

# WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

April 04, 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 2 – Week 7

### Ministry Publication Reading

Service Being for the Building Up of God's House – Chapter One

### Scripture Reading

Rom. 12:1-11; Eph. 4:12, 15b-16

## Announcements

### ❖ The Holy Word for Morning Revival: Crystallization-study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, Volume 2 available for sale at two locations

- District 1 at Michael & Helen Rhodes' front door from 9am-5pm.
- District 2 at Ellen Arnolds' front door from 9am-5pm.
- Cost: \$7.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix

### ❖ Corporate Lord's Day Meeting

- April 11 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).

## 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

Most Christians know that God wants the gospel to be preached to sinners and that He wants His lovers to pursue and serve Him. Hence, Christians have always risen up to meet these needs. This is God's doing. Before the Lord ascended into heaven, He commanded the disciples to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation" (Mark 16:15). Besides the Lord's definite command, the Spirit also is always urging and moving us to preach the gospel (Acts 8:29-35; 10:19-22). Therefore, Christians have always been fervent for the gospel.

Likewise, God is always raising up some among His children to love Him, pursue Him, understand His will, and live in His presence. Such spiritual persons abound in the New Testament age...[F]or the past two thousand years a considerable number of believers have risen up to pursue the Lord. Furthermore, the Spirit is working within the believers. We often feel that we are not spiritual enough, that we do not live before the Lord, that we should love Him more, and that we should pursue Him more. Therefore, we listen to spiritual messages, read spiritual publications, and fellowship with spiritual believers so that we may receive spiritual help. This is God's work within us.

It is not sufficient for God's children to preach the gospel and to be spiritual; God wants more than this. He has another category of work. The first two categories of His work are for the third and final category, which is to build up His children into His house in every locality. God wants to establish His house wherever His children are. The church in every locality is an expression of God's house. In this age God wants us to preach the gospel in order to save sinners. He also wants us to lead the new believers to be spiritual for the building up of His house. Preaching the gospel is to gain material for the building of God's house, and leading believers to pursue the Lord and to be edified deals with the material by making it suitable for the building.

If the church can be built up in every locality as the house of God, it will meet God's need as well as man's need. Such a house reveals and expresses God, gives Him the glory He deserves, and accomplishes His will so that He can have rest. When believers rise up to pursue God, His house can meet their need and give them satisfaction...God's house is the only place that can give man satisfaction.

The Epistle to the Romans is concerning the Christian life, but chapter 12 is concerning the Body in coordination. All the saved ones need to become one Body in Christ and be coordinated as members one of another (vv. 4-5). According to man's view, a believer who is spiritual is one who experiences chapters 1 through 8; that is, after believing, he advances to living in the spirit and walking according to the spirit (8:4). However, after chapter 8 Paul reveals the Body of Christ in chapter 12. In this chapter he exhorted the saints in Rome to consecrate themselves, that is, to present their bodies a living sacrifice, for the realization of the Body of Christ (v. 1). Chapter 12 speaks of the human body and the Body of Christ. It seems as though a believer who is spiritual, because he lives in the spirit and walks according to the spirit, has reached the peak of the Christian life. However, this is still not adequate. He needs to experience consecration. He needs to present himself as a spiritual person, that is, as a person living in the spirit and walking according to the spirit. He needs to present his body so that he can be a member for the building up of the Body of Christ. God is focused on the Body of Christ. His desire is that we present our bodies to accomplish the building up of the Body of Christ.

Some saints live in chapter 8. They are spiritual. They walk according to the spirit, and they live in the Lord. Regrettably, however, they are individualistic; they are spiritual individuals. They do not know the church, and they have not seen the Body of Christ. It is true that they are spiritual, but they do not coordinate with other members. They are spiritual by themselves...[T]hey remain in chapter 8 and do not advance to chapter 12.

Such believers have not entered the experience of consecration according to chapter 12. This experience of consecration does not refer to the experience of consecration that they had at the beginning of their Christian life...[I]t is the consecration of a rather mature and spiritual Christian. We need the experience of consecrating our spirituality and presenting our bodies to God as a living sacrifice so that we may be members living in the Body of Christ.

...Being a member is a matter of our seeing and of our consciousness....Have we seen that we are a member, and are we conscious of being a member, or do we still consider ourselves to be a body? A body can do everything and knows how to do everything. It can run, it can gesture, it can speak, it can hear, and it can see. A body is all-capable. In contrast, a member can function only according to what it is. The hand is the hand, the eye is the eye, the ear is the ear, and the foot is the foot. First Corinthians 12:21 says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." This is what it means to be members one of another.

God's intention is for us to be members one of another and thereby become one Body. God does not want people merely to be saved or to be spiritual. He wants much more. He wants people to become members of the Body of Christ and of His household. He wants people to be saved and believers to be spiritual so that they may become the Body, which is also His house. The church is the Body and the house of God. To Christ, the church is His Body; to God, the church is His house. This is what God desires. We must see this in order to have the consciousness that we are merely members who need other saints. We need to be coordinated together. We cannot be independent Christians, nor can we be individualistic. God wants a house, and we need this house. Christ wants a Body, and we need this Body. We must have such a clear vision of this need and a strong consciousness of this need.