

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Oct. 16, 2022

The church in Phoenix

Announcements

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

Church Prayer Burdens:

<http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

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

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance

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

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life – Week 5

Ministry Publication Reading

Life Messages Vol. 2, Two Lives Grafted Into One, ch. 58

❖ 2022 December Semiannual Training

- Live Training Dates: Dec. 26; 4:00 pm – Dec. 31; 9:30 pm
- Video Training Dates: Dec 28; 7:00 pm – Jan 8; 4:00 pm
- Registration Fee: Live \$205; Video \$130.
- Registration due date for both live and video training: Oct 30, 2022.
- Registration fee can be sent through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Please indicate on the memo line "2022 December Training".
- Online Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2022DecemberTrainingPhx>

❖ College Conference

- Date: Nov. 4 - 6, 2022
- Registration Fee: \$125
- Registration Form: <https://airtable.com/shrB7Sf7WTS8mtBj>

❖ 2023 Gospel Calendar

- Pre-order & Pre-pay by Oct 31, 2022: open to both church accounts and personal accounts
- Saints are encouraged to order from your personal account. The cost is \$11 plus tax and shipping. To pre-order, please go to:
For English: <http://www.livingstream.com/gospel-calendars/en>
For Chinese: <http://www.livingstream.com/gospel-calendars/tw>
Church book room: pre-pay \$12 per copy.
- For further information, please contact Newman Zhang or Charles Martinez.

❖ 2022 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference

- Location: Washington Hilton in Washington, DC
- Reservation: special group rate of \$104.00 USD/per night plus tax. For room reservations, please call 1-202-483-3000 or 1-800-HILTONS and request the Living Stream Ministry group rate by providing the code: LSM1. To make online reservations please go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/LSM>.
- Reservations must be made by Oct. 21, 2022.
- Dates: Nov. 24; 7:30 pm to Nov. 27; 12:00 pm

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Riches from the Ministry

The relationship between God and man is a mystery. The common concept is that God is the Creator, and man is the creature. God is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. He has created all things. Therefore, man as a small, finite being must worship, revere, and fear Him. Since He is all-powerful and human beings are weak and frail, man must trust and depend on Him. Whenever man is in trials and sufferings, he calls on the heavens for help. This reaching after God is inherent in man. This view of man's relation to God may be scriptural, but it is superficial.

What the Bible reveals as the ultimate relationship between God and us is far deeper than that of Creator and creature. The nature of this relationship is beyond human concept. It is that God and we may have a union in life. The divine life and the human life join together to become one life.

There is a picture of this in nature. I believe we are all aware that the physical things in the world are signs of spiritual realities. The Lord Jesus again and again used common things as illustrations of spiritual matters.

In the plant kingdom a branch that is not doing very well may be cut off the parent tree and attached to a healthier, more productive tree. This procedure, known as grafting, illustrates the union between God and us.

Romans 11: "You, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in...and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree...You were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree" (vv. 17, 24). We were the poor, small, wild olive branches, grafted into the cultivated, superior olive tree, and are now enjoying the rich nourishment from the root.

The branch that is grafted is not identical to the tree to which it is attached. If they were identical, there would be no need of grafting. It is a branch from a problem tree that is grafted to a tree having some superior quality. The consequence is that the good tree subdues the inferior branch.

Such is the real nature of the Christian life. The Lord Jesus as the true vine is the superior tree. One day by faith through grace you were grafted into Him. Do not despise this grafting. It means that you no longer have just one life. Your life is now from two lives that have been grafted into one. As you enjoy the root of the fatness of this cultivated olive tree, your poorer life is subdued, and you begin to flourish.

[T]his grafted life...is not an exchanged life. The inferior branch has not given up its poor life in order to get the richer life of the tree to which it is grafted. No. The branch still retains its same essential characteristics, but its life is uplifted and transformed by being grafted to the better life.

What are the results of the grafting? When the fatness of the better tree supplies the grafted branch, all the negative things are taken away. Then the original function of that branch is restored and strengthened. The fruit is still what it was before the grafting, but the problem factors have been overcome. We are the problem branches that God has grafted to Christ. The fatness of His life comes into us, carrying away all the poor elements in us. He uplifts the original function that God had for us, strengthening and enriching it. Then naturally and spontaneously, our whole being is saturated and transformed, and a marvelous fruit comes forth.

When did this grafting occur? It was at the time we believed and were baptized. Romans 6:3 says, "Are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" When we were baptized, we were baptized into the Lord Jesus in spirit and were identified with Him. The life within Him came into us.

When a branch is grafted, both it and the tree must be cut. Just binding them together will not join them organically. Both must be cut and then grafted together at the site of the cut. When the two wounds kiss each other, the graft can take, and there will be the growth.

When was the Lord Jesus cut? It was on the cross. The wound of the Lord Jesus is waiting for sinners. His side has been pierced; the blood shed. When is the sinner cut? He too has been cut on the cross. He experiences this cutting when he repents and receives the Lord.

The initial grafting is related to the Lord's death. He is the true vine. When He was crucified, He was thoroughly cut. Now His cut wound is waiting for the repentant sinners, and He as the life-giving Spirit moves in us, searching our inner being, enlightening us so that we repent. Our grief and tears are the cut we receive. We have no choice but to believe in the Lord and ask Him to save us: "O Lord, thank You that You died for me. Thank You for shedding Your blood for me. Thank You, Lord, for saving me." This is the time when we are grafted into Him and grow together with Him in the likeness of His death.

Once we are thus grafted into Him, His resurrection life comes into us and removes all the negative elements within. His life becomes ours in resurrection. He uplifts the original functions given us at creation and enriches, strengthens, and even saturates our whole being. This new life is a life of two lives grafted into one. In this union are victory, life, light, power, and all the other divine attributes. All these are ours not by an exchange, not by reckoning, but by being grafted into Him. (Lee, *Life Messages*, Vol. 2, *Two Lives Grafted Into One*, ch. 58)