

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 60 January 24, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NYC Middle School & High School Retreat**
We will have an online retreat for the New York City young people in middle school and high school from **February 15-20, 2021 (Monday - Saturday)**. This is the annual retreat that we usually hold over the February school break. There will be fellowship and fun, recreational activities. Additional details, including a link for registration, will come in a future announcement. Any questions can be directed to the young people serving ones in the halls or to churchinnyc.jp@gmail.com.
- **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=dEpzN2ZGZ21aaGV5dTob3AwQlBodz09>
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 work of faith, the labor of love and the endurance of hope of all the saints (1 Thes. 1:3)
- Homecoming--That this year many who have not been with us recently would "come home" to the church and be warmly welcomed by us (Luke 15:4-7)
- The burden for the gospel in the midst of these uncertain times (John 4:35)
- The strengthening of the small group meetings and church meetings (Heb. 10:25)

- The Crucial Truths in the Bible series on Friday nights--The burden of this online Bible study is to shepherd the newly saved ones, feed the seeking believers and build up the saints in the church life with the truth
- Prayer for the United States, for the new administration, and for peace in the nation "that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and gravity" (1 Tim. 2:2)
- 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: International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones—October 2020

Subject: The Christian Life, The Church Life, The Consummation of the Age, and The Coming of the Lord

Week 3: The Losing of the Soul-life, Participating in the Rapture of the Overcomers, and Receiving the End of Our Faith--the Salvation of the Soul

Portions from Day 6:

To gain our soul in the coming age will be a great reward (Heb. 10:35) to our suffering for following Christ in this age. If we care for the enjoyment of our soul, the psychological pleasures, and do not follow Christ faithfully today, we shall suffer the Lord's discipline in our soul in the coming age. If we are willing to lose the enjoyment of our soul for the Lord's sake today, we shall have the full enjoyment of the Lord for our whole being, especially for our soul, in the coming age. That will be a reward to our suffering today.

In the Gospels the Lord tells us many times that if in this age we lose our soul for His sake and the gospel's, at His coming back in the next age we shall gain it (Matt. 16:25; Luke 9:24; 17:33)...As human beings, we have a spirit, but we are a soul. A human being is a soul. To lose our soul in this age means to

suffer for the Lord's sake and for the sake of the gospel. When we suffer, our whole being suffers. This means that we lose our soul. Those who are rich and comfortable today, enjoying their physical life, are having enjoyment for their soul. Not many Christians are willing to pay the price to follow the Lord strictly, because they do not want to suffer in their soul; they want to enjoy their life today, desiring luxurious cars, large houses, and many worldly things.

Losing our soul in this age is to suffer for the Lord's sake in a human way. If we follow the Lord today, we shall certainly suffer for His sake. Because you are a faithful and straight follower of Jesus Christ, your teachers may not give you the higher grade, and you may not receive a promotion on your job. Many such things are related to losing our soul... This loss of our soul today is the condition of our gaining it in the next age. To gain our soul in the next age is to enter into the Lord's joy and reigning. According to the parable in Matthew 25, the Lord said to the faithful servants, "Enter into the joy of your master" (v. 23). To enter into the Lord's joy is to enter into His reign in the coming kingdom. This age is for us to suffer; the next age is for our enjoyment.

The gaining of the soul equals perfection, and perfection equals glorification. To be glorified, to be perfected, and to gain our soul in the next age all refer to one thing—the reward... [The reward] is the goal of God's salvation... The goal of God's salvation is to make us the same as His Firstborn Son. Romans 8:29 says that we have been, "predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers" ... Here we see God's goal—that His many sons, who are Christ's many brothers, might be conformed to the image of His firstborn Son. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, pp. 521-523)

Corporate Readings: *"The Mystery of Christ" Ch. 8 The Order of the Body & Ch. 9 The Principle of the Body*

A Ministry Portion from "The Prayer Ministry of the Church"

Being Gathered Together

In (Matthew 18) verse 20 the Lord says, "For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." This is the third principle, the deepest principle. ... Verse 19 says, "If two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter, any

matter that they ask will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens." Why? "For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." Why is there such a great power on earth? Why is prayer in harmony so powerful? Why is prayer in harmony of two or three persons so powerful? It is powerful because whenever we are gathered together into the Lord's name, the Lord is there! This is the reason for our harmony.

We are gathered together. We do not choose to meet together; we are gathered together. There is a difference between meeting together and being gathered together. Being gathered together is being gathered by the Lord. We do not come by ourselves; the Lord has gathered us. Many people come to the meeting for the sake of observing or spectating; this will surely not result in anything. But for others, the Lord is speaking within them, telling them that if they do not come that day, they will miss something. Those whom the Lord has gathered this way are gathered together into the Lord's name; they come for the sake of the Lord's name. ... When all the brothers and sisters are gathered together for the Lord's name's sake, there will be oneness and harmony. ... If you want something, not because you want it but because the Lord wants it, and if you reject something, not because you reject it, but because the Lord rejects it, there will be harmony. God's children are gathered by the Lord into His name. The Lord says, "There am I in their midst." ... Since the Lord is leading and enlightening them, and since the Lord is speaking and giving revelation, whatever is bound on the earth is bound in heaven and whatever is loosed on the earth is loosed in heaven. This is because the Lord is doing the binding and the loosing together with the church.

Therefore, we have to learn to deny ourselves before the Lord. Every time He gathers us together in a meeting, we have to learn to seek His glory. Our hearts have to be turned toward His name and desire that His name be exalted above every name and that every idol be cast down. If we do this, He will lead us. ... This is a fact. If the church is normal, at the end of every meeting, the church will know whether the Lord has been in its midst. When the Lord is in the midst of the church, the church will be rich and strong. During these times, the church can bind and loose.

- Excerpts from *"The Prayer Ministry of the Church"*, Chapter 1: *The Prayer Ministry of the Church (Section 8)*