

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Sept. 18, 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

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life – Week 1

Ministry Publication Reading

Being Renewed Day by Day, ch. 1

❖ Memorial Meeting for Brother Benson Phillip

- o Memorial Meeting:
Lord's Day, October 9, 2022, 2:30 pm (PDT)
LSM Campus-MCC, Anaheim, CA
- o Link to livestream: www.memorial-meeting.org

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

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

❖ Gospel Trip to Germany and Switzerland

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

❖ 2022 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference

- o The 2022 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.
- o 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.
- o Dates: Thursday, Nov. 24; 7:30 pm to Lord's Day, Nov. 27; 12:00 pm.

❖ Offerings

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

Riches from the Ministry

Second Corinthians 4:16 says that our inner man is being renewed day by day. Brother Nee once told us that the book of 2 Corinthians may be considered as an autobiography of the apostle Paul. The life described in this Epistle is a life full of sufferings, but when we spend more time to get into the depths of this Epistle, we can see that it is actually talking about renewing. All the sufferings God has assigned to us have one unique purpose — to renew us. Regardless of whether we are good or bad, we are the old creation, but God in His economy desires to work out something new from His old creation. God spent a brief time to create the old creation. He spoke the things of the old creation into being in five days, He created man on the sixth day, and rested on the seventh day. This old creation is not God's goal. Instead, the old creation is the material and sphere by which God gains something new.

...In God's design all of us who are His chosen people have to go through sufferings. There is no exception to this because He wants us to be a new creation. He wants us to be transferred from the realm of the old creation into the realm of the new creation. This transfer is a process of suffering. You may think that you made a mistake in your choice of a partner in marriage, but regardless of how much wisdom you exercised in choosing a spouse, eventually your choice was a "mistake." After hearing this fellowship, some who are not married may feel that it is better not to marry, but not to marry will bring us more sufferings. Then what shall we do? We have to be inwardly happy in our sufferings. The apostle Paul says that he rejoiced in his sufferings (Col. 1:24) because he realized that all sufferings are the process to make us new.

Paul, who was a pattern of a victorious, overcoming Christian, suffered much more than we do (Acts 9:16). He tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:11 that he was always being delivered unto death. He was under the killing of the cross every day. He was dying every day so that he could be renewed every day. This is why Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:16 that we do not lose heart, we are not discouraged, and we are not disappointed. This is because "our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory" (v. 17). The suffering that we pass through to be renewed does not compare with the glory of our being new. Actually, the Christian life is not a suffering life. The Christian life is a life of being renewed day by day. Still, this renewing is by suffering. God does not like to see His children suffering, but we have to go through the process of suffering.

In Matthew 13:43 the overcomers are likened to the sun shining forth in the kingdom of their Father. The sun rises afresh every morning. If we are to be the overcomers, the sun, we must also rise up every morning to be revived by the Lord. Proverbs 4:18 says, "The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day." We should follow the sun to be revived and to have a new start every morning. Our path is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the full day. I like Paul's expression in 2 Corinthians 4:16 — "day by day." The Christian life does not only have one day. We are being renewed day by day. This means that day after day we have to be revived by the Lord. Yesterday morning we may have had a revival, but this morning we need another one, and tomorrow we need another one. Every year we need three hundred sixty-five revivals to be renewed day by day.

God has the best provisions to help us to receive the renewing. The first provision is the cross, the putting to death of Jesus. According to 2 Corinthians 4, Paul was always under the killing of the cross, the Lord's death. The cross is the greatest help to accomplish the renewing for us.

The second provision is the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 speaks of the "renewing of the Holy Spirit." We have the Holy Spirit within us. His main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day. We are receiving the new supply of the Spirit daily to renew us metabolically. Thank the Lord that we have such a renewing Spirit. The third provision God gave us is our mingled spirit, our human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit. In our human spirit, the Holy Spirit dwells, works, and renews us. Ephesians 4:23 says that we need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Our spirit is the place where we receive the renewing. Our mingled spirit spreads into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of our mind. It is in such a spirit that we are renewed for our transformation.

In addition to the cross, the Holy Spirit, and our spirit, we have the holy Word. The Head of the Body cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word (Eph. 5:26).

...Because we are human, according to our thinking and our consideration, what we are passing through is not fair. We may not even be able to take the situation we are in, but when we come to the Word, regardless of what chapter or verse, the word will wash us. There is water in the word to wash us. Washing is a synonym of renewing. By these four items — the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the holy Word — we can receive the renewing. (Lee, *Being Renewed Day by Day*, ch. 1)