

Please pray:

- ✿ Israel: Pray for the new ones that the local saints have brought to the last Spring international blending conference in Galilee (18th - 20th of May) that they could taste the flow of life and catch a vision of what the Lord is doing in His recovery; please also pray for the local saints as they return to their daily routines, that a deeper experience of the life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ that is enjoyed at the conference would continue to find root and grow in every member of the Body.
- ✿ The Lord's move in Germany: Please pray for the month-long follow-up trips during the first half of 2017 for gospel preaching, shepherding and perfecting of key contacts among the refugees and students, and for the increased labor on the college campuses; pray for the emigration of burdened saints for the practical strengthening and building up of the local churches in six key cities in Germany and for the labor on the college campuses.
- ✿ Ontario: that the Lord would establish and strengthen His testimony in Guelph, London, Mississauga, Windsor, Saint-Catharines and Sault Ste. Marie; that the existing saints in the recovery in these cities might be strengthened to continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and in the New Testament ministry; that the Lord might stir many saints to migrate to these cities for His testimony.
- ✿ Bangladesh: Pray for 60 saints to join the One-week Serving Ones' Training from May 26 - Jun 3 and be fully open to the Lord's speaking; pray for the young people to have a pure heart for the overseas training and may the Lord open the way for them.
- ✿ GTCA Ottawa and Laval: Pray that the Lord would give us a heart to shepherd the new contacts; that the new contacts would be shepherded according to their needs; that the Lord would give us remaining fruit; that the Lord would gain what He is after in Ottawa and Laval.
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: 1Kin 2:1 -8:36 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-study of Exodus, week 43

Announcements

- ✿ Summer Training registration is still open for late registration. Live training is \$200, video training is \$100

with additional \$50 for the live or \$25 for the video training for the late registration. Please register with Monica.

- ✿ The International Memorial Day conf. will be held in White Plains, NY, May 26 to 29, 2017. It is only a 5 hour drive from Montreal. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the google doc sent out so rides and rooms can be co-ordinated. If you don't have a room yet, check who needs a roommate to find a place to ensure you have somewhere to stay. Hotels are almost full now. See conf. information on the bulletin board for more details.
- ✿ The Collected Works of Witness Lee will be completed by Aug. 2018. They will be printing only about what they have as existing orders, therefore the collection will be unable to be ordered after completion. Any who wishes to order them, can still go on standing order to receive them at a 40-45% discount. All on standing orders will get a free index book once all are printed. See pamphlet on bulletin board.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Clean-up Schedule

May 21	✿ Serving: Chinese Central 1
	✿ Cleaning: English Central and College (Dennis, Joe responsible)
28	✿ Serving: Chinese South B
	✿ Cleaning: French: (Achille, Allan responsible)
June 4	✿ Serving: Chinese East
	✿ Cleaning: All groups
11	✿ Serving: Chinese Central 1
	✿ Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Cha. responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ May 26-29, 2017, White Plains, NY: **Memorial Day Conference**
- ✿ July 3-8, 2017, Anaheim, CA: **Summer Training**
- ✿ July 4 - July 11, Meeting hall: **English/French Video training**

The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

21	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
MAY LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
22	✿
Monday	
23	✿ 7:30-9:00pm: French / Chinese / English prayer meetings by districts
Tuesday	

24	✠	
Wednesday		
25	✠	
Thursday		
26	✠	Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
Friday		
27	✠	
Saturday		
28	✠	10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
MAY		
LORD'S DAY	✠	12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast

PRAYER

Scripture Reading: John 16:24; James 4:2-3; Luke 11:9-10; Psa. 66:18; Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1-8

II. CONDITIONS FOR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED (continued)

D. Believing (continued)

3. The Lord's Act—God Has Done (continued)

When new believers learn to pray, they should pray in two stages. In the first stage they should pray until they receive a promise. They should pray until they receive God's word. All prayers begin by asking God for something. Such prayers can continue for a period of time, sometimes lasting for three to five years. One needs to keep asking. Some prayers are answered quickly, while other prayers continue to go unanswered for years. This is the period of time when one needs to continue to ask. The second stage begins from the time one receives a promise and extends to the time the promise is realized. It begins from the time one receives God's word and extends to the time His word is fulfilled. This stage is not for praying, but for praising. In the first stage one prays, but in the second stage one praises. In the first stage he prays until he receives a word. In the second stage he praises the Lord continuously until the word is fulfilled. This is the secret to prayer.

Some people only know two points about prayer: First, they pray on their knees for what they do not have, and second, they have it; God has given it to them. Suppose I ask for a watch from the Lord, and after a few days the Lord gives me a watch. There are only two events: being without something and having something. Some do not realize that there is another event in between these two—the event of faith. Suppose I pray for a watch and one day say, "Thank God, He has already heard my prayer." Although my hands are still empty, I am clear within that I already have the watch. Indeed, after a few days the watch arrives. We cannot be concerned with just two events: not having and then having. We must be concerned

with a third event—an additional event between not having and having, in which God gives us a promise, and then we believe and rejoice over it. Perhaps we have to wait three days before we actually receive the watch. But in our spirit, we received it three days ago already. A Christian should experience this kind of receiving in the spirit. If a person never experiences this kind of receiving in the spirit, he does not have faith.

We hope that new believers will know what faith is, and we hope that they will learn to pray. Perhaps, you have prayed continually for three or five days, a month, or even a year, and still your hands are empty. But deep in your heart, you have a little assurance that the matter will eventually be accomplished. At that time you should begin to praise God. You should continue praising Him until you have received the thing in your hand. Simply put, the first stage is to pray from nothing to having faith, and the second stage is to praise from having faith to actually receiving.

Why should we divide our prayers into these two stages? Suppose a person prays from having nothing to having faith. If he continues to pray, he may lose his faith. Once a person has acquired faith, he should begin praising. If he continues to pray, he may pray away his faith and not receive anything in the end. "You will have it" is an actual having in the hands, while "you have received it" is a having in the spirit. If the faith is already there, but the things have not materialized, one has to remind God with praise; he should not try to remind Him with prayer. If God has said that He will give us something, what else do we need to say? If we have the inward assurance that "we have received it," what more do we need to pray for? Many Christians have the experience that as soon as their prayer strikes faith, they can no longer continue to pray. They can only say, "Lord! I praise You." They have to keep their faith and praise, "Lord! I praise You. You have heard my prayer. I praise You because You answered my prayer a month ago." If you do this, you will receive. Unfortunately, some people do not have the knowledge. God has already promised them something, yet they still pray. In the end their prayer drives away their faith. This is a great loss.

The word in Mark 11:24 is too precious. In the whole New Testament, we cannot find another passage that explains faith as clearly as this one. "All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them." If a person sees this, he will know what prayer really is, and prayer will be a powerful tool in his hands.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #11, Prayer by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.