

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 146 September 18, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Northeast Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference (September 23-25)**

Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference for the churches in the Northeast will be held in KPCC from September 23 to 25.

Please complete the form at the following link to register: <https://forms.gle/xqNtesgEs2aFzfVt9>
Schedule and more available information can be found in the registration link and the church website at <https://churchinnyc.org>

- **Service Office Hours**

Service Office Hours will be suspended until October 10, 2022.

PRAYER BURDENS

- Thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness in blessing the Spanish-speaking Conference last weekend with His presence and His speaking; pray that the word released in the conference would result in the strengthening of all the churches in the Northeast
- Give thanks for all the children that the Lord has blessed the church with and pray for the Citywide Children's Meeting Fellowship for serving ones and parents held this past Saturday, September 17 in Hall 1
- The first Lord's Day meeting in the new meeting hall in Brooklyn (Hall 4) today (the Lord's Day) = Let us praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing this new hall for the saints and pray for the strengthening of every aspect of the church life in Brooklyn
- The Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference for the churches in the Northeast to be held at Camp Penuel over the weekend of September 23-25

- Give thanks to the Lord for all that He has accomplished in Europe in the recent years; let us continue to pray for:
 - a. European University Training in the UK & Ireland (Sept. 11-16) and Germany (Sept. 20-24) covering God's Economy which is in Faith
 - b. Upcoming gospel trips in Germany and Switzerland (October 10-23)
- 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: Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life

Week 5: Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Economy

Portion from Days 1, 2 & 3:

The tree of life was a symbol, signifying God as the proper source (cf. Psa. 36:9; John 1:4; 10:10b; 11:25; 14:6; 1 John 5:12; Col. 3:4). If we only read Genesis 2, we will be unable to understand the meaning of the tree of life. However, the Gospel of John reveals the life denoted by the tree of life in a concrete way. John 1:4 says, "In Him was life," and John 15:5 tells us that the Lord Jesus is a vine tree. If we put these two verses together, we will realize that Christ is the tree of life. Jesus, the embodiment of God, is the tree of life. Therefore, the tree of life in Genesis 2 is a symbol of God as the source of life.

Besides this source, there is another tree, another source in the universe—death. However, this tree is not called the tree of death; it is called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There is such a tree in this universe. These two trees oppose one another, the tree of life denoting God as the source of life, and the tree of knowledge signifying Satan as the source of death. As God is the source of life, Satan is the source of death. Therefore, in Genesis 2 we find two sources signified by two trees. (Life-study of Genesis, pp. 160-162)

The thought of God being man's life runs through the entire Bible from Genesis to

Revelation...God's creating of living things indicates that God is the God of life. God's action in creating man in His own image (Gen. 1:26-27) indicates that God wants man to have Himself as man's life so that man can express Him...Man can express God only by having God as his life. The tree of life (2:8-9) is a symbol of God as life...Therefore, when we take the tree of life, we take God into us as our life...Therefore, the tree of life can also be called "the tree of God." (CWWL, 1990, vol. 1, "The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man," pp. 237-238)

The things apart from God fall into three categories: knowledge, good, and evil. Suppose you have the intention of doing a certain good thing. Deep in your spirit, however, you have the sense not to touch it and not to do it...Do not employ the principle of good and bad, but cooperate with the principle of life. If you do not have peace within, it means that the Spirit of life does not agree with what you intend to do. You need to cooperate with Him. If you do, you will receive life. Have you not had this kind of experience repeatedly in the past? Whenever you acted according to the good, you were killed. You experienced death. However, when you acted according to the inner life, you received more life.

God wanted man to receive Him as life by the way of eating...Eating is the unique way to receive nourishment organically...What you eat becomes your organic nourishment...Eating is the unique way, and God is the unique food to man...All the physical food we eat is a shadow. God is the reality of our food [cf. Col. 2:16-17]...To receive God by eating Him is to have God assimilated into our being metabolically...His new element replaces what we are, and our old element is discharged. (CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, "Basic Lessons on Life," pp. 488, 490-491)

Eating indicates dependence. That God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually. We must come to Him in order to feed on Him again and again...Taking the tree of knowledge makes us independent of God. In the eyes of God the greatest sin is independence. We must learn to depend on God continually. (CWWL, 1990, vol. 1, "The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man," p. 233)

Corporate Reading: *"The Tree of Life" Ch. 15: Living Letters Of Christ By beholding And Reflecting His Glory*

MINISTRY PORTIONS

Being Enlivened and Shining in Spirit

Finally, if our reading of the Bible is proper, our inner being will be enlivened whenever we touch the Word. ...God's word is living (Heb. 4:12). His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). Whenever our spirit touches the living word of God, we will surely be enlivened, refreshed, enriched, enlightened, and empowered. ...This enlightenment is not related to the clarity of our mind. This is an entirely different thing. Some people become very clear in their mind after they read the Word, but their spirit remains dull. Others may not be that clear in their mind, but they are very clear in their spirit. They have discernment in their spirit. This is wonderful.

Although we may not understand many things and we may not know many doctrines, our spirit is clear. We are clear concerning what brings us into the Lord's presence and what causes us to lose His presence. We know when the Lord is walking with us and when He is far from us. We know when we are being mingled with Him and when we are separated from Him. Even though this type of knowing is not dependent upon our understanding, there is a clear shining in our spirit. This is the normal result of reading the Word.

When we read the Bible, we should realize that God is contained in His Word, and we should contact it in this way. We should exercise our spirit to touch the living Word. When we touch something in the Word, we should turn it into meditation and prayer. Consequently, we will gain more of the Lord, absorb more of Him, and our inner being will be enlivened, refreshed, strengthened, and enlightened. As a result, we will gain more God and enjoy more of Him. ...We should absorb God, gain Him, and enjoy Him through praying and reading. If we do this, we will express much glory, riches, and divine fullness. Furthermore, the church will rise to a higher plane. May we be faithful to continually learn to take this way and to live this life.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 6: How to Enjoy God in Reading the Word (Section 4)