

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Sept 05, 2021

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Joshua, Judges, & Ruth – Week 2

Ministry Publication Reading

How to Meet, Chapter One

Scripture Reading

Heb. 10:25

Announcements

- ❖ **The Holy Word for Morning Revival: Crystallization-Study of Joshua, Judges, & Ruth:**
 - District 1: please contact Charles Martinez
 - District 2: at Ellen Arnold's front door
 - Cost: \$7.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix
- ❖ **Corporate Lord's Day Meeting**
 - Sept. 12 at 10:00 am
 - Districts 1&2
 - Zoom link will be emailed to the saints
- ❖ **Monthly Brothers' Meeting**
 - Saturday, Sept. 18 at 8:30 am
 - Zoom link will be emailed to the brothers
- ❖ **Engagement: Lydia & Stephen**
 - Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021
 - Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Zoom Link Info:
Meeting ID: 898 0647 9329
Password: 123
Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or
Android: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/89806479329?pwd=TnBxdjRCYkFDYXFWKzEvOXpDVWwwQT09>
Password: 123
- ❖ **Offerings**
 - Please send your offerings through *Zelle* or *Popmoney* to the church's bank account using the following email address:
offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Persevere in Prayer

- ❖ **Intercessory Prayer in North America:**
 - Sign up at <http://www.beseeking.org> to receive daily emails containing a prayer burden, along with crucial verses and ministry portion.
- ❖ **Church Prayer Burdens:** <http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

Riches from the Ministry

We must realize that we Christians are a meeting people. A Christian is a meeting person. Without meeting, there is no Christian life and no church life. It is rather difficult for any Christian to grow without attending the meetings. There is no way for any Christian to serve God without meetings, and it is impossible for Christians to express Christ if there are no meetings. The church life is a meeting life. When we read the first chapters of the book of Acts, we see that in the early days, in the first local church, the church in Jerusalem, the saints were meeting daily. Every day they met together, so they were a sound and strong church. It was not like the situation of today's Christianity with little more than an eleven o'clock meeting on Sunday morning. We must meet all the time if possible. Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we must build up a custom and not lose that custom. We should not cease to meet together "as the custom with some is." That is a wrong kind of custom. We should not build up a custom of not meeting, but a custom of meeting all the time.

We are told in Acts 2 in the early days of the church, that the believers in Jerusalem met in houses. They broke bread from house to house (v. 46) because they had such a large number. In one day they suddenly had an increase of three thousand (v. 41), and in another day five thousand (4:4), making a total of over eight thousand believers. It was really difficult for them all to come together in one place. Obviously, it was more convenient for them to meet in their homes. But we must realize that all these home meetings were part of the one church in Jerusalem. What they were doing in their meetings was simply carrying out what the church in Jerusalem intended and decided. They were not isolated from the church; they were not meeting without the church in the locality as their background and standing. This actual and practical situation exactly fits the Lord's words in Matthew 18. Here and there, in this house and in so many other houses, they were members of that one church, not meeting isolatedly, not meeting separately from the church, but meeting in full relationship with the local church in Jerusalem. All these home meetings were not independent meetings; they were meetings of that one local church. They met in their homes for the Lord's table (2:46), for preaching the gospel (5:42), and for praying (12:12). When Peter was released from prison, he went to Mary's house, where many were gathered together praying. That meeting was not the church, but that meeting was a part of the church in Jerusalem. That meeting stood with the church in Jerusalem, and that meeting where the saints were praying was carrying out the decision of that church. It was not an isolated meeting. This is the proper way to meet.

Acts 8:1 tells us that though there were so many meetings in Jerusalem, yet there was but one church, the church in Jerusalem. Then in chapter 21 of Acts we see something more. Verse 20 of that chapter says that the number of believers in Jerusalem by that time was in the tens of thousands. There were not only eight, nine, or ten thousand, but tens of thousands. We do not know how many, but have you noticed, in verse 18 of that same chapter, that there was only one eldership there? This verse tells us that James was one of the elders and that all the elders were present. In all Jerusalem with so many tens of thousands of believers, there was but one church with one eldership. There were myriads of brothers and sisters with many home meetings, yet one church and one eldership.

Brothers and sisters,...we just care what the Bible says. Have you noted all these verses from the book of Acts? There were myriads of believers, and they were meeting in many houses in Jerusalem, but they were still under one group of elders. If you read the book of Acts, you will see that whatever decision was made by this one group of elders was taken by all the believers, because they were all one church. Acts 8:1 says, "The church which was in Jerusalem." Why do I stress this matter so much? Because it is so basic to the matter of meeting. The first thing we must care for in the matter of meeting is that our meeting must be a part of the local church. We must meet by taking the stand of the church and by carrying out what the church intends to do.

This matter has very much to do with the oneness of the Body. If a few brothers meet here and there in the Lord's name without caring for the church, the Body of Christ is divided. We must all meet with a proper and positive relationship to the local church. Then our meeting will not be a divisive meeting; it will be a meeting that stands with the church and executes the church's will. We cannot begin any meeting carelessly. We cannot start any meeting without taking care of the church. Whenever we begin to meet, we must meet for the church: either we meet as the church or as a part of the church. That means that we are absolutely one with the church and that there can be no divisions. It is in this way that our meetings will be kept in the church in oneness.

(Lee, How to Meet, Chapter One)