

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 132 June 12, 2022

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), 10:30AM-11:30AM.

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3785123114?pwd=dEpzN2ZGZ21aaGV5dTFob3AwQlBodz09>

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

- Follow-up of the gospel meeting for the children in grade 5 on Saturday, June 11
- The strengthening of all the families and households in the church life and the saints of all ages:
 - a. The strengthening of the oneness in every household
 - b. The children and the young people
 - c. The health and wellbeing of all the elderly saints and the strengthening of their church life
- The strengthening of the church life throughout the coming months and all the summer activities:
 - a. The Summer College Training
 - b. The July semiannual training
 - c. The Family Bible Camp
 - d. The Chinese-speaking Perfecting Training
 - e. The Summer School of Truth
- The strengthening of the church meetings and small group meetings this week
- The Lord's move in Upstate New York:

- a. The churches in Rosendale, Albany, Ithaca, Syracuse, Rochester, and Amherst
- b. Binghamton, where there is not yet a local church but there are some saints gathering who are either studying or working there
- 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: Crystallization-Study of 1&2 Samuel
Week 6: Spiritual Principles, Life Lessons, and Holy Warnings Seen in the History of David

Portion from Days 4 & 5:

David had a heart to build a temple for God [cf. 2 Sam. 7:2]. God accepted his heart, but God did not want David to build a temple for Him. God spoke to him through Nathan: "Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?...I...will make you a house....I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body....It is he who will build a house for My name" (vv. 5, 11-13).

All our work and service in the church must be initiated by God and must be according to His desire....Anything that is initiated or started by man, regardless of how much it is for God, is a religious activity....No matter related to our service to God should be determined by us. It is right for us to love God, but God does not want us to think about doing something for Him. Our heart to serve Him is acceptable, but our decision to do something for Him is not acceptable. God said, "Is it you...?" God does not want us to decide anything on His behalf. It was not up to David to decide whether or not to build the temple. Nothing should be initiated by us; only God can initiate something.

Because David feared God,...he did not react to Nathan; rather, he stopped. It is not a small thing to stop. The act of stopping the building of the temple is a great matter. Sister M. E. Barber said, "Whoever cannot stop working for the sake of God cannot work

for the sake of God.” This is a good word of experience.

David’s stopping established a twofold testimony in the universe. First, all the work in the universe should come from God, not from man. Second, all that matters is what God does for man, not what man does for God.

After all the enemies of Israel were subdued and David was exalted as the king of Israel, David committed a great sin while he was in a peaceful situation. This indicates that whenever we are in a peaceful situation, it is easy for us to be seduced to indulge our flesh.

David’s sin was the issue of his indulging of the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (2 Sam. 11:2b-3)...David committed a willful adultery by robbery, abusing the power of his kingship (vv. 4-5). This was a real insult to God. David’s great sin nearly annulled all his attainments from the past.

David was perfect in every way, but he was weak in the matter of the indulgence of the lust of the flesh. The lust of the flesh is like a wild horse. To subdue this lust, we must hold the bridle very tightly. In this matter David was loose, and he sacrificed his high attainment in the pursuit of God. David was a great “diamond,” but his indulgence in lust was a black, foreign particle in this diamond. Even though he was a person of high attainment in his spiritual pursuit, he was still able to commit such a great sin.

David, being a man according to God’s heart, afforded God the way to begin the age of kingship for the establishment of His kingdom on the earth for His coming Christ. But how regrettable it was that David, at a crucial time of the evil one’s temptation, did not exercise strong control over his lust but indulged in it and committed a gross sin, which offended God to the uttermost.

Corporate Reading: *“The Orthodoxy of the Church”*
Ch. 8: The Church In Laodicea

MINISTRY PORTIONS

The First Step—Exercising Our Spirit

Let me say a further word to help us understand. In English we have the word substance, which means “matter” or “reality.” From this noun we have the verb substantiate, which means “to make real” or “to materialize something.” Sound is an example of a substance. It is something real, something substantial. However, if we do not have ears or if we are deaf, we will not realize that there is such a

substance as sound; in other words, we will be unable to substantiate sound. The same is true with color. Although it is something real and substantial, if we do not have eyes or if we are blind, we will be unable to see this substance. In other words, we will be unable to substantiate color. We should remember that God is Spirit and therefore is “substance.” Even though God is a “substance,” and our spirit is a “substance,” as long as we exercise our mind instead of exercising our spirit, we will be unable to substantiate God. If we exercise our spirit, however, we will immediately realize that God exists. We will substantiate God.

When we come to God, we should forget our considerations and pray with our spirit. Provided we use our spirit, we will immediately touch God, sense His presence, and receive Him. Once a believer learns this lesson, instead of exercising his mind, he will learn to pray from his spirit. The moment he kneels down, he will exercise his spirit instead of wandering in his mind with different thoughts. When he is convicted in his spirit of being full of the self, loving himself rather than God, he will cry out to God, saying, “I am full of the self. I only love myself. I do not love You at all.” Such a simple prayer will immediately bring him in touch with God. Those who have some experience in this matter understand what I am saying. The more we pray from our spirit, the more we touch God, take Him in, and are filled with Him. After praying, we are persons filled with God. We are satisfied, refreshed, freed, comforted, cheered, and enlightened. This is a prayer of fellowship, a prayer that touches God, a prayer that involves the exercise of the spirit, and a prayer that counts.

Excerpts from “How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God”, Chapter 4: The Way for Man to Enjoy God (Section 2)