

Please Pray

- ✿ **Young People in the Church Life:** Pray for the young people in the church life, that they would be kept and encouraged after the church's multiplication into two halls. Pray for their shepherding by the saints including in the homes, that they would have companions to pursue the Lord within their daily life and church life.
- ✿ **Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference in Toronto (April 3-5):** Pray for the upcoming Spring Eastern Canada YP Conference. Pray that the Lord would speak to the young people a fresh word concerning knowing the age according to God's economy, knowing the Lord in their spirit and being used by Him to preach the gospel in this age. Also pray for the building up of spiritual companions to pursue the Lord with. Finally pray for the strengthening of the serving ones to shepherd the dear young ones.
- ✿ **Pray for our leaders and those who are in high position (1 Tim. 2:1-2):** Let us pray that God guides our leaders regarding Bill C-9. Certain provisions could remove the historical protection given to religious texts in Canada. May the freedom to read, teach, and share the Scriptures continue to be protected. Let us ask the Lord to grant wisdom and discernment to those making decisions for our country.
- ✿ **The Direction of the Church in Montréal:** The brothers feel that the way to move forward in Montréal this year is through the strengthening and building up of the home meetings (group meetings). The strength and vitality of the home meetings will depend on the vital groups and the mutual care in the home meetings. The home meetings need to have many vital groups in order to be vital, living, and active. May the Lord burden us to form vital groups with our companions (in twos and threes). May all the vital groups be living and active so that we can bring vitality to our home meetings. May the home meetings be full of the divine love and mutual care.
- ✿ **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: Psalms 59:1 – 74:23.
- ✿ HWMR: The Preparation of the Bride, Week 3.
- ✿ Life-Study of Ephesians, Message 97, Life-Study of Philippians, Message 1.

Announcements

- ✿ The Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting ("AGM") will take place on the Lord's Day, April 5, 2026, at 12pm in the Meeting Hall.
- ✿ The Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference will be held on April 3-5 in Toronto, ON. The cost is CAD\$135/person, including gas. The online registration form was sent out. For more information, please contact one of the Young People's leaders.
- ✿ The Spring London International Blending Conference will be held on April 4-5, in London, U.K.
- ✿ There will be a Northeast Young Working Saints and Families Conference at the Kingston Penuel Christian Center (KPCC) in Kingston, NY on April 17-19. Registration deadline is April 5. The cost is USD\$125 for one night and USD\$165 for two nights. For more details, speak to brother Aaron Chao.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✿ The 2026 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Dallas, TX, from May 22-25. Please contact the responsible brothers to get information about attending the conference. Details to join the conference online will be shared just before the conference starts.
- ✿ The June/July Semi-Annual Training will take place from Monday, June 29 (4pm), to Saturday July 4 (9:30pm), at the Ministry Conference Center, Living Stream Ministry Campus, 2431 W. La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92801. Registration is required and the deadline is Thursday, May 1, 2026. The registration fee is CAD\$290 for the live training (in person), and CAD\$185 for the online/video training. Please contact your respective district serving leader to register and to get more information.
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, by Wednesday evening of every week. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✿ April 3-5, Toronto, ON: **Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.**
- ✿ April 4-5, London, U.K.: **Spring London International Blending Conference.**
- ✿ April 17-19, Kingston Penuel Christian Center (KPCC), Kingston, NY: **Northeast Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference.**
- ✿ May 8-9, Kitchener, ON: **Grade 6 Conference.**
- ✿ May 16-17, Montréal: **Victoria Day Conference.**
- ✿ May 22-25, Dallas, TX: **International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**
- ✿ June 29—July 4, Anaheim, CA: **June Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✿ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Mar-29 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Mar-30	♦
Tues-Mar-31	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-01	♦
Thur-Apr-02	♦
Fri-Apr-03	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ♦ Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference, Toronto, ON.
Sat-Apr-04	♦ Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference, Toronto, ON. ♦ Spring London International Blending Conference, London, UK.
Sun-Apr-05 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ 12pm: The Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting. ♦ Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference, Toronto, ON. ♦ Spring London International Blending Conference, London, UK.

23. FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

Scripture reading: 15-20, Matt. 18:21-35; Luke 17:3-5

Forgiveness and restoration

What should we do if a brother offends us? We all have to deal with this question. What should we do when it is not we who have offended others but others who have offended us? When we examine the above three portions of the Lord's Word, we find that we should not only forgive a brother who has offended us but we should also restore him. Let us first consider the matter of forgiveness.

I. Forgiving one's brother

A. Being required to forgive

Matthew 18:21-22 says, "Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven."

Luke 17:3-4 says, "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day and turns again to you seven times, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him."

The verses in Matthew say that we should forgive a brother seventy times seven times, not just seven times. The verses in Luke say that we have to forgive a brother who sins against us seven times a day, repents, and turns to us seven times. Whether or not his repentance is genuine, we must forgive him as long as he repents. Whether or not he is genuine is not our responsibility. We have to forgive him.

Seven times is not too much, but seven times within one day is not that infrequent. Suppose the same person does the same thing to you seven times a day, and suppose he says that he has sinned against you seven times a day. Would you still believe that his confession is genuine? I am afraid that you would think that he was only confessing with his lips. This is why Luke 17:5 says, "The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith." They felt that this was a problem to them. It was unthinkable to them that a brother could offend someone seven times in a day and then turn around to repent seven times. They could not believe it, and they said, "Lord, increase our faith." But God's children should forgive even if they are called upon to do so seven times a day. When a brother sins against you, you should not hold it against him.

B. God's measure

The Lord continues with a parable in Matthew 18:23-27: "For this reason the kingdom of the heavens has become like a king who desired to settle accounts with his slaves. And when he began to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have the means to repay, the master commanded him to be sold, as well as his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. Then the slave

fell down and worshipped him, saying, Be patient with me and I will repay you all. And the master of that slave was moved with compassion and released him and forgave him the loan."

The slave owed ten thousand talents, which was a very large amount of money. He had no ability to repay because "he did not have the means to repay." We can never repay all that we owe God. It is far more than what men owe us. Once a child of God arrives at a proper evaluation of his debt to God, he will generously forgive what his brother owes him. When we forget the immensity of the grace we have received from God, we become merciless toward others. We need to see how much we owe God before we can see how little others owe us.

The slave did not have the means to repay, and the master ordered him "to be sold, as well as his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made." Actually, even if he sold all that he had, he still could not have repaid everything. "Then the slave fell down and worshipped him, saying, Be patient with me and I will repay you all."

It is difficult for man to understand clearly what grace is and what the gospel is. Man often thinks that he may not be able to repay today, but that he will be able to repay someday. He may not make it today, but he will make it someday. In these verses, however, we see a slave who, even if he were to sell all that he had, would not have had enough to repay. He said, "Be patient with me and I will repay you all." His intention was good. He was not trying to avoid his debt. He was only asking the Lord for more time. He intended to repay all. Such a thought can only come from those who have no knowledge of grace.

"And the master of that slave was moved with compassion and released him and forgave him the loan." This is the gospel. The gospel is not God working for you according to your idea. You may say, "Lord, be patient with me, and I will repay You all," but the Lord does not respond by saying, "Pay what you have and repay the rest later." The Lord forgave all of your debt. Man's prayers and requests do not even come close to the grace of the Lord. Our Lord works for us and answers our prayer according to what He has. The master of the slave released him and forgave the debt. This is God's grace; this is His measure. Anyone who asks for grace will receive grace from God, even though his knowledge of grace is very limited. We should be clear about this principle: The Lord loves to bestow grace on men. As long as we have a little desire for grace, the Lord will pour it out on us. He is afraid that we will not ask. As soon as a man hopes a little and opens his mouth to say, "Lord, be gracious to me," the Lord pours out His grace to him. Moreover, this grace from the Lord is given to His own satisfaction. We may think that one dollar is enough, but He will give ten million dollars, not just one dollar. He acts for His own satisfaction. His acts are compatible with Himself. We would settle for one dollar, but God cannot give anyone such a small sum. Either He does not give at all, or He gives according to His own measure.

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