

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 276 March 16, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 at 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 7

Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 7
Assigned Reading: Life-study of Genesis, msg(s). 13-14

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: Image
Scripture: Gen. 1:26
Assigned Reading: Life-study of Genesis, msg(s). 8
Supplemental Reading: The Central Thought of God, ch. 2; The Central Line of the Divine Revelation, ch. 6; Revelation in Genesis: Seeing God's Desire and Purpose in Creation, ch. 4
Questions: See the church website at churchinnyc.org/bible-study

- **Citywide Senior Saints' Conference (Mar. 29)**

We are glad to announce that we will have a special in-person gathering for all the senior saints, including all the districts and all languages. The conference is for all nine halls of the church. Lunch and transportation will be provided.

Place: Hall 1 (Jamaica Estates hall)

Time: Saturday, March 29, 2025, 10am

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

Mar. 21-23: Chinese-speaking Conference (KPCC)

Apr. 11-13: Regional Conference with Brother Ed Marks (Franklin, NJ)

- **Service Office Hours**

Service Office Hours are 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

- The saints' personal fellowship with the Lord— That all the saints, from the youngest to the oldest, would have some experience of prayer in their "private room", contacting their heavenly Father in secret, experiencing some secret enjoyment of the Father, and receiving some secret answer from Him
Matthew 6:6 – *But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.*
- The salvation of the children in grade 5—The children's meeting serving ones will be presenting lessons regarding salvation to the children in grade 5 over the next few months; let us pray for their first citywide Gospel Activity Day which held yesterday in Hall 3
- The Chinese-speaking conference in New York to be held at Camp Penuel over the weekend of March 21-23

- The Citywide Senior Saints' Conference which will be held on Saturday, March 29, in Hall 1
- Prayer for all the responsible brothers in the churches throughout the earth and the International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (ITERO) being held in Anaheim, CA over the weekend of April 4-6

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: 2024 THANKSGIVING BLENDING CONFERENCE- LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHURCH LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD FOR THE ECONOMY OF GOD

WEEK 3: Life and Building in Peter's Epistles

Portion from Days 1 and 2:

The matter of life and its issue, which is the building,is actually the theme of the whole New Testament. Life is simply the Triune God, who, after passing through a lengthy process, became the Spirit of life...The building is the church, the Body of Christ. This building comes out of life. The church is the issue of the divine life.

Once we receive this life,it begins to grow within us, to saturate us, to transform us, and to build us together as God's dwelling place. In this age His dwelling place is the church; in the eternal age it is the New Jerusalem. The dwelling place is the issue of God's being life to us. As His life within us grows, we are transformed; the purpose of this transformation is the building up of God's dwelling place. Growth, transformation, and building are the crucial points in the New Testament. (CWWL, 1980, vol. 2, "The Completing Ministry of Paul," p. 203)

A living stone is one that not only possesses life but also grows in life. This is Christ for God's building. [In 1 Peter 2:4-5] Peter changed his metaphor from a seed, which is of the vegetable life (1:23-24), to a stone, which is of the minerals. The seed is for life-planting; the stone is for building (2:5).As life to us, Christ is the seed; for God's building, He is the stone. After receiving Him as the seed of life, we need to grow that we may experience Him as the stone living in us. Thus He will make us also living stones, transformed with His stone nature, that we may be built together with others as a spiritual house upon Him as both the foundation and the cornerstone (Isa. 28:16). (1 Pet. 2:4, footnote 1)

In order to be built up as a spiritual house, we need to become stones. But how can we actually become living stones? We become living stones by coming to Christ as the living stone (v. 4).

We may use petrified wood as an illustration of transformation.Over a long period of time, water has been flowing over wood and through it. By means of this flow of water, the substance of the wood is changed into stone. On the one hand, the element of wood is carried away; on the other hand, the element of stone is brought in to replace the element of wood. In this way the wood becomes stone. (Life-study of 1 Peter, pp. 151-152)

MINISTRY READINGS

INTERCESSION

Let us consider Abraham's intercession for Lot. Abraham learned to live before God. He was one who knew God's desire. When God visited Abraham, He said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" (Gen. 18:17). Since God and Abraham were intimate friends, God opened His heart to him, and He told Abraham that He had come down to look at the condition of Sodom and to judge it. When Abraham heard this, he knew that God's heart was focused on Lot, who was in Sodom. Although God did not mention Lot by name, the fact that He spoke of the place where Lot was gave Abraham a hint of God's heart. Abraham knew that God cared for Lot, who was living in the city of Sodom.

As soon as Abraham knew God's heart, he tarried before God and began his work of intercession. When we read Genesis 18:22-33, we see that every word of Abraham touched God. Abraham reminded God that He is the Judge of all the earth, who needed to act justly, and asked if He could destroy the righteous with the wicked. Abraham did not mention Lot by name, but Lot was one of the righteous ones. Strictly speaking, his prayer was not for Sodom but for Lot who lived in Sodom, in the same way that God's heart was not on Sodom but on saving Lot who dwelled in Sodom.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 21: The Practice of Intercession, Beholding, Waiting, and Musing (part 2)