

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 11, 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 8

Ministry Publication Reading

The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer, ch. 4

❖ Memorial Meeting for Brother Benson Phillip

- 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

❖ Holy Word for Morning Revival: Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life

- Available for sale at the Church bookroom
- Cost: \$7.00

❖ Monthly Brothers' Meeting

- Saturday, September 17
- Zoom link information will be emailed to the brothers.

❖ Gospel Trip to Germany and Switzerland

- Oct. 10 – 23, 2022
- To join the campus labor at the beginning of the university year
- For more information and application, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2022GermanyGospelTrips>

❖ 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.
- Dates: Thursday, Nov. 24; 7:30 pm to Lord's Day, Nov. 27; 12:00 pm.

❖ 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

In order to contact man, God became man's life. God entered into man to be man's life and to live in man. Furthermore, God wants man to contact Him. This contact is what we call fellowship. The Gospel of John does not contain expressions such as contact or fellowship, but it shows that God desires to contact man and fellowship with man. In the Gospel of John we see not only how God causes man to have life but also how God wants man to contact Him.

After we are saved, the most important thing is for us to contact God. Those who have learned some spiritual lessons know that the Christian life depends on the condition of our contact with God. If our contact and fellowship with God are proper, we will be proper Christians. If we do not know how to contact God and lack fellowship with Him, we cannot be proper Christians, no matter how much we try.

The matter of contacting the Lord involves specific principles. It is possible to have morning revival every day and to pray every day without contacting the Lord. Many of our prayers do not result in our contacting the Lord, and thus, they are not beneficial. Hence, we must learn the principles involved in contacting the Lord.

The major principle in the first case [John 2:1-7] is that we must not direct the Lord when we contact Him. All authority must be in His hands. Hence, both the timing and the way we do things must be determined and directed by Him, not by us. We cannot say, "Lord, do this," or "Lord, do that." If we say this, the Lord might say, "What do I have in this that concerns you?" (v. 4). If we contact Him in this way, we may be rejected and rebuffed by Him. This does not mean that the Lord does not want any contact with us or that He is not bearing responsibility for our matters. The Lord entered into us in order to contact us and to be responsible for our affairs, just as He was at the wedding in Cana.

When the wine ran out at the wedding feast in Cana, Mary, the mother of Jesus, said to the Lord, "They have no wine" (v. 3). She said this in order to prompt the Lord to do something. Although she charged the Lord to do something, she was rebuffed. The Lord said, "Woman, what do I have in this that concerns you? My hour has not yet come" (v. 4). Having learned some lessons before God, Mary, after she was rebuffed, said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do" (v. 5). She realized that it was the Lord who should decide, not she; that it was the Lord who should give counsel, not she; and that it was the Lord who had the final word, not she.

Sometimes we feel that we have a need when we draw near to the Lord in the morning. If we have learned the lesson, we will know that we must not be too quick to bring this need to the Lord. If we know that we have a need, the Lord also must know; hence, instead of making a proposal, we should wait for Him in His presence. If we are too quick with our proposal, we may be rebuffed and feel that the Lord is not listening to our prayer. He may seem to reject us and say, "What do I have in this that concerns you?" But He is not rejecting us; He is only rejecting our proposal, our counsel. He knows our need better than we do, and He wants to take care of it more than we do. There is no need for us to make a proposal or to counsel the Lord. Those who can pray in the Lord's presence without making a proposal know how to pray.

[T]he case of the feeding of the five thousand in chapter 6. A great crowd contacted the Lord, and He performed a miracle in order to feed them. When the crowd returned the next day to be filled, the Lord said, "Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life" (v. 27). The Lord was teaching the crowd to seek the food that abides unto eternal life instead of physical food. This is another principle: the Lord does not want us to seek or to put our hope in physical things when we contact Him in prayer.

If we focus exclusively on physical things with the Lord, it will be difficult for us to touch His presence, and we will be rebuffed by Him in spirit. For example, it is very good that the saints spend time to draw near to the Lord in the morning, but whether they can touch the Lord during this time depends upon their focus. If we neglect spiritual matters and instead focus on physical things, it will be difficult to touch the Lord.

If we want to draw near to the Lord and contact Him every day, we must learn the lesson of not focusing on physical matters. We must set them aside in order to seek the Lord Himself, spiritual things, things of life, and eternal things. The Lord knows about our business, family, studies, and health better than we. Our heavenly Father knows everything we need. These are the things that the Gentiles, who do not know God, seek. However, we should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and work for things that abide unto eternal life, not for things that perish (vv. 31-33; cf. John 6:27). This is a major principle in contacting the Lord. (Lee, *The Meaning and Purpose of Prayer*, ch. 4)