

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – June 2, 2019

Announcements

- We will continue our ministry reading from the Ministry Digest from section 3 “Maturing in Life” on the chapter “The Significance of the Abodes in John 14”.
- Registration for Bible Camp is due by June 9th. There are two registration links, one for children the other for serving ones:
Children:
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Churchinbellevue1/BibleCampChildren2019>
Serving ones:
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Churchinbellevue1/BibleCampServing2019>
- We are covering week 12 of the Holy Word for Morning Revival on Numbers.
- Final registration for the webcast training is June 16th. Any registration after this date will incur a late fee.
- 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/>. You can sign up to pray for the college training at <https://collegetraining.org/2019/pray.php>
- If you would like to take the church van down to Anaheim for the training, please sign up with the bookroom.

Burdens for Prayer

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

This Week: June 3 – June 9

Morning Revival: *Crystallization-study of Numbers*, week 12

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Kirkland Bellevue College
Upstairs – Hall Team

Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting
----------------	--------	----------------

Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
-----------------	--------	-----------

Lord's Day	9:30am	Lord's Table
July		
14-20	National College Training	
August		
10-12, 17-19	Bellevue Summer School of Truth	

ABIDING IN THE LORD TO ENJOY HIS LIFE

CHAPTER 4

A CHRISTIAN NEEDING NOT ONLY TO HAVE THE LORD AS LIFE BUT ALSO TO LIVE IN SPIRIT

Then the Lord showed me that it is not adequate to have life and yet be without the Spirit. From then on I began to speak about the Spirit. At the same time I also wrote a number of hymns. Under the Lord's leading eighty-five hymns were written within two months. Every morning when I rose up, the first thing I did after I prayed was to write hymns. At that time in my reading of the Bible, the light that came to me was all concerning the Spirit. I came to Numbers 21, which says that when the Israelites were thirsty in their journey, Moses told them to dig the well for water. While they were digging, they sang, "Spring up, O well! Sing to it! / The well, which the leaders sank, / Which the nobles of the people dug, / With the scepter, with their staffs" (vv. 17-18). As a result, they dug out the living water. I received an inspiration from this, seeing that today we also must dig the well. Thus, I wrote Hymns, #250: "Spring up, well, with water; / Dig Thou, Lord, completely; / Dig away all barriers / That Thy stream flow through me."

In this way I spoke exclusively of the Spirit. Deep down in me I saw that Christians in general had made a serious mistake; they did not care one bit for the Spirit. It seems that it does not matter to them whether or not there is the Spirit. They think, "We have already been washed in the precious blood of Jesus, and since He already died for us on the cross, we have been saved through faith in Him. Now we need only to look to Him to take care of us so that we may be good persons, fearing God, reading the Bible, and praying. This is good enough, and there is no need to care for the Spirit." For this reason Christians in general became deadened; this led to the rise of the Pentecostal movement in the middle of the last century.

The birth of the Pentecostal movement was due to the fact that there were some believers who felt that Christians in general were too dry. They felt the need to pray with loud voices and in a particular way, even to pray without food or sleep, praying all day and all night continuously for several days. They believed that by praying in this way Christians could obtain the particular experience of having the Spirit of power from above come upon them suddenly so that they might receive the baptism of the Spirit, which would enable them to speak in tongues. In this way they would receive the Holy Spirit. When I first believed in the Lord, someone asked me if I had received the Holy Spirit. I felt bad and also perplexed because I was not clear whether or not I had. I asked him how to receive the Holy Spirit, and he said that he did not know either. Actually, both of us had the Holy Spirit, but we did not know it then.

When the Pentecostal movement came to northern China, at first those in the Southern Baptist denomination resisted it because of their theological belief, but eventually they succumbed to it because the tide of the movement was too strong. Therefore, in 1932 in a Southern Baptist congregation, I attended such a Pentecostal meeting for the first time with the desire to receive the Holy Spirit. Eventually, when I saw them shouting and jumping, I simply could not say Amen from within. Therefore, I gave it up and set about to do my own research.

GOD PASSING THROUGH VARIOUS PROCESSES TO BECOME THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

When the Lord led me to sense my need of the Spirit, I applied special effort to carefully pursue this matter, praying and studying the Bible diligently. As a result, I saw that it was clearly revealed in the Bible and also confirmed by my experience. The Bible tells us that, on the one hand, it is not enough for us merely to fear God and behave properly as good human beings; and on the other hand, it is also not enough solely to seek for power from on high to be poured upon us so that we may speak in tongues. The Bible reveals that the Triune God has a plan. In the Old Testament He did all the preparation work. Then at the beginning of the New Testament He Himself was born to be a man and lived on earth for thirty-three and a half years. Eventually, He went to the cross and was crucified there in His human body in order to bear our sins and redeem us by shedding His blood for us. He also died for us to terminate the old creation and to accomplish redemption. Then He was buried, and He rested, and on the third day He was resurrected from the dead.

In His resurrection He was transfigured from the flesh into the Spirit. This is what 1 Corinthians 15:45 means: “The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.” As such a Spirit, He is the breath, or pneuma in Greek. On the evening of the day of the Lord’s resurrection, the disciples assembled in a room with the doors shut for fear of persecution from the Jews. They were sorrowful because they had seen with their own eyes the arrest and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, who had been with them in His flesh, and they also had seen Him buried in a tomb. They thought that now all was finished. It was at this juncture that the Lord Jesus came into their midst and breathed into them, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). Then He disappeared.

The Bible tells us that afterward the Lord Jesus was with the disciples for forty days in this manner, training them to know Him as the Spirit. The disciples felt that the resurrected Jesus was truly marvelous and mysterious—suddenly He would come, and suddenly He would leave; unexpectedly He would appear, and unexpectedly He would disappear without any trace; yet He had a physical form. They did not understand how this could be. They were at a loss; they could not comprehend what this was all about, and they did not know what to do. This was all due to the fact that they were still ignorant concerning the Spirit, that He was now within them; and they were not clear that as the Spirit the Lord was with them and that once He came, He would never leave. Sometimes the Lord would manifest His presence to them, but that was because He cared for their weakness. In this way the Lord trained them in their faith. He wanted them to know and be accustomed to His invisible presence.

Witness Lee, *Abiding in the Lord to Enjoy His Life*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
 Copyright © Living Stream Ministry, Used by permission.

Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord’s Day, June 2 nd	1 Thes 1:1-3
Monday, June 3 rd	1 Thes 1:4-10
Tuesday, June 4 th	1 Thes 2:1-12
Wednesday, June 5 th	1 Thes 2:13 – 3:5
Thursday, June 6 th	1 Thes 3:6-13
Friday, June 7 th	1 Thes 4:1-10
Saturday, June 8 th	1 Thes 4:11 – 5:11