

# WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

January 31, 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

## 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.

### ❖ International Chinese Speaking Conference

- February 13–14, 2021
- Details regarding meeting schedule will be forthcoming.

### ❖ Corporate Lord's Day Meeting

- February 7 at 10:00 am
- Districts 1&2
- Zoom link information will be emailed to the saints.

### ❖ 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).

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 –  
Weeks 1-3

### Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of  
Prayer – Chapter Four

### Scripture Reading

John 11:25; 13:8b

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

Bible scholars know that the Gospel of John has a special style of writing. This book is very simple yet quite detailed. John wrote in this way in order to show how God contacts man...John did not record everything that the Lord Jesus did; rather, he chose certain things to show to those who are far away from God how God came to contact man. In order to contact man, God became man's life. God entered into man to be man's life and to live in man. Furthermore, God wants man to contact Him. This contact is what we call fellowship. The Gospel of John does not contain expressions such as contact or fellowship, but it shows that God desires to contact man and fellowship with man.

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.

...Chapter 11 shows how human opinions frustrate the Lord's power. Martha and Mary sent word to the Lord, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick" (v. 3). This was an expression of their opinion in order to get the Lord to come heal their brother Lazarus. But the Lord did not respond. He heard their cry, but He did not do anything. The Lord loved these three siblings, and He heard Martha and Mary's cry, but He remained in the place where He was for two days. He did not do anything until Lazarus died and was buried (vv. 5-6, 17). The first thing that Martha did when she saw the Lord was to complain that He was late. She said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died" (v. 21). Although she complained because of the Lord's delay, the Lord taught her to not depend on her timing but on Himself. The Lord said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). He meant that Lazarus's condition was not dependent upon whether He came early or late. Thus, even if Lazarus was dead, he could be resurrected because the Lord had come. The Lord Jesus is the resurrection. When we have Him, we have everything. The Lord's work is not dependent upon our timing.

This is a very good lesson, but Martha did not understand the Lord's words. The Lord said, "He who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live; and everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this?" (vv. 25-26). Martha immediately said, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God" (v. 27). Martha did not believe the Lord's word; she believed something else. The Lord spoke a revelation, but Martha focused on her understanding. She did not hear the Lord's revelation because of her opinions.

Later, Martha went and called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher is here and is calling you" (v. 28). Again, this was according to Martha's opinion and not the Lord's request...When Mary saw the Lord Jesus, she also said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died" (v. 32).

Chapter 11 shows how human opinions frustrate the Lord's power. The Lord was not merely frustrated by the opinions of Martha, Mary, and the Jews; He was frustrated by the opinions of His disciples. Martha and Mary wanted the Lord to come when He was not ready. Later, when the Lord wanted to go, His disciples did not want Him to go (vv. 3-16). Human opinions frustrate the manifestation of the Lord's resurrection power. On the one hand, the Lord wanted to do something; He wanted to perform a miracle, to manifest His power in raising the dead. On the other hand, human opinions hindered every step that He took and caused problems...Martha, Mary, the Jews, and the disciples were full of opinions. The Lord had to remove the human opinions before He could enter into resurrection. Human opinions hinder our contact with the Lord.

When we draw near to the Lord in prayer, we must learn the lesson of stopping our opinions. Whether the wine has run out or a person has been dead for four days, we do not need to counsel the Lord. We should simply give it to the Lord and hear what He has to say. The Lord is everything. He gives life to the dead and calls the things not being as being (Rom. 4:17). He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). We do not need to say this or that; we should simply listen to Him. An opinion is a problem. Many who draw near to the Lord have a difficult time learning this lesson.

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... We may be weak, but we are not weak to the point of being hopeless. We may be a failure, but we have not failed to the uttermost. 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.

Thus, we should let go of our weaknesses and failures when we draw near to the Lord. The Lord already knows our weaknesses and failures. There is nothing we can do if He wants to delay and to wait until we no longer have any hope because we are dead, buried, and stink. If He wants to wait, we cannot make Him hurry up. If He allows us to be defeated, even our imploring Him will not make us strong. Hence, we need to learn the lesson of dropping our problems when we pray. When we are truly hopeless and at an end, the Lord will come. This is resurrection...

In chapter 13 the Lord washed His disciples' feet. The principle involved in this case is that we need to let Him do what He wills in us when we draw near to Him.

When we draw near to the Lord, He wants to work in us, and He wants to remove certain things. 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...principle concerning our contacting the Lord. We must learn this lesson. (Lee, *The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer*, Chapter Four)