

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

July 28, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ❖ European YP Conference in Poland
- ❖ Rhema contacts in Europe
- ❖ Summer Bible Camp

For additional details regarding the above prayer items, please refer to Detailed Prayer Burdens.

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	1840-1841	868
Tuesday	1842-1843	869
Wednesday	1844-1845	870
Thursday	1846-1847	871
Friday	1848-1849	872
Saturday	1850-1851	873

Morning Revival

The Completing Ministry of Paul, Week 2
(Memorial Day Conference 2013)

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: European Young Peoples Conference in Poland—July 28-Aug 3

- ❖ Pray for the Lord's appearing to the young people during this conference that they would become ministers and witnesses of Christ for His testimony in this present age.
- ❖ Pray that this time would be instrumental in strengthening the Lord's move in Europe for the spread of His kingdom.
- ❖ Pray that the young people would be blended together and mutually incite one another to live uniquely unto the Lord for His purpose.

Follow-up of Rhema contacts throughout Europe

- ❖ Please continue to pray that the Lord will have mercy on the readers of the free literature distributed by Rhema and will shepherd many of them through the local saints and full-timers into the church life.

Irvine: Children's Summer Bible Camp—July 29-Aug 3

- ❖ Pray that the children would enjoy the time together and be infused with the pattern of Jesus and His disciples.
- ❖ Pray for the serving ones that they would be supplied to be shepherds and ministers in their care for the children.

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GENESIS

CAUSING MAN TO HAVE THE DIVINE NATURE—GOLD

In message eleven we saw that this flow of living water brings forth three kinds of materials. The first of these is gold, which typifies God's divine nature. All Bible scholars agree that in typology gold signifies the divine nature. Gold itself is not a transformed substance; it is an element. Unlike gold, pearl, and precious stones are transformed materials, for they have been changed from one form into another. Gold is a created element and can never be transformed or changed. This is meaningful. Iron or steel can change through the years, but gold remains the same. It is the strongest and the most unchangeable element. Therefore, gold is precious, expensive, and valuable. Thus, in typology God used gold to signify His divine nature. This divine nature has been brought into our being. The element of gold has been added to us (2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 3:12; Rev. 21:18, 21).

Whenever you worship God or pray to Him for a period of time, you will have the sensation that you are golden. You will sense that you are shining, precious, and weighty. Gold is weighty. Before you prayed in such a way, you were light and loose. However, after praying for two hours, you have an element in you that is precious, shining, and weighty. Have you not had this experience? When you pray to God the Father or call on the name of the Lord Jesus, the divine life flows within you to bring forth gold.

How much "gold" do you have within you? Perhaps some will have to admit that they

have just a little. If we pray and walk in the spirit, the inner gold will increase daily. The flow of the divine life will add more of the divine nature to us. Although we were made of clay, God's intention is to impart His gold into us by the flow of His life. In this way the process of transformation begins.

CAUSING MAN TO BE REGENERATED—PEARL

What does the pearl signify? Although pearl is replaced with silver in 1 Corinthians because of the need for redemption, pearl was God's original concept. When I was young, I did not know what the Bible meant by pearl. However, after passing through many experiences with the Lord, we now understand the meaning of pearl.

Consider how a pearl is formed. An oyster living in the sea is wounded by a piece of sand. The oyster secretes life juice around the grain of sand until the sand becomes a pearl. Christ is the oyster who lived in the ocean of this world. We are the grains of sand that wound Him and, after injuring Him, stay at His wound. His life secretes His life essence, enveloping us with it layer upon layer. Eventually, after becoming fully enclosed by this life-secretion, we become a pearl (Matt. 13:46). This is the experience of regeneration. Originally, we were small pieces of sand, but we became pearls as the life juice of Christ enveloped our being. Every gate of the New Jerusalem is a pearl, signifying the entrance into the kingdom of God (Rev. 21:21). The Lord Jesus said that unless we are born anew we cannot

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Upcoming Events

☪ Monday, July 29 - Saturday, Aug. 3,
Summer Bible Camp, Irvine, CA

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org

Blog: members.churchinirvine.org

Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org

Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org

YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

This Week

28TH ☪ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

30TH ☪ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meet-
Tuesday ing by districts

1ST ☪ 10:00–11:00am Sisters'
Thursday prayer meeting at Hall 1

2ND ☪ Evening Small groups in
Friday the homes

3RD ☪ 8:00–9:00am Corporate
Saturday prayer time at Hall 3

4TH ☪ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GENESIS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5; cf. Titus 3:5). We all have been born again and can enter into the kingdom. Furthermore, by becoming pearls, we even become the entrance itself.

After entering the New Jerusalem through the gate of pearl, we find ourselves on the street of gold (Rev. 21:21). This means that we walk according to the divine nature and that the divine nature becomes our way. Regeneration is our gate; the divine nature is our way. Do not go to others to ask them what you should do. The Lord Jesus is your way (John 14:6). You simply need to walk according to the golden street, the divine nature within you. Brothers, do you get your haircut according to the divine nature? Sisters, do you shop according to the divine nature? I am quite sure that the golden way never leads to a movie theater. When you are going in the direction of the movies, you will find yourself on the way of clay. We all need to walk the golden way. To be on the street of gold is to touch the divine nature of God.

CAUSING MAN TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST—PRECIOUS STONE

Although we may have the gate of pearl and the street of gold, we do not yet have a wall built up to express the image of God. The wall of the New Jerusalem is not only an erected boundary that separates the holy from the common, but also a building that expresses the image of God. In Revelation 4:2-3, God sitting on the throne has the appearance of jasper. The wall of the New Jerusalem and the first foundation stone of the wall are also built with jasper (Rev. 21:18-19), bearing the same appearance as God. Although we have passed through the gate of pearl and are walking the golden way, I still expect to see around us a wall built up to include all godly things, to exclude all worldly things, and to express the image of God. This wall is built up by the way of transformation (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2a; 1 Cor. 3:12a). The materials of the wall are all transformed precious stones (Rev. 21:11, 18a, 19-20). Only transformed people can be built together.

Where do precious stones come from? A precious stone is a transformed item. All precious stones originally were of other materials. Some of them were formed into igneous rocks by pressure and heat. Others were formed into sedimentary rocks by pressure and by the flowing of water. All became precious stones. Diamond (Exo. 28:18) is formed out of carbon

by heat and pressure. Under extreme pressure and intense heat the carbon becomes a diamond. These are the principles of the transformation of precious stones. Oh, we need the burning, we need the flowing of the living water, and we need the pressure!

After entering the gate of pearl and walking the street of gold, you may think you are right with the Lord in every respect. As far as the gate and the street are concerned, you are right with Him. As you walk the golden way, you may have no problem with the Lord, but other difficulties will arise. For example, as a young brother you may expect to have a very good sister as your wife. Also, the sisters expect to have a fine young brother as their husband. However, married people can testify that while marriage is an enjoyment, it also causes suffering. Each husband is a source of suffering to the wife, and each wife is a source of suffering to the husband. Although you may provide enjoyment for your spouse, you also provide some suffering. We try our best to make our spouses happy, yet we cannot avoid making them suffer. Although marriage is a cause of suffering, we cannot do without marriage. Our marriage is not in our own hands; it is overruled by the sovereign Lord Himself according to His economy. Besides the suffering caused by marriage, there are many other sufferings. Along the golden way are many pains and piercing thorns.

In your kitchen you have many appliances. Among them is a stove with an oven. It is difficult to cook properly without a stove and oven. In one sense, the church is a garden. In another sense, the church is a dining room and a kitchen. Without the kitchen, the dining room is empty. The church kitchen has a big stove with many compartments. There is a place in that stove for every one of us. I can testify from my own experience that in the church we are truly burned for the sake of our transformation. The leading brothers burn one another constantly. The husbands burn the wives, and the wives burn the husbands. This is God's burning for our transformation.

We were made earthen vessels. Although these vessels are useful, their material, which is clay, does not match the New Jerusalem. In the New Jerusalem there are no bricks, only transformed stones. We need a great amount of pressure and burning and flowing of life before we can be transformed into precious stones. The more pressure, burning, and flowing we experience, the more precious we become. (*Life Study of Genesis*, Message 12)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☪ Summer Bible Camp

A final coordination meeting will be held today, Lord's Day, July 28 at 3:30pm at Hall 1. We encourage all parents and serving ones to

attend this time. We will be setting up the rooms as well as singing through some of the songs for the SBC.