

## Please pray:

- ✳ Victoria Day Conference in Montreal (May 19 - 20): Pray that the saints would be released to attend the conference; that the Lord would prepare our being to be a proper vessel to receive His speaking; pray that the Lord would cover the speaking brothers; that the Lord would release His up to date speaking to the churches; may the Lord be headed up in all the details and preparations.
- ✳ Church in Vancouver and Church in Kitchener meeting halls: Please pray for the releasing of the necessary permits for the rebuilding of the church in Vancouver meeting hall; pray that the final stages of renovation and clean up work will be acceptable to the Township and an occupancy permit will be granted for the Kitchener meeting hall. Please also pray for all the renovation costs for the Kitchener meeting hall.
- ✳ Southwest Ontario saints: Please continue to pray for the saints in the southwest region of Ontario as they seek the Lord for how to proceed; pray that the Lord open a strategic location where they can all gather together for their regular meetings and they can have a healthy and strong children's work; pray that they can grow and draw many other seeking ones into the fellowship of the genuine church life.
- ✳ Balkan countries: Please pray for three fairly new Greek saints from Athens who attended the one-week training in London last week. May the Lord gain and train these three fully for His purpose; please pray for the upcoming retreat in Sofia, Bulgaria, the first weekend in June. Pray that the Lord's presence and shining will be prevailing in all the speaking, reading of ministry excerpts, and fellowship for the strengthening of His move in Bulgaria; please pray for the recent increase of Rhema orders of free literature due to the adds placed on Facebook. Pray for the Lord's leading to follow up with these contacts.
- ✳ Laval: May we continue to pray for this land; that the Lord may continue to shepherd the contacts in their situations; may the Lord gain a proper testimony in the city of Laval according to His timing.
- ✳ 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: Psa 108:1 - 119:120 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✳ HWMR: The Recovery of the Church, week 5

## Announcements

- ✳ The last Day for regular registration of Live summer training and video training is passed. Any registration received now will be subject to a late fee. Late registration will be \$300 for the live and \$150 for the video training.

## Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

|              |                                                                                                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 6</b> | ✳ Serving: English A                                                                                  |
|              | ✳ Cleaning: Chinese South (Xuecheng, Shishan responsible)                                             |
| <b>13</b>    | ✳ Serving: English B                                                                                  |
|              | ✳ Cleaning: English Central, Chinese Central 3 and College (Dennis, Joe, Qiang, Wenxiong responsible) |
| <b>20</b>    | ✳ Serving: Chinese Central                                                                            |
|              | ✳ Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Cha. responsible)        |
| <b>27</b>    | ✳ Serving: Chinese South B                                                                            |
|              | ✳ Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gerry Chan responsible)                         |

## Upcoming Events

- ✳ May 19 - 20, Montreal: **Victoria weekend conference**
- ✳ May 25-28, Kansas City, Missouri: **Memorial Day conference**
- ✳ July 2-7, 2018, Anaheim: **Summer Training**

*The church website lists more events*

## This Week's Activities

|                    |                                                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 MAY</b>       | ✳ 10am- 12:15pm: Lord's Table and Prophesying meetings             |
| <b>LORD'S DAY</b>  | ✳ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: <b>Lunch</b>                                   |
| <b>7 Monday</b>    | ✳                                                                  |
| <b>8 Tuesday</b>   | ✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts |
| <b>9 Wednesday</b> | ✳                                                                  |
| <b>10 Thursday</b> | ✳                                                                  |
| <b>11 Friday</b>   | ✳ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)               |
| <b>12 Saturday</b> | ✳                                                                  |

13 10am- 12:15pm: Lord's Table and  
MAY Prophesying meetings  
LORD'S DAY 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Lunch

## SEEKING GOD'S WILL

**Scripture Reading:** John 7:17; Matt. 10:29-31; 18:15-20; Rom. 8:14; Psa. 119:105; 1 John 2:27

### III. THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CHURCH AND OTHER FACTORS (continued)

In seeking God's will, we must not fall into an abnormal state where the mind is blank and the will is passive. Hebrews 5:14 speaks of those "who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil." We need to exercise our mind and will. We have to put our will on God's side and co-labor with God. It is true that we should put aside our own will. But it is wrong to annul the function of the mind and the will, allowing them to be passive and void of function. Many people trust only in their intellect and not in God. This is a big mistake. But many people think that relying on God means that one does not need to use his mind. This is also a big mistake. When Luke wrote his gospel, it was "carefully investigated" (1:3). In Romans 12:2 Paul told us to "be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is." In seeking God's will, we need to use our mind and our will. Of course, this mind and will have to be transformed and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

We need to briefly touch on the matter of visions and dreams as well. In the Old Testament God revealed His will to man through visions and dreams. In the New Testament there are also visions and dreams, but God does not use them as an essential means of guidance. In the New Testament the Spirit of God dwells in us and speaks to us directly from within. The chief and common means of guidance are the inward leading. God will lead us by dreams and visions only when He has something very important to say and it would not be easy for us to accept this leading under normal circumstances. In the New Testament visions and dreams are not the usual means of God's leading. Therefore, even when we have visions and dreams, we should still safeguard ourselves by seeking the inward confirmation and the confirmation in the environment. For example, Acts 10 shows us that God wanted Peter to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Peter, being a Jew, would never go to the Gentiles according to his tradition. In order to turn him from this prejudice, God had to show him a vision. After Peter saw the vision, Cornelius sent three men to him. This was the confirmation in the environment. At the same time there was also the speaking of the Holy Spirit. These internal

and environmental confirmations assured him that he was acting according to God's will.

Of course, there are cases when one has little time to consider or wait. At such times one can prove God's will immediately if the vision or dream is clear and obvious and the feeling within approves it; there is no need to wait for the confirmation in the environment. For example, Paul was in a trance when he was praying in the temple. He saw the Lord speaking to him and charging him to leave Jerusalem without delay. At first he reasoned with the Lord and tried to refuse. But the Lord said to him again, "Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles" (Acts 22:17-21). Later, Paul met a heavy storm at sea, and all hope of salvation was gone. God sent His angel to stand beside him and speak to him, telling him not to fear (27:23-24). These were all clear visions. But they do not occur frequently in the New Testament. God revealed things to His children in visions and dreams only when there was a special need. Some Christians have so many so-called dreams and visions that these are like everyday meals to them. This is a kind of spiritual sickness. It may come from some kind of nervous disorder, attack from Satan, or deception from evil spirits. Whatever the cause, this situation is abnormal.

In conclusion, God leads men by many ways. Everyone is different in his spiritual condition and needs. This is why God leads us in different ways. However, His main means are the arrangement in the environment, the inward leading, and the teachings in the Bible. We need to point out once again that when these three things are in line with one another, we can have the confidence that we have God's will.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #17, Seeking God's Will by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.