

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

April 11, 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 8

Ministry Publication Reading

The Service for the Building Up of the House of God – Chapter Two

Scripture Reading

Luke. 12:49; Heb. 12:28-29

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

❖ Monthly Brothers' Meeting

- April 24 at 8:30 am
- Zoom link information will be emailed to the brothers

❖ Virtual Lunch with FTA trainees

- Sign Up: goggle doc https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDPRc0qP2XTsHohdojZdELhc0nzZ_4cxLmPq6R-vWRG6liCA/viewform

❖ Fellowship Concerning the Church Meetings

- We will continue to meet remotely via videoconferencing or phone and not in person.
- We are NOT abandoning our own assembling together (Heb. 10:25) by continuing our present meeting format. We should be EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER to connect with each other even more intimately and mutually in smaller numbers via the internet, phones, and various online conference platforms.
- The place the New Testament believers gather to worship is the corporate spirit (John 4:24) which is the true dwelling place of God.
- The responsible brothers are in fellowship with leading brothers in the region and the senior co-workers. We believe that more guidance will come out from the prayer and fellowship of the brothers in the churches.

❖ 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>

Riches from the Ministry

Every service to God must be based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering. In the Old Testament the priests burned incense before God. The burning of incense symbolizes the service rendered to God by man. The fire used to burn the incense had to be taken from the altar of burnt offering (Lev. 16:12-13). If a person did not burn incense with the fire from the altar of burnt offering, that is, if he offered strange fire, his service was not accepted by God, and he suffered the judgment of death (10:1-2).

When the children of Israel followed the tabernacle in their journey through the wilderness, their service before God began with the burning of the fire on the altar of burnt offering. The fire on the altar of burnt offering descended from God (9:24). The children of Israel could not begin their service to God until the fire descended. Although they had been delivered by God out of Egypt, had crossed the Red Sea, and had raised up the tabernacle at the foot of Mount Sinai, they could not serve God, because they did not have a basis for their service. The basis of their service was the altar of burnt offering with fire burning upon it.

The offering of the burnt offering was the prerequisite for fire to descend from heaven. Merely having the altar was not sufficient; the burnt offering had to be placed on the altar. After the sacrifice of the burnt offering was killed, skinned, cut, washed, and placed on the altar, fire could descend from heaven. God wanted the service of the children of Israel to be based on this fire. The burning of incense was their service to God, but the fire used for burning incense had to be taken from the altar. Hence, the service that we render to God must originate from the fire on the altar of burnt offering, and our service must be the issue of the burning of this fire.

Instead of using the fire from the altar, Nadab and Abihu used their own fire to burn incense in their service to God (10:1). Consequently, their service was not accepted by God, and they suffered the judgment of death (v. 2). This incident is a warning from God that our service must be based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering.

When the Lord Jesus was on the earth, He was the tabernacle of God, the temple of God (John 1:14; 2:21). Anyone who had the desire to serve God had to serve through the Lord Jesus. They had to go to Him. The Lord also set up an altar—the cross on Golgotha—and offered Himself upon it as the burnt offering. Then one day fire came down. This fire was the Holy Spirit (Acts. 2:1-4). The Lord Jesus Himself was willing to go to the cross and offer Himself to God...Before Pentecost a hundred and twenty lovers of Jesus gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem (Acts 1:13-15) and presented themselves to God. As a result, on the day of Pentecost the Spirit descended upon them as tongues of fire. This was the beginning of the New Testament service. The New Testament service began on the day of Pentecost with the fire that came down and began to burn.

At the time of Pentecost there was a great number of people in Jerusalem. However, the fire descended only on the hundred and twenty because they were on the altar of burnt offering. The fire of the Spirit descends only on the altar of burnt offering...This fire burns on those who love God, who offer themselves to God, who are willing to forsake everything for God, and who are willing to place themselves in His hands in order to be slain and broken. Their service to God is the issue of the burning. Whether in the Old Testament type or in the New Testament reality, man's service to God always comes out of the fire from the altar.

The only thing that God does concerning man's service is to send His fire to burn within man. To serve God and to work for Him mean that man is joined to God and is mingled with God. It seems as though man is serving God. However, the service comes out of God; it does not originate in man. The service is God moving through man. Without the human element, there cannot be service. However, if there is only the human element, the service is not acceptable to God. In order for our service to have spiritual value and be acceptable to God, He must move through us and serve through us. This is the purpose of the altar. God is calling those who love Him and desire to satisfy His heart's desire to offer themselves on the altar.

Genuine Christian service is not of man. Rather, genuine Christian service is God moving through man. God does not force man to receive Him. God has erected an altar, and those who are willing, those who love Him, may come forward willingly to be dealt with, broken, and placed on the altar. Such a person can say, "Lord, here I am. My only desire is to satisfy Your need." If we would offer ourselves sincerely in this way, fire will descend from heaven and burn us. This burning will become the energy that moves us. The issue of this burning will be our service.

The service that God desires is carried out through the fire on the altar of burnt offering. The altar of burnt offering has already been set up, and fire has also descended upon it. The altar of burnt offering is the cross of the Lord Jesus, and the fire is the Spirit. The Spirit has descended and is burning through the cross as the altar of burnt offering. Any person who is willing to touch the cross, that is, to receive the cross by applying the death of Christ, will be gained by God. Then the fire on the altar of burnt offering, that is, the Spirit, will burn in him until it produces a service. All genuine service comes out of such a burning.

...May the Lord have mercy on us and show us where we should stand and what we should do. The service in the New Testament is not of us but of Him working through us. We should place ourselves on the altar of the cross, not pitying or loving ourselves, but rather hating and dealing with the self by putting everything we have on the altar in order to be gained by God. Then fire will descend on the altar to burn us. The issue of this burning will be a service. May the Lord grant us grace.

(Lee, *The Service for the Building Up of the House of God*, Chapter Two)