

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 220 February 18, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NYC Young People's Winter Retreat (Feb. 18-20)**

This year's **NYC Young People's Winter Retreat** will be held in **Camp Penuel** from **February 18 to 20** (This afternoon to Tuesday afternoon).

- **Northeast Spanish-speaking Conference (Mar. 8-10)**

The Spanish-speaking Conference will be held at **Camp Penuel** (KPCC) from **March 8 to 10**. English translation will be provided for all messages. Please see details in the invitation link posted at www.churchinnyc.org.

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

1. **Mar. 22-24:** Regional Conference with Brother Ed Marks
2. **Mar. 29-31:** Northeast High School Conference in KPCC
3. **May 24-27:** International Memorial Day Blending Conference in Bellevue, WA

- **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), 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 have a proper prayer life for the church life and that the prayer ministry of the church would be strengthened **Colossians 4:2** — *Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving* **Isaiah 56:7b** — *.....For My house will be called a house of prayer*
- The International Chinese-speaking Conference (ICSC) which was held in Taipei, Taiwan last weekend—The general subject of the conference was *Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, Keeping the Faith, and Loving the Lord's Appearing in order to Receive the Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness*
- The College Conference for the students in the churches in the Northeast being held in Ivoryton, CT concludes today
- The Winter Retreat for all the young people in the church in NYC to be held at Camp Penuel (KPCC) from today to February. 20
- The strengthening and going on of the churches in Taiwan and throughout all of the Far East
- 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: 2023 FALL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR ELDERS AND RESPONSIBLE ONES - LIVING AND SERVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S ECONOMY CONCERNING THE CHURCH

Week 6: A Good Minister of Christ

Portions from Days 1, 3 and 6:

A minister of Christ is one who serves others with Christ, ministering Christ as Savior, life, life supply, and every positive thing to people. He differs from the teacher of the law and of other things (1 Tim. 1:7, 3)...Although it is true that a minister of Christ belongs to Christ, the main

thought in 4:6 is that he serves others with Christ, ministering Christ to them. Not only does he belong to Christ, but he serves Christ to others. (Life-study of 1 Timothy, second edition, p. 69).

On the one hand, a man cannot preach the truth unless he has the experience. But on the other hand, a person has to know that the truth has nothing to do with him. If a man is brought to a point that he can no longer withstand God's word and he finds God's word condemning him, he will receive the light. This is the basis of revelation; it is the secret to receiving revelation. Throughout history no one who has received God's light sacrificed God's word. If we are not up to the standard of God's word, we have to catch up, and we have to go along with God's word. If we cannot catch up, we can only say that we have sinned. If we do this, the way ahead will be clear, and we will have more and more light. Otherwise, our reading and preaching of the truth will become vain talk and vain preaching. (CWWN, vol. 57, pp. 134-136)

Second Timothy 1:6-7 indicates that we need to fan our spirit into flame...Some might think that these verses do not say that we should fan our spirit but that we should fan our gift. But if you get into these verses, you will see that the fanning of our gift into flame is the fanning of our spirit into flame. Paul tells us in verse 6 to "fan into flame the gift of God." Then in verse 7 he says, "For God has not given us a spirit..." Our God-given spirit is what we must fan into flame. We have to fan our spirit.

We saved ones have the capital to live the Christian life and the church life. This capital is the God-given spirit. This God-given spirit, according to God's ordination, is surrounded by the power of our will, by the love of our emotion, and by the sobermindedness of our mind. These three helpers are surrounding our spirit, not to depress us but rather to uplift us and help us. (CWWL, 1993, vol. 2, "The Spirit with Our Spirit," pp. 180-182, 184)

Corporate Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews, msg. 1*

MINISTRY READINGS

Examples of Reading the Bible

Whenever we read the Bible, we must guard ourselves against arguing over doctrines. We will not touch God if we study doctrines, because we are exercising our mind. If something touches our spirit,

we must control our mind. It is true that when reading a verse, we may be led to consider a second verse. However, this must be initiated by the Spirit; we should not initiate it. We must control our thoughts and not consider doctrine when we read the Word. Rather, we should exercise our spirit, and turn the word that has touched us into prayer so that we can breathe in God. While we are praying and breathing, the Spirit may point out our true condition. When reading Romans 4:17, the Spirit may point out that we are dead and that we are in a state of "not being." We should respond immediately and pray, "God, that is right! I am in a dead condition, a condition of 'not being.' But I praise and thank You because the deadness and the nothingness afford a basis for Your resurrection life to abound." In such a prayer we are not exercising our mind; rather, we are taking the Word as food and eating it with our spirit. In this way we will discover that God is the element within this food. We are contacting and enjoying God.

This is different from merely studying doctrine. As a verse touches us, we should digest it with our spirit and turn it into prayer. When we pray in this way, and the Spirit speaks to us, we should again turn the words into prayer. In the end, we will be inwardly satisfied even though we may not understand much doctrine.

Brothers and sisters, this is a crucial point. If we do not practice this, we will not eat much God when we read the Bible; we will not receive much genuine supply in our spirit. We may be familiar with the Bible, knowing how one verse relates to another, but our spirit will be empty. We will not have received the supply. Hence, we must always guard against our mind when we read the Word to enjoy God. We must guard against studying doctrine. We must exercise to be limited by our spirit, and we must exercise our spirit to breathe in God by means of the Word. We should pray and digest the words of the Bible with our spirit.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 15: RESTRICTING THE MIND AND EXERCISING THE SPIRIT IN READING THE BIBLE (part 7)