

# CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – February 12, 2012

## Announcements

- On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am there will be a fellowship time for all the brothers bearing responsibility for a home group. This will be a time of mutual prayer and fellowship to advance our practice of the vital groups.

## Suggestions for Prayer

(see *beseeking.org*)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord's move in Europe</li> <li>• Lord's move in Japan</li> <li>• Robertsons in Sao Paulo</li> <li>• Gospel in Middle East</li> <li>• Violence in Mexico</li> <li>• The training in Boston</li> <li>• DCP: Internet Defense</li> <li>• Campus work: freshmen</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellingham, Vancouver, Richland, Olympia, and Yakima, WA</li> <li>• 2012 Memorial Day Conference in Bellevue</li> <li>• Increase in Bellevue &amp; Renton</li> <li>• The Philippines</li> <li>• Upcoming retreats</li> </ul> |
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### This Week: February 13-19

**Morning Revival:** *The Focus of the Lord's Recovery*, week 3

**Hall Cleaning: Downstairs** – Team 7 (Desimones, Washingtons)  
**Upstairs** – Sammamish & Somerset

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Sisters' Prayer in Multi-Purpose Rm Prayer in the homes
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	No ministry webcast
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Breakfast & fellowship
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30 am	Lord's Table

### February

**25** Home group fellowship

### March

**9-11** High School Retreat, Lakeside Bible Camp, Whidbey Island

## Ministry Reading Portion

### CHAPTER EIGHT

#### **WITHOUT TEARING DOWN THERE BEING NO BUILDING OF GOD**

Many brothers and sisters hope that every situation would be proper, that their children would be proper, their family would be proper, their career would be proper, and they themselves would be proper in speech and in their conduct. This is the reason they often pray and attend meetings, expecting to be edified unto perfection. They hope to quickly fill up what is lacking and to quickly make up what is missing. However, we must all admit that the more we try to perfect ourselves, the more imperfect we become, and the more we try to be proper, the more improper we become. Formerly we seldom had an outburst of temper, but now it seems as if we lose our temper quite often. It is as if all the things that happen to us cause us to become improper. Inwardly we desire to love the Lord, but we cannot; we desire to pursue diligently, but we cannot. Eventually we are discouraged. We may be discouraged, but the Lord is not discouraged. He is never discouraged. In our “poor conduct” God has “punctured a hole” to give us a “shot.” This is the work of tearing down in God’s building. This is the work that God desires to do.

At the time of their salvation, some brothers and sisters were fresh and were truly willing to consecrate themselves, but after three to five years they no longer seem to be fresh. They seem to be downcast and somewhat discouraged inwardly, even though they do not want to backslide. When we carefully investigate this situation, we will discover that, in spite of their effort, they were unable to be perfected after they were saved. After consecrating themselves they were unable to do a good and decent work; instead, their work was a failure in which they were altogether ashamed of themselves. For this reason they are not as fresh and living as when they consecrated themselves after their salvation. However, we must bow our heads and worship God that these ones, who are not fresh and living, have a little more element of Christ within. Their being is more open, and they have elements of Christ within them. This is the story of many saints. Some of the saints have a messy situation in their family that causes them to be discouraged to the point that they feel they can no longer rise up. However, they have been opened, and the element of Christ within them has increased.

Our God is a God of creation and a God of tearing down, of destruction. He is a merciless God; He will shatter and break everything He has created. Perhaps some would say that this is lamentable, but without this shattering, this tearing down, there is no building. Without the tearing down, God cannot be built into man, and without this tearing

down, man cannot be built into God. Even after His incarnation, the Son of God still had to pass through the destruction of death in order to enter into resurrection. What is in death is not glorious, but what is in resurrection is glorious. What is in death is something in man, but what is in resurrection is something that has entered into God. What is in death is limited, but what is in resurrection is unlimited.

After the tearing down, a marvelous building is produced. This building is of resurrection, and it is spiritual, heavenly, glorious, and eternal. In this building God has entered into man, and man has entered into God. Here we can see that God and man, man and God have truly been mingled and become one; God is in man and man is in God. This is something mysterious in which we see both God and man—God is mingled with man, and man is mingled with God.

We have all met ones who love the Lord and have good wives or husbands that the Lord prepared for them. However, if we read church history and the biographies of many spiritual people, we will discover that the wives or husbands of many who were useful in the Lord's hand were a trouble to them and were a "syringe" in the Lord's hand. A brother may have a wife who is prepared by the Lord to give him a shot every day. Whether she gives him a large or a small dose, she always gives him a shot every day. She may give him a shot in the morning, another shot at noon, and administer one more shot at night. While he is experiencing this, he may feel that it is very uncomfortable and painful; the condition of his family is neither seemly nor proper. However, this is only a process. After a period of time, a person whose being is opened has more of the element of God, and the element of Christ is increased within him. When we see him, we will sense that he has been torn down and has been given many shots. He will have the flavor of God, the fragrance of Christ, and the presence of Christ within him. When we contact him, we contact one who is broken, not whole; he is one in whom we can smell the fragrance of Christ. This is God's building. This is where we see the Body. Only in the Body is man no longer individualistic.

## CHAPTER NINE

### **THE CONTENTS OF THE FULLNESS REVEALED IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN— LIFE, RESURRECTION, LIGHT, AND THE WAY**

Scripture Reading: John 1:16, 14; 11:25; 8:12; 14:6

### **THE CHURCH BEING THE EXPRESSION OF CHRIST**

Ephesians 1:23 speaks of the church as the fullness of Christ, and Colossians 2:9 says, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead

bodily.” Everything of God is in Christ, and everything of Christ is in the church; therefore, the church is a great matter. Everything in the Godhead is expressed through Christ, and everything that is in Christ is expressed through the church. Just as everything of God is in Christ, everything of Christ is in the church. Just as Christ expresses God, the church expresses Christ. Whatever is not God is not Christ, and whatever is not Christ is not the church.

## **THE CHURCH BEING THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST**

Who is Christ? Christ is God expressed in man. What is the church? The church is Christ expressed in man. God expressed from within man is Christ, and Christ expressed from within man is the church. The church is very special. However, this does not mean that Christianity is the church. In the eyes of God, the church is the fullness of Christ. The church is only the living out of Christ from within man. Anything that differs from this is not the church, even if there is only a slight difference. The church is the Body of Christ, the fullness of Christ.

Witness Lee, *The Church as the Body of Christ*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord’s Day, Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 25:1-13
Monday, Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 25:14-30
Tuesday, Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 25:31 – 26:13
Wednesday, Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 26:14-56
Thursday, Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 26:57 – 27:26
Friday, Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 27:27-66
Saturday, Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Matt. 28:1-20