

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – February 5, 2017

### Announcements

- Morning revival this week, *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel*, Week 3, “The Four Living Creatures”
- No Wednesday ministry webcast until the full time training resumes in February 2017.
- Main Hall cleaning (Washingtons, Desmones, Shihs)
- Second floor cleaning (Sammamish & Somerset)
- International conference (in Chinese and English) February 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, Anaheim, CA.
- The deadline to sign up for the middle aged training is February 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit [www.fttamidage.org](http://www.fttamidage.org) or talk to Dexter Smith.
- The parking situation at the meeting hall is very limited; we encourage all saints who park at the meeting hall to carpool. Saints who drive by themselves are encouraged to park offsite (Chevron, residential streets, etc.)
- Please fill out household information sheet. One sheet per household. Particularly note the box for receiving church emails.
- Annual church business meeting will be held on February 12.
- If you would like your 2016 donations documentation for tax purposes, please send an email request to [bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com](mailto:bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com).
- The reading schedule this week for our ministry reading is: All-inclusive Chris chapters 11, 12, 13
- We will have overflow prophesying on the All-Inclusive Christ on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Schedule

- Sisters prayer meeting, Tuesday, 10:00 am
- Prayer meeting Tuesday 7:30 pm
- Breakfast, Saturday morning Feb 11
- Annual business meeting February 12.

### Burdens for Prayer

- Bible study at Bellevue College
- Building up an atmosphere of reading the ministry
- Gospel to the nations in Europe and North America
- Administration of this country

**This Week:** February 6 – February 12

**Morning Revival:** *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel, Week 3*

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Washingtons, Desmones, Shihs  
Upstairs – Sammamish & Somerset

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30 am	Lord's Table

### **Ministry Reading Portion**

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON TWELVE

## **THE GRACE-MINISTERING SERVICE**

### **III. ALL THE MEMBERS BEING STEWARDS**

#### **OF THE VARIED GRACE OF GOD**

According to 1 Peter 4:10, all the members are the stewards of the varied or manifold grace of God. On this point we need much speaking. This is not a common thought to all the saints. God's grace is not only of one aspect; it has manifold aspects. The Pentecostals think that grace is just to speak in tongues. If you do not speak in tongues, you do not have grace. To those who are for healing, grace is a miracle. If you do not have miracles, you do not have grace. But the New Testament shows us that to serve the saints with a cup of cold water is also an aspect of grace. To clean the meeting hall and prepare the chairs for the saints to sit on is another aspect of grace. If a brother is very bothered by a certain situation, and I go to pray with him, that is still another aspect of grace. God's grace is manifold. We can illustrate this point to the saints in many ways.

The church is the best society and has the best communal life. In such a society with such a communal life, there is the need of many kinds of services. Every service is an aspect of grace ministered by the saints to one another. Thus, all the saints as members of the Body of Christ are stewards of the manifold grace of God. On the one hand, we are members of the Body of Christ, and on the other hand, we are stewards of God. Stewards are persons who have the commission to minister the rich supply to others. A steward is one who always

supplies others with certain needs, so we have to help the saints realize that every brother and every sister today in the church life as a member of Christ should be a steward of God assigned by God, commissioned by God, charged by God, with some aspect of His grace to minister to others for their supply.

One brother, whom I knew for about thirty years and who is now with the Lord, is a good example of this grace-ministering service. He did not speak much in the meetings because he was not assigned with that kind of grace. But whenever I went to his locality in Taiwan, I always saw him serving in some way in the meeting hall. He was a retired general from the army who lived on his pension and spent all his time to serve the church. Even though he did not speak much in the meetings, the church received the greatest service from him. He was respected by all the saints and highly valued by the co-workers because of his service. He served the saints in many ways to meet their needs.

Of course, we expect that all of the brothers and sisters would function by opening their mouths to speak in the meetings. But we do not like to force the saints to do this, because some do not have the particular portion of grace to be speakers. If you ask certain ones to function, it is like putting them into a coffin. We should not do this. To some extent, we have to make this clear publicly. We can say that we realize that some of the saints do not have a speaking portion, so we would not force them to speak. They have an eating and a breathing mouth but not a speaking mouth. But they should still serve the church according to the grace which has been given to them. They can serve practically in something like vacuuming the meeting hall. All the saints will receive the benefit of their vacuuming. That is the "vacuuming" grace. We should illustrate the practical service to the saints in this way.

Some of the saints may be bothered about not speaking to such an extent that they dare not come to the meeting. They may not feel happy about coming to the meeting and may even feel somewhat shameful. They do not have that particular aspect of grace, so it is difficult for them to speak. But on the other hand, we have to make it clear that no one who has a mouth should take an excuse. You may be able to deceive people, but you cannot deceive the Lord. The Lord knows you are very talkative. A brother may not speak in the meetings so much, but he may speak a lot to his wife.

We need to dwell upon this point to impress all the saints that all of them are stewards entrusted with some aspect of God's grace. God's grace is manifold. You cannot say that you have never been given grace.

You have been given grace. You do not have the aspect of grace that Paul had or the aspect of grace that some of the elders have, but you surely have an aspect of grace. God has given you something.

#### **IV. THE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH BEING THE FUNCTION OF THE MEMBERS WITH GRACE**

The practical service in the church, such as maintaining the meeting hall by arranging the chairs, cleaning the windows, mowing the lawn, and trimming the trees, is the function of the members with grace. While you mow the lawn, you may minister grace to others who are cutting the grass with you.

If we hired janitors to clean the hall, that would create one kind of atmosphere. But if all the saints come to take care of this janitorial work in the meeting hall with much prayer, this makes a big difference. Then the hall becomes like the palanquin mentioned in the Song of Songs, built and prepared through the love of the virgins (3:9-10). The serving saints prepare the meeting hall to be the palanquin on which Christ can be carried. Such a meeting hall will surely be different from any kind of auditorium. When we enter into an auditorium, we have the sense of coldness. But when we come into our meeting hall, which has been prepared, vacuumed, and cleaned by so many virgins, the sense is different. We should not think that vacuuming the floor of the hall or cleaning even one window of the hall is a small thing.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Job 42:1 – 17
Monday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Psa 1:1 – 6
Tuesday, February 7 <sup>st</sup>	Psa 2:1 – 3:8
Wednesday, February 8 <sup>st</sup>	Psa 4:1 – 6:10
Thursday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Psa 7:1 – 8:9
Friday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Psa 9:1 – 10:18
Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Psa 11:1 – 15:5