

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

March 28, 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

Crystallization-study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, Volume 1 – Week 6

Ministry Publication Reading

Serving According to Revelation – Chapter 7

Scripture Reading

Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:13; Acts. 13:47

Announcements

❖ 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

❖ 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.

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

Riches from the Ministry

Those who know the principles in God's work know that He needs people to work with Him. In order for God to give grace to man or work in man, there must be someone who works and cooperates with God. This is a principle revealed in the Bible. If no one works or cooperates with God, He will not have a way to give grace to man or to work in man. God's desire for man can be carried out only if He finds someone on earth to cooperate with Him. God's intention concerning His work in man can be carried out only if He finds someone on earth who will work with Him.

When God wanted to speak to the children of Israel and to work among them, He first asked Isaiah, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?" (Isa. 6:8). Although God had already decided to speak to the children of Israel and to work in their midst, He had to find someone on earth who would work with Him according to His mind. God is still calling and looking for people. He wants to preach the gospel unto the uttermost part of the earth so that all the nations could receive His salvation (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; 13:47). However, He must first find and gain people on the earth who will cooperate with Him and work with Him according to His mind. As long as there are those who are of the same mind as God and who are willing to work with Him, God's work will be carried out on the earth by them. If God cannot find such ones on the earth, His desire and plan will remain in heaven, but it will not be carried out or fulfilled on the earth. God can carry out on earth what He has planned in heaven only when He finds people who will cooperate with Him.

God's principle is not that man would wait for God to work but that He would wait for man to work. God has done everything that is necessary to carry out His work. The problem is that man is not ready. It seems as if we are waiting for God to work, but God is waiting for us to cooperate. God wants to save people on the earth, but He needs to find those who will cooperate and work with Him. God is always ready. As soon as He finds someone to cooperate and work with Him, He immediately begins to carry out His work on the earth. This is proved by our experience and by the past centuries of church history.

The problem related to God's work on the earth is entirely with us, not with Him. God has prepared everything. He is waiting for us to cooperate with Him. The amount of work that He can carry out depends on how much cooperation we render Him. The strength with which He will carry out His work depends on the degree of our cooperation with Him. Whether He will be expressed through us depends on how much we will cooperate with Him. If our cooperation is weak, His expression will be weak, but if our cooperation is strong, His expression will be strong. His work depends on us and is limited by us. The extent to which His desire can be fulfilled on earth depends on how much we cooperate with Him. His desire is limited by whether we are of one mind with Him. How we need to be of one mind with Him and have His desire in order to meet His need and render Him adequate cooperation!

In order for us to meet God's present need, to strengthen the church service, and to fulfill our hope, three kinds of persons should be raised up in the churches.

The first kind of persons are the gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, which speaks of the Lord giving some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers to the church as gifts...Romans 12:6-8 speaks of persons with ordinary gifts, such as serving, teaching, exhorting, and leading. All of these persons are needed in the church.

There is a shortage in the local churches of those who can minister the word of God in order to supply the churches. As a result, the church life is not rich, our service is not strong, the light is not shining brightly, and our testimony is not sanctified. In order for the churches to be built solidly and to grow unto maturity...to grow unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13), many people must be raised up to speak for God.

There is also an urgent need in the churches for those who can shepherd and teach. In many localities the new believers are like sheep without a shepherd; they lack care and leading. As a result, they do not function, and instead, they cause the testimony of the churches to suffer loss. In order to remedy this situation, many need to be raised up so that the childish saints can receive shepherding and teaching.

The second kind of persons that the church needs is elders. The church is short of gifts and also short of elders. Elders need to function in many aspects and to strive and carry things out. The elders should be rich in life, mature, grave, broad-minded, and farsighted. They should have self-control, patience, love, and wisdom. They should also be full of ideas and able to manage, teach, and take the lead.

The third kind of persons that the church needs is deacons. Deacons serve the church and the saints. The deacons need to love the Lord, and they should also be spiritual, humble, and diligent. It is also important that they be cautious, dignified, calm, and willing to listen. Whether the service is carried out in a spiritual and strong way depends on the person of the deacons and on how many deacons function.

The churches cannot be strong if we depend on zeal but do not have enough people in these three categories...In order for the church to be strong and for the gospel to go out, there must be an increase in gifts, elders, and deacons. We need many gifts, elders, and deacons...I hope that the saints in every locality will pray for this matter so that the Lord would give us those who are gifts, those who can function as elders, and those who are willing to serve as deacons.