

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Aug. 28, 2022

The church in Phoenix

Announcements

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

Church Prayer Burdens:

<http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

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

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance

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

Meeting God's Need and Present Need in the Lord's Recovery – Week 6

Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer, ch. 2

❖ Brother Benson Phillips's Departure 8-15-2022

- Two Memorial Meetings:
Lord's Day, September 11, 2022 2:30 pm (CDT)
The church in Irving and LSM meeting hall, Irving, TX
Lord's Day, October 9, 2022, 2:30 pm (PDT)
LSM Campus-MCC, Anaheim, CA
- Link to livestream: www.memorial-meeting.org

❖ Labor Day Blending Conference in Denver

- The meetings will be held in the Denver meeting hall at 2180 South Leyden Street.
- Saturday, September 3; 9:30 am to Monday, September 5; 12:00 pm

❖ 2022 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference

- The 2022 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.
- Reservation: There is a special group rate of \$104.00 USD/per night plus tax for single, double, triple, and quadruple occupancy rooms. For room reservations, please call 1-202-483-3000 or 1-800-HILTONS and request the Living Stream Ministry group rate by providing the code: LSM1. To make online reservations at the special group rate, please go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/LSM>. Reservations must be made on or before 5:00 PM local time (EDT) on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2022 in order to get this reduced rate.
- Meeting Schedule:
1st meeting: Thursday, November 24..... 7:30 pm
2nd meeting: Friday, November 25..... 10:00 am
3rd meeting: Friday, November 25..... 7:30 pm
4th meeting: Saturday, November 26 10:00 am
5th meeting: Saturday, November 26 7:30 pm
6th meeting: Lord's Day, November 27..... 9:30 am

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Riches from the Ministry

Learning to Absorb God

If we want to learn lessons on prayer, we must first learn to absorb God. We should not regard God as being so high while we are so low. This is not according to God's revelation. If we know God, we will be able to say, "God, under the blood of Your Son I can come to Your throne of grace to meet You and to behold Your beauty, face to face." We need to open our spirit and absorb Him. We should not say much, nor should we pour out our miseries. We should offer God some praise. We may say, "You are so glorious, sweet, and humble. You came to be with me. I worship You and thank You from my heart." To commend, praise, worship, and thank God in such a way is like the first part of Abraham's fellowship with God. Abraham invited God in, set a meal before God, stood by without saying much, and watched God eat and enjoy the meal. This is the best prayer.

The best prayer is not one in which we tell God many matters. The Lord Jesus said, "Do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matt. 6:31-32). Hence, we do not need to tell God our distresses and miseries, for He already knows them; they are not a problem to Him. We also do not need to tell Him our condition. To do so does not require learning and is a natural prayer, not prayer according to revelation.

A prayer of revelation is one in which we do not consider our failures or weaknesses. Rather, in spite of how distressed or burdened we may be, we set our eyes on God and turn our heart to Him. Instead of caring about our condition, we enter into God's presence to contact God by looking to Him, beholding Him, praising Him, giving thanks to Him, worshipping Him, and absorbing Him. This is a sweet lesson. If we would learn this lesson, we will enjoy God's riches and taste His sweetness. If we would spend a little time to enter into God's presence and absorb Him every day, we will receive light and power; we will be peaceful, bright, strong, and empowered.

Learning to Express God

When we learn the first lesson, we will learn the second lesson spontaneously. When we touch and contact God, He will surely speak, that is, express His mind, within us...At the end of Genesis 18 the Holy Spirit did not say that Jehovah left after Abraham finished praying but that "Jehovah went away as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham" (v. 33). This sweet sentence shows that it was Abraham who prayed, but it was Jehovah who spoke. When Jehovah finished speaking, Abraham finished praying. Therefore, Abraham's prayer was the expression of God's speaking. Real prayer is God's expression. If we really contact, touch, and absorb God, He will speak within us. Whenever He speaks, it is time for us to pray. This is how we pray according to His speaking.

In a normal prayer God speaks to us. Prayer should not be to take care of the problems that are on our heart but to contact God. To pray is to go to God, meet Him, draw near to Him, behold Him, commune with Him, and absorb Him.

Our problem is that we often go to God in prayer, but we do not let Him speak to us. We must understand that the best prayer is not one in which we speak to God but one in which God speaks to us. The more we touch God in our prayer, the more He will speak to us. What matters is not how much we speak to God, but how much God speaks to us. What matters is how much we let God appear to us, speak to us, touch us, and point out our inner condition. We should drop all our burdens, forget our requests, and pay attention only to what God is touching in us. Then we should pray only according to that point. Whatever God asks for is what we say. Then our prayer will be His speaking, His expression. The most genuine and valuable prayer is one in which God expresses His prayer through man.

To pray by letting God speak and express Himself is to pray according to the Lord's word in John 15:7. When we abide in the Lord, have fellowship with Him, and let Him speak within us, what we ask will be according to His words. Such prayer is not out of our self, nor is it initiated by us; rather, it is out of the Lord, and He is its source. We are not uttering our own words but the words that the Lord has spoken within us. Such prayer is not the expression of our will but the Lord's will, and it is not our asking apart from the Lord. Such prayer is our praying to the Lord by abiding in Him and being mingled with Him. Such prayer is the issue of our mingling with the Lord. This is the best prayer!

(Lee, *The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer*, ch. 2)