

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 43 September 27, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Service Office Hours

Service Office hours are available for saints to call in to fellowship or to pray with some serving ones.

Day & Time: Monday through Saturday (except Wednesday), 11AM-12PM.

Join via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/3785123114?pwd=dEpzN2ZGZ21aaGV5dTfob3AwQlBodz09>

Dial-in by Phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 378 512 3114 (Password: 3131)

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

- The continued strengthening of the church life in New York City:
 - a. The mutual shepherding of all the saints, including those who may be discouraged or have not been meeting regularly
 - b. That all the saints would be burdened for the gospel and for the spreading of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4; John 4:35)
 - c. The strengthening of the Lord's Day meetings and all the other meetings during the week, such as the prayer meetings and the small group meetings
 - d. The service with the children and the young people during the new school year
- Young working saints and young families online conference this past weekend (September 25-26) that the Lord would continue to speak to and encourage the young working saints through the fellowship together and the word that was shared
- The campus labor and the preaching of the gospel on the college campuses in the NYC metropolitan area and throughout the nation

- ITERO –The Training for Elders and Responsible Ones that will be held online later this week
- The Full-Time Training –The arrangements for all of the trainees during this term of the FTTA and FTTA-XB which are being held remotely (online), including the arrangement for trainees from NY and NJ being carried out at KPCC
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: A Timely Word Concerning the World Situation and the Lord's Recovery

Week 6: The Preparation of the Bride

Portion from Day 4:

Any bride would want to have a healthy, radiant complexion on her wedding day. If she is concerned about blemishes, she should begin long beforehand to prepare herself for her wedding by eating nutritious foods that will give her a healthy complexion. In the same principle, today we must prepare ourselves to be the bride by taking in the element of Christ's riches as our nourishment. Christ is the food for the church. Therefore, as she prepares herself to be presented to Christ, the church must eat Christ... By eating Him we become a beautiful and even glorious bride. (*Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 799-800*)

The time is coming when He will present the bride to Himself. Surely at the time of her presentation to Christ, the bride will not have any wrinkles or spots. In His bride Christ will behold nothing but beauty. This beauty will be the reflection of what He is. Do you know where the beauty of the bride comes from? It comes from the very Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. Our beauty is not our behavior. Our only beauty is the reflection of Christ, the shining out of Christ from within us. What Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself in us.

On the day of his wedding, a bridegroom cares much more for the beauty of his bride than for her ability. In like manner, in the church life our beauty will eventually be much more important to the Lord than our function. At the beginning of the church life, we may emphasize ability and function. But eventually we shall place more emphasis on beauty... Do not pay that much attention to becoming capable, qualified, and gifted in function. At first, this may count for something in the church life. But eventually the Lord will show us that what He cares for is not our ability; He cares for the beauty of Himself expressed through our humanity. Christ does not intend to present a capable church to Himself. The church that will be presented to Him will be glorious and beautiful, a church without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing. If our blemishes and imperfections are to be removed, we need to take in more and more of Christ. He should not simply energize us for our function but also beautify us that we may be His bride.

Corporate Readings: *“The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” Ch 5: Abraham and His Son (2)*

A Ministry Portion from “*The Overcoming Life*”

CONSECRATION

The first thing we have to do after we have experienced the overcoming life is to consecrate ourselves. Of course, this should be the first thing that a person does after he is saved. However, many people have never consecrated themselves even though they are saved. ... There are some who consecrated themselves to the Lord after they were saved. However, they have risen and fallen throughout the years, and they are not as fresh as they once were. Therefore, they also need to consecrate themselves.

Some have said that we should consecrate ourselves before we overcome and that we must consecrate ourselves before we can overcome. However, Romans 6:13 says, “Neither present your members as weapons of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as weapons of righteousness to God.” This shows us that consecration comes after experiencing the overcoming life... Only those who have died and resurrected can consecrate themselves. ... If a person has not experienced the

overcoming life, he cannot consecrate himself, and even if he did, God would not accept his consecration, because He does not want anything that is related to Adam or death.

If we have not experienced the overcoming life, our consecration is not reliable. Today we may consecrate ourselves and tomorrow we may forget about it. Today we may make a vow before the Lord, telling the Lord that we will do this and do that, but tomorrow we may forget all about it. There was a missionary who attended seven Keswick Conventions. She said that attending the Keswick Convention every year was like winding up the spring inside a watch. The watch would slow down, and she would wind it up again. Every year she went for a “winding up,” and every year she found herself slowing down again. This is the way with many Christians. They make big promises before God, but when they go away, everything is forgotten. This is why I say that we cannot consecrate ourselves. We do not have the strength to consecrate ourselves.

THE BASIS AND MOTIVE OF CONSECRATION

When a Hebrew man bought a slave, the slave had to serve the master for six years. In the seventh year, the slave could go free. However, if he said that he loved his master and would not go out free, the master would bring him to the judges and the doorpost and bore his ear through with an awl. Then the slave would serve his master forever (Exo. 21:2-6). Brothers and sisters, God has saved us and bought us with the blood. He did not purchase us with corruptible gold but with the precious blood of His Son. Many Christians feel that they have to serve God for their conscience’ sake. But when we see the Lord’s preciousness, we will voluntarily and willingly consecrate ourselves to Him. When we tell the Lord that we are willing to be His slave, He will take us to the door and the doorpost, and He will bore our ear through with an awl. The doorpost is the place where the blood of the Passover lamb was applied. Today we are being led to bleed there as well; we are being led to the cross as well. We love the Lord and choose to be His slave forever. Because we know that He loves us, we are willing to serve Him forever. We have no choice but to declare, “Lord, You have loved me and saved me and released me! Lord, I love You and cannot help but serve You forever!”

- Excerpts from “*The Overcoming Life*”, Chapter 11: Consecration (part 1&2)