

Please Pray

- ✳️ **Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference in Montréal (May 16-17):** May the Lord head up all the fellowship and services. We are expecting to receive more than 200 saints from out of town. May the Lord expand our capacity to receive all the out-of-town saints who need hospitality. May this be a wonderful time of blending in the Body. May the Lord release His up-to-date speaking and what is on His heart.
- ✳️ **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.
- ✳️ **Distributions and gospel outreach in Brussels, Namur, and Leuven in Belgium (May 15-25):** There will be distributions in Brussels, Louvain and Namur, with the saints in Brussels and the trainees from Varsovie (Warsaw), from May 15 to 25. May the Lord go before us to prepare the hearts of men. May many be willing to have more fellowship with the saints. May the saints be strengthened for this time. May the adequate follow-up and shepherding be released for the seeking ones. May many become remaining fruit for His testimony in Belgium.
- ✳️ **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 108:1 – 119:120.
- ✳️ HWMR: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (3), Vol. 05, Week 27.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 12 and 13.

Announcements

- ✳️ 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's serving brother 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

- ✳️ May 16-17, Montréal: **Eastern Canada 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-May-10 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-May-11	✳️
Tues-May-12	✳️ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-May-13	✳️
Thur-May-14	✳️
Fri-May-15	✳️ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-May-16	✳️ 4:00-5:30pm: Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference, Message 1. ✳️ 7:00-8:30pm: Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference, Message 2.
Sun-May-17 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table, followed by Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference, Message 3. ✳️ 2:00pm: Special Fellowship with Working Saints.

24. BELIEVERS' REACTIONS

Scripture reading: Matt. 5:38-48

Believers' reactions

III. It being imperative to deal with our reactions

The above portions of the Word all speak of one thing — Christian reactions. Once we settle the matter of reactions, we have dealt with at least half the problems of our Christian life. We react when others behave in a certain way. We react when others say certain things. We adopt a certain attitude when others adopt certain attitudes. We are filled with reactions. This is why I say that more than half of our Christian life is occupied with reactions. If more than half our life is occupied with reactions and if our reactions are Christian-like, we can expect God to be pleased with us. But if our reactions are improper, we can never expect to be proper Christians.

Perhaps some may wonder why we need to emphasize this matter. Let me be quite frank with you. Do not think that we are touching something that is unimportant. I have had this deep sense within me for the last twenty or more years. Many people have been Christians for eight, ten, even twenty years. They have read the sermon on the mount dozens of times. Yet they still do not know how the Lord wants them to react. They have been Christians for years, yet they are still fundamentally wrong in their reactions. They argue about everything, and they talk about the law, about their rights, and about what others should or should not do. They have not seen what Christian reactions are.

Such ones have righteous reactions, legal reactions, Gentile reactions, and tax collector reactions. But they certainly do not have Christian reactions. They say, "Am I not right?" They feel that they have all the reasons on their side. But they have forgotten that a Christian's reaction should not be based on reason. They are totally unfamiliar with what Christian reactions should be. This is a big problem. Because they do not know how a Christian should react, they also do not know how other people should react. When a brother is silent about an unjust thing, these ones may think that he is admitting his guilt. Recently, I heard someone say, "So-and-so was silenced by the rebukes of others." He thought that speaking up was right and keeping silent was wrong. But this person does not know the meaning of the cross. He does not know what the Christian life is. In fact, he does not know what a Christian is.

A newly saved brother should know the Christian way to react from the very beginning. Once he becomes clear about this, he will know how he should live before God. Christians have their own kind of reactions. If you are not reacting in this way, you are just like a tax collector and a Gentile. Let me repeat that half of our human life involves reactions. We act a certain way because others act a certain way. We feel a certain way because others feel a certain way. We are reacting every day. If our reactions are wrong, I am afraid that our daily walk will amount to very little before God. This is why we need to deal with reactions.

IV. Three different kinds of reactions

Now let us consider the principles of reactions from this portion of Matthew. Man's reactions to ordinary matters can be classified according to three levels. The first is on the level of reasoning. The second is on the level of good behavior. The third has to do with God's holy life. If you are on the level of reasoning, your reaction will be temper and wrath. If you are on the level of good behavior, your reaction will be to endure. But if you are on the level of God's holy life, you will transcend everything. These are the three possible reactions.

If someone strikes your right cheek today and you are full of reasonings, you may say, "How could he have done that? Why did he hit me?" When others strike your cheek, you may fly into a rage and reason about it. This means that you are on the level of reasoning. Perhaps you have the knowledge that Christians should have proper behavior and that temper is wrong. When others ask for your tunic, you may endure silently and allow them to take it away. This kind of reaction is much better than losing one's temper. But the Lord tells us that there is another kind of reaction; it is the kind that He requires.

When others strike our cheek, the Lord does not want us to react with wrath. Neither does He want us to endure passively when others take our tunic. The Lord tells us to turn our left cheek when others strike our right cheek and to give others our cloak when they want our tunic. When others want us to walk one mile, we should walk two. This is not endurance but transcendence. This kind of reaction goes beyond man's demand. Man demands only so much, but we can do more before the Lord than just meet man's demand. We can exceed man's demand, not just meet it.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord tells us that Christians should have only one kind of reaction. We should react by transcending, not reasoning or enduring. Please remember that those who do not transcend are not acting like Christians. The Lord does not tell us to return an eye for an eye, to hurt the other person's eye when they hurt our eye. Neither does He say that we should passively endure when others hurt our eye. He says that we should add an eye to an eye. In other words, when one strikes my eye, I should let him strike my other eye.

Please remember that turning from an eye for an eye to an eye plus an eye involves at least two steps forward. Turning from a cheek for a cheek to a cheek plus a cheek, from a tunic for a tunic to a tunic plus a cloak, and from a mile for a mile to a mile plus a mile involves at least two steps forward. An eye for an eye is a reaction. Anger is a reaction. Endurance is a reaction. An eye plus an eye is another kind of reaction. Of these reactions, all but the last should be rejected.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 24, BELIEVERS' REACTIONS, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.