

# The Church in New York City

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 316 December 21, 2025

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2025 December Semi-Annual Training**

The 2025 December Semi-Annual Video Training will be held online via Zoom. The subject of this training is: ***Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (4)***.

**Schedule for Training Session:**

Message 1, 7:00 PM, Monday, Dec. 22 (Live Webcast, Open Meeting)  
Message 2, 7:30 PM, Wednesday, Dec. 24  
Message 3, 7:00 PM, Thursday, Dec. 25  
Message 4, 4:00 PM, Saturday Dec. 27  
Message 5, 7:00 PM, Saturday, Dec. 27  
Message 6, 10:00 AM, LORD'S TABLE, 11:00 AM (Open meeting) Dec. 28  
Message 7, 7:30 PM, Monday, Dec. 29  
Message 8, 7:30 PM, Wednesday, Dec. 31  
Message 9, 4:00 PM, Thursday, Jan. 1  
Message 10, 7:00 PM, Thursday, Jan. 1  
Message 11, 4:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 3  
Message 12, 7:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 3

**Schedule for Review/Study Session (In English, provide Chinese translation):**

Messages 1&2, 7:30 PM, Friday, Dec. 26 (Open Session)  
Messages 3&4, 7:30 PM, Friday, Jan. 2 (Open Session)  
Messages 5&6, 7:30 PM, Monday, Jan. 5  
Messages 7&8, 7:30 PM, Wednesday, Jan. 7  
Messages 9&10, 7:30 PM, Thursday, Jan. 8

- **Churchwide Truth Pursuit on Genesis**

The churchwide truth pursuit on the book of Genesis began on February 3. The reading schedule, study questions, and other information are available on the church website [churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study).

Join us for the weekly truth pursuit ministry meeting every Friday night at 7:30 PM. We

welcome the saints to invite their family and friends. Translation to Spanish and Chinese is available. Please check the church website for more details.

**Week 40**

**Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 33

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 79-80

**Level 2—Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Jacob's Dream and Vow at Bethel

Scripture: Gen 27-28

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 68-69

Supplemental Reading: *Truth Lessons, Level Three, Vol. 1, ch. 9*

Study Questions: See the church website at [churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)

### PRAYER BURDENS

- Thanksgiving to the Lord for answering the prayers of the church regarding the citywide gospel meeting on two Saturday ago and prayer for the proper follow up and shepherding of all who attended, including those who were saved and baptized, and those who returned to the Lord, as well as prayer for the gospel burden to continue in all the saints
- The upcoming semiannual training in Anaheim (December 22-27) and all the local video trainings—The general subject will be Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (4); let us pray for the Lord's anointing on the speaking of the messages, the speaking brothers, the health, travel and protection of all the saints, and the services supporting the training, particularly the audio and visual service, both in Anaheim and in all of the localities carrying out a video training
- The strengthening of the churches in Upstate NY, Connecticut and New Jersey

- The Lord's move in the United States—That the Lord would strengthen all the believers throughout the nation to not be ashamed of the gospel, and that He would preserve this nation for the preaching of the gospel and the spread of His testimony
- The strengthening of all the church meetings, small group meetings, and practical services in the church this week
- 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: 2025 JULY SEMIANNUAL TRAINING: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (3)

#### WEEK 5: The Cause of Our Blamelessness in Holiness and the Cause of Our Complete Sanctification in Our Spirit, Soul, and Body

##### Portion from Days 1 & 6:

Psalm 78:8 says, "That they might not be like their fathers, / A stubborn and rebellious generation, / A generation that did not set their heart right, / And whose spirit was not faithful to God."...The spirit is not faithful whenever the heart is not set right. This verse indicates how close the heart is to the spirit.

To be a living believer involves both our spirit and our heart...Many of us can testify that we have exercised our spirit, but still this did not always work to make us living. The reason the exercise of the spirit may not work is that the heart does not act. This means that there is something wrong in the heart. Perhaps the mind is not renewed, sanctified, transformed; it may not be saturated with the Lord and occupied by Him. Instead, it may be filled with worldly things. We may exercise our spirit and say, "Praise the Lord!" However, this exercise may not work to make us living. The exercise of the spirit works only when our heart is active.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 we see the cooperation of the holy life with the divine operation. In verses 12 through 22 we have the believers' cooperation in living a spiritual and separated life. In verses 23 and 24 we have God's operation in sanctifying and preserving the

believers. God desires to sanctify us wholly and to preserve our spirit, soul, and body complete. However, we need to cooperate with Him. The way to cooperate is to rejoice, pray unceasingly, give thanks to Him in everything, not quench the Spirit, and not despise prophesying in the church meetings. If we cooperate in this way, our spirit will be preserved from deadness, our soul will be preserved from pollution in mind, will, and emotion, and our body will be preserved from the defilement of this age. Then in a practical way we will have a holy life for the church life. Paul's aim in writing 1 Thessalonians, a book for new believers, was that they would live such a sanctified and holy life for the church life. (Life-study of 1 Thessalonians, pp. 212-214).

## MINISTRY READINGS

### OPENING OURSELVES TO THE LORD

If you are going to ask the Lord to quench you, to water you, you have to open yourself to Him. By your opening, the indwelling Christ will spring up and flow out (7:37-39a). The more He springs up, the more He will water you. You will be quenched from within, not from above. The fountain has been put into you. The spring of water is in us, in our spirit. .... To exercise our spirit, we have to open ourselves.

We must exercise to open ourselves to contact Him. Then we will realize how real, how available, how fresh, and how refreshing He is to us. This enjoyment of the indwelling Christ as the tree of life will not only save us, deliver us, adjust us, regulate us, and correct us but will also transform us. We need to know Christ as the tree of life in the way of life. We need to know this living One in a living way so that the indwelling Christ as the inner life can transform our entire inward being.

*Excerpts from "The Tree of Life", Chapter 3: The Tree of Life in the Gospel of John (part 5)*