will be forthcoming.

❖ Featured Podcast on livingtohim.com

- Website: 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!"
- Special New Year Fellowship: In this special new year fellowship, brother Minoru Chen shares with us his personal experience and practice of spending a longer period of time with the Lord at the beginning of each new year. During such a time with the Lord, our brother encourages us to practice 6 things: recall, rehearse, reflect, repent, renew, and reset. He also encourages us to gather our family together for a dedicated time in the Lord's presence and reaffirm that our household is for the Lord. May the Lord gain our fresh consecration as we start this year and begin a new chapter with Him. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." – James 4:8a

❖ 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

After we are saved, the most important thing is for us to contact God...If our contact and fellowship with God are proper, we will be proper Christians.

The matter of contacting the Lord involves specific principles. It is possible to have morning revival every day and to pray every day without contacting the Lord. Many of our prayers do not result in our contacting the Lord, and thus, they are not beneficial. Hence, we must learn the principles involved in contacting the Lord.

There are many cases in the Gospel of John that show how we should contact the Lord...If we truly want to contact the Lord, we need to see some principles in contacting Him in these cases.

We must always remember that the first principle to learn in contacting the Lord is to stop our counsel and to let the Lord speak. On the one hand, we must learn to draw near to the Lord; on the other hand, when we draw near to Him, we must learn to not speak, that is, to not make proposals. [In chapter 2] it was necessary for water to be changed into wine, but the Lord knew about this need better than Mary. The church needs to be revived and the believers need to be transformed, but the Lord knows about these needs better than we. The lesson we must learn is to worship and honor Him as the Lord. We must listen to what He says and do what He wants. We must not make many proposals in our prayers. This is the first principle that we must learn in contacting the Lord in prayer.

The Samaritan woman's contact with the Lord in chapter 4 illustrates a second principle. Here the Samaritan woman realized that she was thirsty and that the Lord had living water. Hence, she asked the Lord for living water. However, the Lord did not give her this living water immediately; instead, He asked her a question. She asked the Lord for living water, and the Lord asked about her husband (vv. 15-16). By asking about her husband, the Lord touched her sinful life; her sins were related to her husband.

Here we see another principle. Knowing that the Lord can supply our need, we often go to the Lord and discover a need. When we see a need, we ask the Lord to meet that need. However, while we are asking, the Lord shows us our stains, faults, and failures; that is, He shows us matters that need to be dealt with.

A third principle is seen in the case of the feeding of the five thousand in chapter 6. A great crowd contacted the Lord, and He performed a miracle in order to feed them. When the crowd returned the next day to be filled, the Lord said, "Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life" (v. 27). The Lord was teaching the crowd to seek the food that abides unto eternal life instead of physical food. This is another principle: The Lord does not want us to seek or to put our hope in physical things when we contact Him in prayer.

If we want to draw near to the Lord and contact Him every day, we must learn the lesson of not focusing on physical matters. We must set them aside in order to seek the Lord Himself, spiritual things, things of life, and eternal things...Our heavenly Father knows everything we need. These are the things that the Gentiles, who do not know God, seek. However, we should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and work for things that abide unto eternal life, not for things that perish (Matt. 6:31-33; cf. John 6:27). This is a major principle in contacting the Lord.

John 11 presents another principle: The Lord does not heal man; He resurrects man. Healing involves helping man's weaknesses, but the Lord will not do this. Instead of immediately healing Lazarus, the Lord waited for Lazarus to die in order to raise him, because the Lord only wants to raise man. Resurrection involves waiting until man comes to an end in order to give him a new beginning...The Lord must wait until we are hopelessly weak, until we are an utter failure, and until we are completely dead before He can manifest His resurrection power in us.

When we draw near to the Lord, He wants to work in us, and He wants to remove certain things. [In chapter 13] Foot-washing is a sign of removing improper things in our being. We must learn to be obedient. If the Lord wants to wash our feet, we should let Him. If He does not wash our hands, we should submit. We should let the Lord wash whatever He wants to wash. We should not make any proposals or counsel Him. This is the fifth principle concerning our contacting the Lord. We must learn this lesson.

In chapter 21 the Lord manifested Himself to His disciples. This case shows that the Lord will draw near to us even when we fall into the world, that is, when we are at our weakest point and forget to draw near to Him.

The disciples went as a group to love the world; they fell into the world together. The Lord, however, did not abandon them. He continued to look after them. He let them catch fish, and He also fed them with fish and bread that He had prepared. After they ate, the Lord asked Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" (v. 15). With these words the Lord let His disciples know that He was not disappointed in them; He wanted them to continue to follow Him and to serve Him.

This is another major principle in our contact with the Lord. We should never think that we cannot draw near to the Lord when we are weak, love the world, and do not pray. We may not be able to draw near to the Lord, but the Lord can draw near to us. We may not be able to contact Him, but He will contact us. Concerning contacting the Lord, we are all failures. Peter went fishing, and we also "go fishing" like him. We fail, but the Lord never fails. When we draw near to Him, He contacts us, and even when we do not draw near to Him, He still comes to contact us. We are unreliable. We may contact the Lord today but not tomorrow, or we may contact Him this month but not next month. No matter what our condition is, the Lord remains the same. No matter how we change, the Lord never changes. Hence, in our contacting the Lord, we must realize that the Lord never changes, no matter how much we may change. This is a principle. (Lee, *The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer*, Chapter Four)