

## Please Pray

- ✿ **Raising up the children to be proper vessels:** (1) May each parent and serving one be attuned to have the same mind and the same vision concerning the purpose and the way to raise up the children for the Lord's purpose. (2) May each one see the importance of raising up the children to have a proper character and be proper vessels for the Lord's purpose.
- ✿ **Renovations of our meeting hall and financial offerings:** Please continue to pray that: 1. The construction would be completed according to the planned schedule. 2. The final renovation cost would be lower than the estimated budget. 3. The Lord would release the finances through the Body to meet the need, and that we would not need any financial loans to finish this project.
- ✿ **Full-Time Training in London ("FTTL") Spring Graduation (June 10):** The graduation of the FTTL Spring semester took place at Bower House on June 10. Please pray for a strong going on of the graduates, whether they serve, work, or study, in their knowing, experiencing, and enjoying of Christ for the building up of His Body and the preparation of His bride.
- ✿ **Gospel Trips in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria (Oct. 8-22, 2023):** In 2016-2017 thousands of saints in the Lord's Recovery came to Germany to participate in the gospel trips for the refugees from the Middle East. During those gospel trips, not only many got saved and were brought into the church life, but also the church life in Germany was greatly strengthened and even several churches were raised up through the migration. Like last year, the churches and the developing localities in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria would like to extend our warm invitation again to all the saints in the Recovery to join our campus labour at the beginning of the university year. Please pray that the Lord will gain many young Germans, Swiss, and Austrians as remaining fruit and for the spread of the Lord's testimony in all these cities through these gospel trips.
- ✿ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

## Weekly Readings

- ✿ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Ezek 40:1 – 46:24.
- ✿ HWMR, The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Divine Economy, Week 6.
- ✿ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 43 and 44.

## Announcements

- ✿ The North America College Training will be held from July 16-22, 2023 in Champaign, IL. For information, visit [collegetraining.org/](http://collegetraining.org/). Please contact the serving brothers if you are interested to attend.
- ✿ The registration deadline for the October International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones is **July 1**. All brothers who would like to join in person or by video must contact the leading brothers by June 30.
- ✿ [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) released a series of talks by Brother Minoru Chen about the Life-Studies. Weekly subsequent talks are released on Mondays. You can subscribe to the [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) to get updates. All outlines are available for [download](#).
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, [allan.yeow81@gmail.com](mailto:allan.yeow81@gmail.com), before Wednesday evening of every week. Please also note that due to the limited space in the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all prayer burdens sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ July 3-8, Anaheim, CA: **July Semi-Annual Training**.
- ✿ July 16-22, Champaign, IL: **North America College Training**.
- ✿ August 6-11, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth ("SSOT")**.
- ✿ October 5-7, Manila, Philippines: **Fall International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones ("ITERO")**.

*Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

## This Week's Activities

Sun-Jun-11 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jun-12	♦
Tues-Jun-13	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-June-14	♦
Thurs-Jun-15	♦
Fri-Jun-16	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jun-17	♦
Sun-Jun-18 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

## CHOOSING A MATE

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:18

### II. FACTORS AFFECTING THE CHOICE OF A MATE (cont'd)

#### F. Compatibility in Personality, Goals, and Interests (cont'd)

##### 10. Not Expecting the Other's Personality to Change (cont'd)

During the ten years that I worked in Shanghai, one-fourth of my time was spent in counseling family problems. I advise you emphatically not to put brothers and sisters with different personalities together. If they are put together, the result will certainly be serious. Children from such families will certainly be affected also, because they will not know which side to take when the parents are on a see-saw. It is also clear that it will not be easy for their children to be saved either.

#### G. Weaknesses

Now let us consider the matter of weaknesses. The above discussion referred to differences in personality and did not involve any moral issue. But human beings have not only differences in personality, but also weaknesses.

##### 1. Moral Weaknesses

What is a weakness? Some are lazy, while others are diligent. Diligence is a virtue, while laziness is a weakness. Some are accurate with words; accuracy is a virtue. Others not only are a little careless with their words but also constantly lie. They love to exaggerate what they say. This is a weakness in personality. Some are tight-lipped and do not like to talk much; this is a virtue. Others like to criticize and correct others; this is a weakness. They gossip about this and that family. This is not a matter of personality, which does not involve moral values. When a character trait involves a moral issue, it is a weakness, and it needs to be dealt with before God. Some people do things quickly while others act slowly; this is a matter of personality. But if a person is so quick that he becomes impatient, he has a weakness. Some people are so slow that they become untrustworthy. This is also a weakness. Being impatient is a weakness, and being so slow as to become untrustworthy is a weakness as well.

##### 2. Discovering the Other's Weaknesses

What should one do about the weaknesses of the other party? This is rather hard for any outsider to decide. Before young brothers and sisters marry, they need to find out each others' weaknesses. They must do this before they are engaged, not after. It is wrong to look for weaknesses after you are married; it is, in fact, very foolish to do this. It is too late to look for weaknesses after you are married. It is better for the husband and the wife to be as foolish and deaf as possible. If you try to discover the other person's weaknesses after marriage, you are too late, because you are already living together every day. You will see many things without even trying. If you purposely try to search for weaknesses, you will surely find more. The purpose of marriage is not to provide you with an opportunity for finding faults. Do not open your eyes after you are married. Before you are engaged, while you are still choosing your mate, do not be blinded by natural attraction. Do not allow natural attraction to veil you from the weaknesses of the other person. Do not be so hot as to overlook the weaknesses in the other party.

##### 3. Some Weaknesses Being Unbearable

Let us consider the problem of weaknesses. There are two ways to deal with weaknesses. Some weaknesses are intolerable. They are like difficult personalities, too hard for some to accommodate. A marriage will not be successful if there is the presence of such weaknesses. Others weaknesses are bearable. After considering, one may decide that he can live with such weaknesses. Of course, he must try to discover the other party's weaknesses before they are engaged. Some try to discover their spouse's weaknesses after they are married. It is useless to find faults then; this will only damage the family, because no one can change those weaknesses. It is impossible to change them. One must take note and consider well before he enters into a marriage whether or not he is able to live with the other party's weaknesses.

##### 4. Weaknesses Should Not Be the Same

Here is a word of reminder: Do not presume that those with similar weaknesses can get along with one another. Many people think that those with different weaknesses cannot get along with one another, and that those with similar weaknesses can. This cannot be farther from the truth. Some couples who have the same weaknesses argue, quarrel, and fight with each other all the time. One has a hot temper, and the other also has a hot temper. You may think that it is wonderful for both to have the same temperament. Actually difficulty is compounded when both have the same weaknesses. When there is a difference in personality, the conscience is not involved. When there is a matter of weakness, the conscience is involved. When both the husband and the wife are believers, any weakness in one party will be consciously felt by both parties. The burden of responsibility will be compounded, and the problems will be compounded as well. This is why we say that a couple should have similar personalities but different weaknesses.

I remember a husband who carelessly left things around the house; he never tidied up his room. His wife was the same. One made messes and the other made more messes. You would think that they would have been at peace with each other. But the two of them quarreled every day. The husband would say, "Do you not think that leaving things around like this is messy?" The wife would reply, "Why do you not tidy them up? Do you not know that I am very busy?" Please remember that one burden is heavy enough; two become unbearable. The result will be a compounding of family problems. Never assume that trouble will be less when both parties have the same weaknesses. Similar weaknesses result in problems. In fact, the problems will be doubled. When the weakness is with one person, he can bear it alone. But when both have the same weakness, the burden becomes too heavy. It is hard enough for one to bear his own burden. It is impossible for him to bear the other's burden on top of his own.

Young brothers and sisters should realize that some weaknesses can be tolerated even when found in both parties. But some weaknesses are compounded when they are found in both parties. Such weaknesses are intolerable. It is better that the weaknesses of the two persons be different. Of course, sometimes even couples with similar weaknesses can get along with each other; there is no rigid rule concerning this. One simply has to watch for himself.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 31, *CHOOSING A MATE*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.