

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – July 14, 2019

### Announcements

- We will continue our ministry reading from the Ministry Digest from section 2 "On Knowing the Bible", covering the chapter, "What Is the Bible?".
- You can subscribe to the Ministry Digest at:  
<https://www.lsm.org/ministry-digest/index.html>
- We will start an English-speaking new believers meeting starting July 21st. Newer believers are encouraged to sign up; we will cover important foundational matters.
- The dates and location for the Bellevue/Renton Summer School of Truth have been adjusted for the second weekend. Now, all the saints will meet at the Seattle meeting hall (not Camp Lutherwood) from Friday (8/16) - Lord's day (8/18). The first weekend in Bellevue remains (8/10-12).
- If you would like to serve with the Summer School of Truth, please register at  
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Churchinbellevue1/2019SSTServing>
- The national college training begins this week. You can sign up to pray for the college training at  
<https://collegetraining.org/2019/pray.php>

### Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Everett
- Meeting hall modifications (parking permit)
- National College Training (July 14-20)
- College-age perfecting (Ethiopia)

### **This Week: July 14 – July 20**

**Morning Revival:** *The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life, week 6*

**Hall Cleaning:** Downstairs – Redmond  
Upstairs – Downtown

<b>Saturday</b>	8:30am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30am	Lord's Table

<b>July</b>	
<b>14-20</b>	National College Training
<b>August</b>	
<b>10-12, 16-18</b>	Bellevue Summer School of Truth

## **HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **THREE PREREQUISITES TO STUDYING THE BIBLE**

##### **I. THE NEED TO BE SPIRITUAL**

In John 6:63 the Lord Jesus said, “The words which I have spoken to you are spirit.” The words of the Bible are not only letters but spirit. We also should recall the Lord’s word in John 4:24: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit.” Here the Lord points out a fundamental principle: God is Spirit, and man can only touch Him with his spirit. God is Spirit, and we can only worship Him with our spirit; we cannot worship Him with anything other than the spirit. God is Spirit, and we cannot worship Him with our mind, emotion, or will. Colossians 2:23 speaks of “self-imposed worship.” This means worshipping with the will. This is wrong because God is Spirit, and because God is Spirit, those who worship Him must worship in spirit. John 6 says that the Lord’s words are spirit. The basic principle is the same: Since the Lord’s words are spirit, we have to read them in spirit. In other words, we can only touch spiritual things with the spirit.

The Bible is not only a book with words or letters printed on pages of paper. The very nature of the Bible is spirit. For this reason, everyone who reads this book must approach it with his spirit; it must be read with the spirit. The spirit that we are referring to is the spirit of every regenerated person. We call this spirit the “regenerated spirit.” Not everyone has this spirit. Therefore, not everyone can read the Bible well. Only those who have this spirit can read the Bible well; those who do not have this spirit cannot read it well. This spirit is needed to worship God. This same spirit is needed to read the Bible well. Without this spirit, a man cannot know God. Without this spirit, he cannot know the Bible either. Perhaps we were born into a Christian family. Before we were regenerated, we probably had read the Bible already, but we did not understand it. We understood the history and facts recorded in the Bible, but we did not understand the Bible itself. This is not surprising, because God’s word is spirit. If we do not use our spirit, we cannot read this book. When can a man

begin to understand the Bible? On the day he receives the Lord, he can begin to understand the Bible. From that day forward, the Bible will become a new book to him; he will begin to understand and treasure this book. Although he may not understand everything in it, he will begin to love it. He will read it daily and yearly. If he misses his reading, he will feel hungry; he will feel that something is missing in his life. When he reads God's word this way, he will begin to understand it. He can understand it because he is now regenerated. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). We should put John 4:24, 6:63, and 3:6 together: "God is Spirit," "The words which I have spoken...are spirit," and "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." The words in the Bible are spirit. The life which a man receives at the time of regeneration is spirit, and it takes a man with a spirit to read the words of spirit. Only then will the Bible shine within him, and only then will it become useful to him.

No matter how clever and well educated a man is, as long as he is not regenerated, this book is a mystery to him. A regenerated person may not be that cultivated, but he is more qualified to read the Bible than an unregenerated college professor. The former has a regenerated spirit, while the latter does not have such a spirit. The Bible is not understood by talent, research, or intelligence. Since God's word is spirit, only a man with a regenerated spirit can understand it. The root, the very nature, of the Bible is spiritual. If a man does not have a regenerated spirit, he cannot understand this book; it will be a closed book to him.

Watchman Nee, *How to Study the Bible*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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### **Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes**

Lord's Day, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 3:1-6
Monday, July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 3:7-19
Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 4:1-9
Wednesday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 4:10-13
Thursday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 4:14-16
Friday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 5:1-10
Saturday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Heb 5:11-6:3