

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – May 5, 2019

Announcements

- The Memorial Day conference will be held in Seattle at the Hyatt Regency (808 Howell St, Seattle, WA 98101) from Friday night, May 24th - Monday morning, May 27th.
- All the families need to plan for transportation to the conference meetings. A sign up is available on the table to ride the church van to the meetings. Free parking is available at the Amazon parking garages and maps are on the table.
- Much service is needed for the conference (children, ushering, hospitality, transportation, etc.). The sign up for the services is on the table.
- For the upcoming Memorial Day conference, all children from K to 6th grade must be registered for children services. Please go to the following website to sign the medical release form (one form per child): <https://form.jotform.com/91068471422152>
- The church in Vancouver (Canada) is nearing the completion of their new meeting hall, but still has a sizable financial shortage. We would like to give a substantial offering to help meet their need. Please designate an offering for Vancouver meeting hall.
- Registration for the summer training is due 5/1 (no late registration for the live training will be received after this date).
- If you would like to take the church van down to Anaheim for the summer training, please sign up with the bookroom.
- We are covering week 8 of the *Holy Word for Morning Revival on Numbers*. The next volume is available in the bookroom.
- 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.
- The Collected Works of Witness Lee will be published in Chinese. A deposit of \$100 can be placed at www.twgbr.org.tw The deadline to order is May 26, 2019.
- 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
 - 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 9.

Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking permit)
- Meeting hall in Vancouver, CA.
- Memorial Day Conference
- National College Training (July 14-20)

This Week: May 6 – May 12		
Morning Revival: <i>Crystallization-study of Numbers</i> , week 8		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – East Bellevue Upstairs – Eastgate		
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30am	Lord's Table
July		
14-20	National College Training	

PRACTICAL LESSONS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE THE FOUR STEPS OF GOD'S DEALING WITH THE HEART

First, God Touching the Mind

As we have seen, the heart is of four parts: the mind, will, emotion, and conscience. When God comes to deal with us in our heart, what part does He touch first? The first message, the first word of the gospel of the New Testament, is “repent” (Matt. 3:2; 4:17). In Greek, repent is metaneo, meaning “to change the mind.” We need to change our mind. In God’s dealing with us, the first thing within us that He touches is the mind. He enlightens the mind. This is why we need to preach the gospel. Second Corinthians 4:4 says, “In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.” The god of this age has blinded not the will, emotion, or conscience but the thoughts, the mind. Then verse 6 says, “Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” By these two verses we know that God shines in our heart through our mind. We may compare ourselves to a camera, our mind to the lens, and our heart to the film; in addition, Christ is the figure before the camera,

and God is the light. The light from the figure (Christ) comes to the film (our heart) first through the lens (our mind). Once when I traveled on a train, I took some pictures with a camera. However, I did not get anything because I was hurried and did not take the cover off the lens. This illustrates how Satan blinds the mind.

The mind is the first thing God touches. That is why we have to preach the gospel. To preach the gospel is to give knowledge to the minds of people, to enlighten their minds. If someone is in darkness, he cannot turn to God and he cannot be touched by God. We must be brought under the knowledge of God by the preaching of the gospel.

Second, God Touching the Emotion

Without exception, God first comes to touch our mind. Second, God touches our emotion. If people had no emotion, no one could be saved. To be saved is truly an emotional matter. We can preach the gospel to a chair, but it cannot be saved, because it has no emotion. Whenever God touches our mind, He always follows to touch our emotion. Therefore, the best way to preach the gospel is first to bring a little knowledge about God and Christ and then to tell people about God's love and mercy. This touches people's emotions. Do not argue too much. I observed a brother who is an expert in gospel preaching. He never argues with people. He tells people, "Friend, you have to know God. You need Jesus." If someone argues, the brother simply says, "Oh, God loves you. The Lord Jesus loves you and is waiting for you." The first few words touch the person's mind; then all the following words touch his emotion. Sometimes there is no need to touch people's mind purposely. You can simply preach about God's love. This one "stone" will kill two "birds." Eventually, people's minds will be touched, and their emotions will be stirred up. The mind is first, and the emotions are second.

Third, God Touching the Conscience

Third, God touches the conscience. In order to know how to deal with people in God's way, we have to learn this. After we say something about God's love, when people's emotions are stirred up by our preaching, we need to say something about God's law and people's sins. This hits the conscience, causing people to condemn themselves. The two easiest ways to preach the gospel are to preach concerning God's love and to preach concerning people's sins.

Lastly, God Touching the Will

Then when the mind is enlightened, the emotions are stirred up, and the conscience is convicted, a person makes the decision to believe. This decision is the exercise of the will, which is the last step. However, I know many persons who, after listening to the gospel, were enlightened by God in their mind, touched in their emotion, and convicted in their conscience. Eventually, however, their will would not cooperate. They hardened their will like Pharaoh. Exodus says many times that Pharaoh hardened his heart and even that God hardened his heart for a purpose. When the heart is hardened, what part of it is hardened? It is the will. To harden the heart is to be stubborn in the will. We need these four steps: the mind enlightened, the emotion stirred up, the conscience convicted, and the will submissive. Then we can deal with God in a good way.

These four steps of God's dealing are good not only for unbelievers but also for His dealing with us. This is why the New Testament tells us that after we are saved, our mind must be transformed by renewing. To be renewed is simply to be enlightened. First, our mind must be enlightened. Then the New Testament tells us many times that we have to love the Lord. The first steps of God's dealing with us as believers are that our mind is renewed and our emotion is stirred up to love Him. Then our conscience always needs to be convicted. We need to be convicted that we are wrong, we are short of God's glory, and we are disobedient to God. We need this kind of conscience. Eventually, we have to make the decision by our will to seek God. Our mind must be enlightened, renewed, and transformed; our emotion must be stirred up and encouraged; our conscience must be convicted; and our will must be soft and submissive to make decisions. These are the steps in God's dealing.

Witness Lee, *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, May 5 th	Phil. 1:27 – 2:4
Monday, May 6 th	Phil. 2:5-11
Tuesday, May 7 th	Phil. 2:12-16
Wednesday, May 8 th	Phil. 2:17-30
Thursday, May 9 th	Phil. 3:1-6
Friday, May 10 th	Phil. 3:7-11
Saturday, May 11 th	Phil. 3:12-16