

Please Pray

- ✳ **Beginning of FTTA Fall term (Aug. 09):** Please pray that the Lord will raise up many consecrated and trained young brothers and sisters who will cooperate fully with His present move to spread and build up His testimony in the local churches. May the Lord gain more of the trainees for His purpose this new term. May each trainee be prepared to receive the training that the Lord has prepared for each one this term.
- ✳ **Bible distribution at the start of the school year:** We will go out to preach the gospel and distribute Bibles at McGill, Concordia and University of Montréal on August 25, 26, 27, and on September 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. The sign-up form has been sent out. May we cooperate with the Lord and sanctify some days to go out. May the Lord go before us and prepare the hearts of men. May the ones prepared by the Lord be brought to the saints. May we be channels of life to dispense life to all those in need. May we gain some useful materials for the Lord's building.
- ✳ **Bible distribution during the Indy at Markham Race, Ontario:** An Indy at Markham Bible distribution is being planned for the weekend of August 14-16 near the location of the race. Even as saints from Eastern Canada came to join during the recent outreach, so also pray that we could participate in this move of the Body during the upcoming Indy at Markham outreach activities.
- ✳ **Short-term shepherding trips and migrations to French-speaking Europe:** Please pray: (1) That the Lord will raise up lampstands in Rouen, Versailles, Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), Geneva (Switzerland), Marseille, Caen, Nantes, and Montpellier. (2) That the Lord will increase the team of full-time serving ones in Paris to take care of the Lord's needs throughout French-speaking Europe. (3) Please pray for the release of long-stay visas for these saints. (4) That many students, families, and mature saints will migrate to France within the next several years for the Lord's interest.
- ✳ **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: Col. 2:1 – 4:18.
- ✳ HWMR: Crucial Aspects of Matthew 5 through 7, Week 4.
- ✳ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 38 and 39.

Announcements

- ✳ 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

- ✳ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Aug-09 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Aug-10	♦
Tues-Aug-11	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Aug-12	♦
Thur-Aug-13	♦
Fri-Aug-14	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Aug-15	♦
Sun-Aug-16 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

27. 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

Seeking God's will

II. How to know God's will (cont'd)

B. The leading of the Holy Spirit

God's hand is seen through the environment. But He is not happy to always guide us like senseless horses or mules. He wants to guide us from within. Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." We are God's children and God's life is within us. God not only guides us through the environment but also speaks to us and guides us from within through His Spirit. The Spirit dwells within us, and God's will is revealed to us through our innermost being.

The book of Ezekiel tells us that God will "put a new spirit within you" (11:19). Again it says, "A new spirit will I put within you...I will put my Spirit within you" (36:26-27). We must distinguish between "a new spirit" and "my Spirit." "My Spirit" refers to the Spirit of God, whereas "a new spirit" refers to our spirit at the time of our regeneration. This new spirit is like a temple, a home where the Spirit of God dwells. If we did not have a new spirit within us, God would not have given us His Spirit, and the Holy Spirit could not have dwelt within us. Throughout the ages God has been trying to give man His Spirit. However, man's spirit was defiled, sin-ridden, dead, and fallen in the old creation. It was impossible for the Spirit of God to dwell in man even though this was His desire. Man has to receive a new spirit through regeneration before he can be in the position to receive God's Spirit and before God can dwell in him.

Once a new believer has a new spirit, the Spirit of God dwells in him. The Spirit of God spontaneously communicates to him His will; he spontaneously has an inner sense. Not only is he able to discern God's provision in the environment, but he also now possesses an inward knowledge and inward assurance. We should learn to trust not only in God's sovereignty in the environment but also in the leading of the Holy Spirit within. At the right time and when the need arises, the Spirit of God will enlighten us within. He will give us a sense and show us what is of God and what is not of God.

One brother loved to drink before he became a believer. Every winter, he would drink much wine. He even made his own wine. Later, both he and his wife were saved. He was not very literate and could not read the Bible very well. One day he prepared some food and wine and was going to drink as before. After thanking the Lord for the food, he asked his wife, "Can a Christian drink wine?" His wife said, "I do not know." He said, "Too bad no one is here to tell us." His wife said, "The wine and the food are ready. Let us go ahead today and ask others afterward." He gave thanks again but felt that something was not right. He thought that, as a Christian, he should find out whether Christians can take wine. He asked his wife to take out the Bible, but he did not know where to turn. He was stuck. Later, he met someone and told him about this incident. His friend asked whether or not he drank the wine

that day. He answered, "In the end I did not drink it, because the householder within would not allow me. I did not drink the wine."

If a man has the desire to obey God's will, he will find out what this will is. Only those who are callous about their inner sense will remain in darkness. As long as one has the intention to obey God's will, the "householder within" will guide him. The householder that our brother spoke of is actually the Holy Spirit. When a person believes in the Lord, the Holy Spirit dwells within him. He guides the believer and becomes his Master. God reveals His will not only through the environment but also through the "householder within."

There are two kinds of leading of the Holy Spirit. The first is an inner urging, as in Acts 8:29 when "the Spirit said to Philip, Approach and join this chariot" and in Acts 10:19-20 when the Holy Spirit said to Peter, "Rise up, go down and go with them." These are inner urgings. The second kind of leading is an inner forbidding, as mentioned in Acts 16:6-7: "Having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." This is the inner forbidding. The story of the "householder within" is a case of inner forbidding.

In order to know God's will, a new believer should be somewhat familiar with the inner sense. The Spirit of God dwells in the innermost part of man. Hence, the feeling of the Spirit is not something shallow or outward; it issues from the deepest part of man's being. It is a voice that is not quite a voice, a feeling that is not quite a feeling. The Spirit of God within shows us whether something is according to His will. Provided we have the divine life within, we will feel right when we act according to this life, and we will feel terrible and uneasy within if we disobey and deviate slightly from this life. A believer should live a life that yields to this life. We must not do things that will take away our inner peace. Whenever we sense any unrest, we should realize that the Holy Spirit within is displeased with what we are doing; He is grieved. If we do something that is contrary to the Lord, we will surely have no peace within. The more we go ahead with it, the less peace and joy we will have. If something is of the Lord, spontaneously we will have peace and joy.

However, do not overanalyze your inward feelings. If you keep analyzing whether or not something is right, you will be totally confused. Some people continue to ask what the feeling of the Holy Spirit is and what the feeling of the soul is. They are always analyzing whether something is right or wrong. This is very unhealthy; it is actually a spiritual sickness. It is very difficult to bring a self-analyzing person back to the proper path. I hope that you can avoid such a trap. Actually, a person analyzes only because he does not have enough light. If he has enough light, everything will be clear to him spontaneously, and he will not need to waste his energy on such analysis. If a person is sincere in trying to obey the Lord, it will be very easy for him to sense the inner leading.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 27, SEEKING GOD'S WILL, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.