

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – October 13, 2019

Announcements

- A property for a meeting hall has been identified in Fiji, but Fiji is a poor country and the saints there will have difficulty raising the total amount needed. Fiji is strategic and the Lord has used the church there to spread to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Tonga.
- A meeting for all college students has been started on every Monday night and help is needed for meal preparation. Please sign up to help in the rotation. All expenses will be borne by the church.
- We are reading chapter 14 of the Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life this week.
- The children's meeting serving ones will gather for prayer and fellowship (with lunch) today after the Lord's day meeting.
- Registration for the winter training has opened and ends October 27th. Please register with the bookroom. If you would like to ride down to Anaheim in the church van, please sign up.
- There will be a prayer and coordination time for all the saints serving with the business office (including announcements) on Saturday morning (10/26) at 10:00 am.
- We are covering week 23 (Vol. 4) in the Holy Word for Morning Revival on Numbers.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast starts at 7:30 pm and will be shown 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

Burdens for Prayer

- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications - finding contractor
- District meeting
- Retreats
- Beginning of the new school year
- Children and YP meetings
- College work coordination

This Week: October 14 – October 20		
Morning Revival: <i>Crystallization Study of Numbers</i> , week 23		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Central Bellevue Upstairs – Central Bellevue		
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord’s Day	9:30am	Lord’s Table
October		
11-13	JH Boys’ Retreat, Double K (Easton, WA)	
18-20	High School Retreat, Lakeside Bible Camp	
25-27	JH Girls’ Retreat, Double K (Easton, WA)	
November		
15-17	Puget Sound Conference	

The Knowledge of Life

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE WAY TO BE ENLIGHTENED

Since enlightenment rests wholly in the controlling hand of God and depends entirely upon His mercy, should we then be completely passive and indifferent? No, not at all. From the teaching of the Bible and our own experiences, we see that we still bear responsibility. Second Corinthians 4:6 says, “Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts.” This verse says that God has already had mercy on us, has already shined on us. The God who shines in our hearts is our light. As long as we are saved, we already have God within us, and we already have light. Therefore, the question now is not how we may ask for light or seek light, but how we may obtain enlightening or how we may allow the light to shine. When the sun has already risen, we do not need to seek the sun again; we only need to receive its shining. Only fools look for the sun when it is already past daybreak. Ephesians 5:14 says, “Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on You.” You only need to awake; then you will receive the shining. Thus, enlightening is a matter of obtaining, a matter of accepting; it is not a matter of demanding or seeking. The responsibility we bear is to remove the coverings in order to accept light and be one who is enlightened. This includes at least the following points:

First, we must want the shining. Since light depends not on our asking or seeking, but upon our accepting and receiving, then whether we are willing to accept and receive is the first condition of our being enlightened. The sun has already risen; therefore, you need not seek or ask; you only need to be shined upon by the light and receive the shining of light.

If you are not willing to receive the shining, if you do not want to be shined upon, but continually cover yourself, then even if there is sun every day, it still cannot shine on you. The light of life is also like this; it has already shined within us. Today it is not that we wait for the light but that the light is waiting for us. The light is within us, constantly waiting for us to receive its shining. Therefore, if we want the shining and accept the shining, we can be enlightened. If we do not want it and do not accept it, it is difficult for us to be enlightened.

Very few today really want the shining. Some do not want it because they are indifferent in heart, and others do not want it because they have made up their mind to reject it. Thousands of things have become veils to the light within us. If we are not willing to remove the veils, we are those who do not want the shining and refuse it. Naturally, then, there is no way for us to be enlightened. For example, in the morning when we read the Bible and pray, if we really want the shining, it will definitely come. When the shining comes, then we can see something inwardly. This seeing is our inner sense. Whenever we have a certain consciousness deep within us, it is a proof that the shining of light has come. The question now is whether we obey the consciousness of this shining. If we obey the consciousness of this shining and have certain dealings, then we remove the veils from us. Thus, we are those who want the shining and accept the shining of light, and we will continually have the shining. If we do not deal according to the sense of the shining, it means that we are not willing to remove the veils from us. Then we are those who do not want the shining, who refuse the shining of light. Thus, we cannot obtain the shining.

Second, we should open ourselves to the Lord. The Lord is light, so if our whole heart is turned toward Him, we definitely will have light; but if we turn away from Him and incline toward other things, we definitely will not have light. Second Corinthians 3:16 says, "Whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." When the heart is not turned toward the Lord, the veil is there; but when it turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Then one can see the Lord face to face; then one can see light. Therefore, if we want to receive the shining, we must open ourselves to the Lord and, from deep within, release ourselves, putting ourselves before the Lord without a bit of reservation or holding back. Thus, it will be very easy to obtain light.

But the problem is that it is not easy for us to open ourselves to the Lord. We still often hide ourselves; we still hold back. Not only do we dare not open ourselves to the Lord; we even dare not to pray to the Lord. It is like a child who is sometimes afraid to see his parents' face. When his parents call him, he answers with his mouth; yet he is not willing to come, for behind their back he has done things that he cannot tell them. Oh, there are many whose condition before the Lord is like this. Because they have things and affairs that are not pleasing to the Lord, they hide themselves and hold back. They fear that the Lord might touch these things and affairs—then what would they do? The Lord might want them to deal with such things and affairs—then what would they do? The Lord might want them to

submit to Him something that they treasure—then what would they do? Since they are so afraid of being enlightened by the Lord, they dare not open themselves to Him. Hence, they are like a piece of paper that is tightly rolled up, never willing to unfold and allow God to write the words He wants to write.

Though such people who are not willing to open to the Lord still use their mind to listen to messages and read the Bible, the messages they hear and the Bible they read only become a reference for them to judge others, an instrument to criticize others, while they themselves receive not a bit of light. This situation is like a man who is in a room at night. If the room is bright, he cannot see clearly the things outside; if the room is dark, he can see the things outside very clearly. Likewise, those who close themselves to the Lord are experts in judging and criticizing others. They are very clear about others' condition, but they do not know a bit concerning their own condition. This proves that they are entirely in darkness!

Those who are not willing to open themselves to the Lord can even preach and work for the Lord. Though they themselves are not willing to accept the shining, they can persuade others to seek the shining. Though they often hope the Lord will be gracious to them and give them abundant life, equipping them and bestowing gifts on them so that they can minister and work, they are afraid of the Lord's shining and even refuse the Lord's shining. Thus, the words they minister and the works they do are but dead exhortations that cannot impart to men the living shining of light.

Watchman Nee, *The Knowledge of Life*.

Published by Living Stream Ministry.

Copyright © Living Stream Ministry, Used by permission

Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, October 13 th	1 John 3:11-18
Monday, October 14 th	1 John 3:19-24
Tuesday, October 15 th	1 John 4:1-6
Wednesday, October 16 th	1 John 7:7-11
Thursday, October 17 th	1 John 4:12-15
Friday, October 18 th	1 John 4:16 – 5:3
Saturday, October 19 th	1 John 5:4-13