

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Oct 17, 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 Joshua, Judges, & Ruth – Week 8

Ministry Publication Reading

How to Meet, Chapter Seven

Scripture Reading

Eph. 4:8; Acts 2:33

Announcements

❖ The Holy Word for Morning Revival: Crystallization-Study of Joshua, Judges, & Ruth:

- District 1: please contact Charles Martinez
- District 2: at Ellen Arnold's front door
- Cost: \$7.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix

❖ December 2021 Semiannual Training will be held by video training only

- Registration Due Date: Dec. 05, 2021
- Registration Fee of \$125 per trainee (non-refundable) can be sent through Zelle or Popmoney to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Please indicate on the memo line "2021 Winter Training". Shared seating is not an option for this video training.
- Video Training Schedule: 12/20/21 – 12/25/21
- Note: Completed Registration means payment of \$125 has been made AND online registration has been submitted.
- Registration form: <https://tinyurl.com/2021WinterTraining>
- The church in Phoenix is planning to carry out the video training corporately via Zoom.

❖ 2022 Gospel Calendar

- Price: \$10.00 per calendar, prepaid
- Payment must be received by Oct. 24.
- Please send your payment through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org. Include in the memo: 2022 Gospel Calendar, Your Name
- If any questions, please see bro. Xinyu (Newman) Zhang

❖ 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

We have seen that the meetings which the early disciples had with the Lord Jesus can be classified into two kinds: meetings with the resurrected Christ and meetings for the ascended Christ. According to the record of the last chapters of the Gospels and the first chapters of Acts, we can only have these two kinds of meetings—there could not be a third... [The] two Gospels [Matthew and John] emphasize the resurrected Christ, the One who is always with us. But Mark and Luke, including the Acts, testify that this resurrected Christ has ascended to the heavens. The meetings for the ascended Christ are not recorded by Matthew or John, but by Mark and Luke.

What is the difference between meeting with the resurrected Christ and for the ascended Christ? There is a big difference. We meet with the resurrected Christ mainly for our enjoyment. Our meeting with the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit is mainly for breathing Him in, that we may partake of something of Him. Consider all the meetings the disciples had with the resurrected Christ: the main thing in all those meetings was the breathing and the eating... We all must learn how to breathe Him in and feed upon Him for our satisfaction.

Now we need to see more regarding the meetings for the ascended Christ. To meet together is not just a matter of enjoying Christ but also a matter of functioning so that the church may be built up. To meet with the resurrected Christ is for our enjoyment, but to meet for the ascended Christ is for the building up of the church. For the building up of the church we need to function, and to function we need the gifts. On the day of Pentecost three thousand were added to the church. A little later five thousand more were added. All these were brought in by meetings for the ascended Christ. To build up the church we need to bring new ones in and build others up one with another. All this requires the function, the gifts. We have been clearly told that all the gifts have been given, not by the resurrected Christ but by the ascended Christ. "Therefore the Scripture says, 'Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men'" (Eph. 4:8). By His ascension He has received the gifts, and He has given the gifts to His church for the building up of the Body.

...If the Lord Jesus was only resurrected, we could have full satisfaction with Him, but the church could never be built up. In the meetings recorded in Matthew and John, there was the breathing, the eating, and the full satisfaction, but it was rather difficult for the church to be built up. In fact, without the ascension of Christ, it is impossible. Not one of the disciples including Peter had received any gift. Not one of them had any function and could perfect others. They came together to breathe in the Lord and to feed on Him, but that was all they could do. Why did they not have the gifts? Because even Christ had not yet received the gifts. As far as life is concerned, resurrection is sufficient, but as far as gifts are concerned, resurrection is not sufficient. Resurrection is for life, but the ascension is for the gifts. All the believers received resurrection life by and with Christ's resurrection, but none obtained any gifts until the Lord ascended on high and poured out the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). It is so clear. Meeting with the resurrected Christ is for our personal breathing, eating, and satisfaction, but for the perfecting of the saints, for the building up of the Body, we need to meet for the ascended Christ.

...Now we need to be exercised more that we may learn not only to meet with the resurrected Christ, but even more for the ascended Christ. To meet with the resurrected Christ is easy: we can on such an occasion have a sense of the Lord's presence. It is not difficult to obtain some feeling of the presence of the resurrected Christ. However, when meeting for the ascended Christ, it is frequently very difficult to obtain any feeling. We all can testify that many times we do sense the presence of the resurrected Christ, but we do not have the sense that we are in the heavens with the ascended Christ. This requires living faith. To meet with the resurrected Christ we may have the feeling, but to meet for the ascended Christ we need not the feeling but the faith.

This matter of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was once for all accomplished on the day of Pentecost. It is not for any individual believer as such, but has been accomplished for the Body of Christ, the church, and is given absolutely to the church. Now, since we have all been baptized into the church, the Body, we have the position to believe that what was accomplished for the church on the day of Pentecost is for us. Therefore we may claim it, take it, and apply it by living faith. Though we may feel nothing, we may boldly take by living faith what has already been accomplished.

The Lord is not only resurrected but also ascended. By His ascension He has received all the gifts and passed them on to all the members of the church. By His ascension all His members have received something. You cannot say that you have not received anything. If you feel this way, you need to exercise faith—it is not a matter of feeling, but faith. According to the principle in Ephesians 4, the gifts given by the ascended Christ are for building up the Body, for perfecting the saints, and for bringing in new believers.

Brothers and sisters, let us forget all the things we have learned in the past and simply learn to have these two kinds of meetings. Let us come together with Christ to breathe Him in and feed upon Him. Then at the same time, whenever there is the need of bringing in the new converts, perfecting the saints, and building up the Body, we must all realize that our Lord has ascended and that He has given all the gifts with all the functions. We must simply exercise our faith and apply it. We not only need to realize the presence of the resurrected Christ, but also the power, the authority, the headship, and the lordship of the ascended Christ. This requires the exercise of living faith in our spirit.

(Lee, How to Meet, Chapter Seven)