

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Dec 5, 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

The Intrinsic and Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ – Week 3

Ministry Publication Reading

How to Meet, Chapter 14

Semiannual Training Preparation on 1 & 2 Samuel

2 Sam. Chapters 12-18

LS of First & Second Samuel:

Messages 31 through 35

Announcements

- ❖ **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>

- ❖ **Corporate Lord's Day Meeting**
 - Dec. 12 at 10:00 am
 - Districts 1&2
 - Zoom link will be emailed to the saints

- ❖ **Invitation to attend FTTA Virtual Graduation: The Fall Class of 2021**
 - Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 at 10:00 am
 - At www.ftta.org
 - Our sister, Shulammitte, will be one of the graduates.

- ❖ **Monthly Brothers' Meeting**
 - Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 at 8:30 am
 - Zoom link information will be emailed to the brothers

- ❖ **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 first that whenever we come together for a meeting of the church, we must praise. A psalm is the first item mentioned in 1 Corinthians 14:26. Second, we have seen that praising is something established by the Lord out of the mouths of babes and sucklings through His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, glorification, and enthronement. The more we know and participate in these five steps of Christ, the more praises we will have to offer to Him. We need all these steps so that the Lord's praises may be fully and richly established out of our mouths. Why is the praising in our meetings so poor? We do have a heart to praise and a burden in our spirit to praise, yet we do not have the content in our praise; we do not know adequately for what to praise; we do not have the utterance. Why? Because we have too little experience of these five steps of Christ.

Notice [Rev. 14:1-4]...says that they sang a new song, and no one could learn that song. Why? Praises have been established by the Lord out of the mouths of babes and sucklings: even the little babes can praise. Why then does it say here that no one could learn that song? The answer is that no one can learn it without experience. There are some praises which require experience.

...[F]or these one hundred and forty-four thousand to praise Christ in a special way, they must have the proper and particular experiences of Christ. If we lack these experiences, we can never praise the Lord to such a degree. We all can praise Him in a general way, in a religious way, in a natural way; but if we would praise Him in a special and deeper way, we need some experience of Him. Our praises are limited by our experiences of Christ. How much, how deeply, or how highly we have experienced Christ will be the measure of our praise. Our praises can never exceed our experiences of Christ. If our experiences of Him have not reached a certain stage, when others sing praises so highly and deeply, we cannot follow; we cannot learn. Not until our experiences of Christ have reached that extent can we also sing that new song.

Now we come to the last main point in...[Psalm 68], the matter of praise. O what praise! There is no natural or religious praise in this psalm. Sometimes when you go out with your family to the sea or the mountains, you look at the heavens, the sea, the mountains, the flowers, or the birds, and say, "Lord, how we praise You for all these wonderful and beautiful things!" This is natural praise. Sometimes at the day's end you call your children together and say, "Let us praise and thank the Lord for all His blessings. He has been so kind: He has given us health and kept us from any accident. O Father, how good You are to us!" This is religious praise. We cannot find anything natural or religious in the praises of Psalm 68. All the praises in this psalm are exceedingly deep in the experiences of Christ. My burden here is just this: we must have a thorough, a radical, a one hundred and eighty degree revolution in our praises. We must learn to praise according to Psalm 68. Our praises must match the element and standard of Psalm 68.

First, we must praise God for Christ's victory. Verse 4 says, "Sing to God, sing psalms to His name; / Triumph in Him who rides through the deserts [or, upon the storm clouds]." Regardless of the storm, regardless of the cloud, God is riding upon them. The storm becomes His throne; the cloud becomes His seat; God is sitting upon them. So we must triumph in Him; we must sing triumphantly and praise His victory.

In verse 18 there is a tremendous praise: "You have ascended on high; You have led captive those taken captive; / You have received gifts among men, / Even the rebellious ones also, / That Jehovah God may dwell among them." Christ has ascended. Hallelujah! How did He ascend? By leading captive a train of vanquished foes. All the enemies have been vanquished; all the enemies have been captured. He ascended to the heavens with a celebration of His victory, a celebrating procession of many foes. He defeated Satan. He defeated all the demons and evil spirits. He defeated all the rebellious people, including you.

How did the Father give the gifts to the Son and the Son give the gifts to the church? It is not simply that gifts are given and we receive them — there is much more to it than that. God gives the divine life with the divine nature to His Son Christ; God gives His Holy Spirit to His Son Christ; and God gave all those chosen before the foundation of the world, all the chosen rebels, including you, to His Son Christ. Christ received all this. Then Christ put the divine life into the rebels, Christ put the divine nature into the rebels, and Christ filled these rebels with the Holy Spirit. In so doing, the rebels were transformed into gifts... We were all rebels, but we have all been chosen. One day the Father gave these miserable rebels to His Son, and one by one the Son put the divine nature into them, regenerated them, transformed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, and gave them all as gifts to the Body so that the church might be built as the habitation of God on this earth. Hallelujah!

O brothers and sisters, what a basis and content for our praise! When we experience all these things, what an outflowing of praise there will be — not natural or religious praise but praise full of the experience of Christ. Could we put all these things into our experiences? You may say that you have a little experience of this kind, but do not know how to utter it. I agree with you — we are not accustomed to this kind of praise. We are so used to natural and religious praises. We are so accustomed simply to praise and thank the Lord that He loves us and that He died on the cross for us — all the time it is like this. There is certainly nothing wrong with this kind of praise, but it is so religious. We need something new, something deeper. First we must experience all these things: we must experience the victory of Christ over all His enemies; we must share and partake of the spoils of Christ's victory; we must have the experience of the wings of the dove covered with silver and gold (v.13). Then, when we learn how to utter all these experiences, we will praise Christ not in a religious way but in a new way out of the riches of experience.

(Lee, How to Meet, Chapter Fourteen)