

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – March 24, 2019

### Announcements

- The Collected Works of Witness Lee will be published in Chinese. A deposit of \$100 can be placed at [www.twgbr.org.tw](http://www.twgbr.org.tw). The deadline to order is May 26, 2019.
- Registration for the summer training is due 5/1 (for both the live and video trainings). The church van will drive down to the training again.
- We are covering week 2 of the *Holy Word for Morning Revival on Numbers*. Copies are available in the bookroom.
- The local training on the *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life* has begun, but if saints would still like to sign up fill out a form on the table and purchase a book.
- We would like to re-vitalize the shuttle service; if you can sign up to take the van, please contact Nathan Shih, David Desimone, or Francisco Hernandez.
- The upcoming national college training is planning to receive up to 2800 saints. Financial support is needed to bear the needs of the training. You can donate at <https://donate.collegetraining.org>. Please pray for the college training.
- We would like to expand the piano service, if you are interested in this service, please contact Michael Wang.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast continues this week and starts at 7:30 pm at the following locations:
  - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
  - Chang - Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
  - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
  - Miyake - Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English
  - Lu - Kirkland, (206) 696-2543, in English/Chinese
- We will continue our ministry reading with the *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*, please pick up a copy even if you are not signed up for the training. This week we will read chapter 3.

### Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Gospel trips around Europe and America
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking permit)
- Prayer meeting
- Northwest localities
- How to get into the matters of the experience of life to bring us to maturity
- National College Training (July 14 to 20, 2019)

<b>This Week: March 25 – March 31</b>		
<b>Morning Revival:</b> <i>Crystallization-study of Numbers</i> , week 1		
<b>Hall Cleaning:</b> Downstairs – Issaquah & Sammamish Upstairs – Central Bellevue		
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30am	Lord's Table
<b>March</b>		
<b>29-31</b>	Conference in Missoula, MT	
<b>July</b>		
<b>14-20</b>	National College Training	

**PRACTICAL LESSONS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE  
CHAPTER THREE  
CONSECRATION**

Following regeneration a believer needs to have a clearance of the past, and he needs to consecrate himself. The New Testament clearly teaches and deals with our need to consecrate ourselves to the Lord after we are saved. In a local church we must spend a certain amount of time to help the brothers and sisters one by one experience consecration and realize it in a full way. In some places we have spent one or two years, week after week and message after message, stressing that all the believers, the saved ones, need to consecrate themselves, not merely in a doctrinal way but in a very practical way. Some brothers and sisters have even been willing to open themselves and give a testimony of their consecration so that their experience can be checked by others in the church.

In his teachings in the New Testament, the apostle Paul always stresses consecration. In Romans, for example, consecration is mentioned in chapter 6 and again in chapter 12. Romans 6 deals with our release from sin by realizing that we have been crucified with Christ. If we read this chapter carefully, however, we will see that the chief point is not only realizing our crucifixion with Christ but that we must offer ourselves, not only consecrating ourselves as a whole but offering our members. Verse 19 says, "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification." To present our members is to present them one by one. If we realize that we have been

crucified with Christ and that we are released from sin, we must cooperate with the work the Lord has done by offering our members to Him. Then in chapter 12, before the apostle begins to say something about the Body life, he advises and exhorts us to present our bodies in a definite way (v. 1).

### **CONSECRATION BEING THE BASIS FOR EVERY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AFTER REGENERATION**

From our own experience we can testify that without consecration it is impossible to experience the crucifixion of Christ and even more impossible to realize the Body life. Consecration is the basis for every kind of experience after regeneration. For regeneration alone, there is no need for consecration, but if we do not consecrate ourselves after regeneration, we will be frustrated. We will be outside the gate, having no entrance into further experiences. All spiritual experiences after regeneration depend on the step of consecration.

Many spiritual writings in the past, such as those by Andrew Murray on prayer, the inner life, and abiding in Christ, point out the need for consecration. In many of his writings, Murray points out that in order to experience what he is talking about in that book, we need to take the step of consecration and pass through this crisis. In order to have a prayer life, we must pass through the crisis of consecration. In order to have faith, we must pass through consecration. And in order to abide in Christ, we must offer ourselves to Christ.

### **ENTERING BY THE GATE OF CONSECRATION AND WALKING ON THE WAY OF CONSECRATION**

It is entirely right that for any kind of experience we need to consecrate ourselves. Consecration is like the entrance to a building; if we do not pass through the entrance, it is impossible to go anywhere in the building. In order to share in any part of a building, we must pass through the gate. Immediately in front of the first entrance to the tabernacle there was the altar. There were many things to experience in the tabernacle. Outside was the laver, and inside were the table of the bread of the Presence, the lampstand, the incense altar, and the Ark with its items, but in order to share in those things one had to pass the altar and deal with it. There was no possibility of touching anything within the tabernacle without passing through the altar. With the altar there is the aspect of redemption, but there is also the aspect of consecration. Everything placed on the altar was an offering; this signifies consecration.

The tabernacle is a type both of Christ and of the church. In order to experience the riches of Christ typified by the things in the tabernacle, we need to pass through the crisis of consecration. In addition, in order to experience the church life as God's building and dwelling place, we must pass the altar, that is, the crisis of consecration. In order to have

the real Christian life and the real church life, we all must learn day by day to live a life of consecration.

The life of consecration begins with a crisis. Then after the crisis we have the way. The Scriptures speak differently from our common understanding. We often say that we take the way and go through the gate. According to the Scriptures, however, we first go through the gate, and then we have the way. The gate, not the way, comes first, as in Matthew 7:13 and 14. In spiritual matters, if we do not enter the gate, there is no way for us to go on. The gate of the spiritual things related to life is regeneration; for the life within we need the gate of regeneration. However, after we are regenerated and receive life within, we need to have a living, and for our living and daily life the gate is consecration. Many have been regenerated; that is, they have entered the gate of life. However, they do not have the proper living because they have never consecrated themselves to the Lord. They have passed through regeneration, but they have not passed through consecration. Although they are regenerated persons, they do not live as regenerated persons; that is, they have the life but not the living.

The gate for our spiritual living is consecration. Then after we enter the gate of consecration, we go on the way of consecration. Consecration has two aspects: a crisis to pass through and a way to walk on. The crisis is once for all, but the way is not once for all. Many cannot go the way of consecration because they have not entered the gate of consecration. Have you passed through the gate? As I mentioned before, Brother Watchman Nee held a training in Shanghai in 1939 and 1940, mostly for co-workers. For one year's time he trained us in the matter of consecration. Every week when we came together, he would first ask a person to give his testimony about consecration. Brother Nee would ask us to consider the testimony, and then he himself would critique it. Almost no one passed this examination. We were all subdued by him. He would point out something in each testimony that proved that the consecration was not genuine, absolute, complete, or without reservation.

Witness Lee, *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 3:15-22
Monday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 3:23-29
Tuesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 4:1-7
Wednesday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 4:8-20
Thursday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 4:21-31
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 5:1-12
Saturday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Gal. 5:13-21