

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 267 January 12, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2025 International Chinese-speaking Blending Conference (Feb. 14-16)**

The 2025 International Chinese-speaking Blending Conference (ICSC) will be held in Anaheim, CA on Feb. 14-16, 2025. Hospitality will be arranged for those attending the conference. Details are available at www.icsc2025.org.

- **Upcoming Church Events: details to follow**

Jan. 26: Citywide Church Gathering in Hall 1--Jamaica Estates, Queens.

- **Service Office Hours**

Service Office hours are to be resumed on Monday, January 13, 2025. These hours are for saints to call in to fellowship or to pray with some serving ones.

Day & Time: Monday through Saturday (except Wednesday), 10:30AM-11:30AM

Zoom Meeting ID: 378 512 3114 Passcode: 3131
One tap mobile: +19294362866,, 3785123114#

The burden for holding these office hours is that the hearts of the saints can be comforted and that their souls would be restored.

PRAYER BURDENS

- That all the saints would experience Christ as their new beginning and offer to the Lord a fresh consecration for this new year, and that the Lord will take the church on in 2025

Revelation 22:13 – *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*

Romans 12:1 – *I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your*

bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your most reasonable service.

- The follow-up of the semiannual video training concluded last week in NYC (review sessions) and in all the local churches all over the globe, and that the word released in the training would be a blessing to all the saints in the church and in all the churches
- The raising up of the next generation for the church life—Thanksgiving to the Lord for blessing the church with so many children, young people, college age saints and young adults, and prayer for their preservation and for their being raised up to bear the Lord’s testimony
- The burden for the gospel:
 - a. That the saints of all ages and all language groups would have the burden for the gospel and that, as a result, there will be remaining fruit for the church in 2025
 - b. The upcoming FTTA gospel trips beginning later this month, particularly the teams of trainees who will be laboring in NYC, in Upstate NY and in New Jersey
- The strengthening of all the believers throughout the nation and that many seeking believers will be drawn to the church life

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: 2024 JULY SEMIANNUAL TRAINING: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (1)

WEEK 7: The Bread of Life

Portions from Days 2, 4 & 6:

The most important point in the whole chapter of John 6 is that the Lord is our food, the bread of life [vv. 27, 32-35, 47-58, 63a, 68b]. To eat Him is not a once-for-all matter. It is a daily matter and even a moment-by-moment experience of the Lord...We all must...contact the Lord and eat Him. We are not merely weak people but hungry people who need the Lord as our life supply. The Lord is edible because He is the bread of life...We must exercise our spirit to feed on Him as the word and as the Spirit. Then

we will receive Him into us, digest Him, experience Him, and apply Him moment by moment. This is all—there is nothing else. We must forget about our doing and our working and learn to eat Christ and live by what we have eaten of Him. This is the divine way of life for our daily living. (Life-study of John, 2nd ed., p. 194)

Christ is the bread of life, the bread of God, the heavenly bread, the living bread, and the true bread. Today this bread is not merely the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ but the Christ who has become the life-giving Spirit.

Although the Spirit is wonderful, He is too mysterious. We need something solid, visible, tangible, and touchable—the word of life. In John 6:63 the Lord said that “the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” The word is substantial.

The word is outside of us. When I receive the word into me, it immediately becomes the Spirit. When I speak the word out, the Spirit once again becomes the word...When we preach the gospel, we are actually preaching the word. When people believe the gospel, they believe the word. As strange as it may seem, when people receive the word, the word actually becomes the Spirit within them. For example, if you came to the Lord through John 3:16, you might have prayed, “Lord, I thank You that You are so good to me. You have given Your Son to me.”...When you believed these words, something within you was quickened and became living...You believed the word, yet you received the Spirit. The word outside of you became the Spirit inside of you...When you listened to the word and received it, you somehow received the Spirit also. This is very mysterious and marvelous.

The Lord is the Spirit and the word. The resurrected Christ is the Spirit, the Spirit is the word, the word is the Spirit, and the Spirit is the resurrected Lord for us to enjoy...Hence, when we contact the word in spirit, we are actually contacting the Lord Himself as the living bread. When we receive the word in spirit, we are receiving Christ Himself as the abundant supply of life...Day by day, we are participating in this wonderful, resurrected Christ as our food, life, and life supply. He is the Spirit who gives life, and He is the word of life.

MINISTRY READINGS

BEING AIDED TO TURN TO OUR SPIRIT BY READING THE WORD

If a person cannot turn to his spirit or be calm, he can start by reading the Word. He can then use the words of the Bible to calm his thoughts in order to turn to his spirit. He can turn any words that touch him into prayer. This is an easy way to turn to our spirit.

However, many brothers and sisters have not learned to pray in this way. They cannot even be calm when they are alone, not to mention being calm when others argue and fight in their presence. This shows that they are not restricted before God and that they are immature in the Lord. We should never think that a person is mature simply because they have been a Christian for many years. Maturity does not depend on the number of years one has been a Christian, and it does not depend on the amount of teaching a person knows. Rather, maturity is related to our ability to be calm and turn to our spirit when we pray. If we can do this, we are somewhat mature. If we cannot, we are still quite young and cannot restrict ourselves. For this reason we must continue to exercise until we can stop ourselves and turn to our spirit when we are ready to pray.

Excerpts from “How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God”, Chapter 19: Exercising to Pray in the Holy Spirit (part 5)

SELECTED VERSES

Exo. 16: 31-33

16:31 And the house of Israel called its name manna, and it was like coriander seed, white; and its taste was like wafers made with honey.

16:32 And Moses said, This is what Jehovah has commanded, Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out from the land of Egypt.

16:33 And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omerful of manna in it, and place it before Jehovah, to be kept throughout your generations.

Rev. 2:17

2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.

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