

## **Cooperating with the Lord's Work of Renewal and Revival**

Fellowship from Minoru Chen on March 7, 2021

### **Prayer**

*Thank You, Lord, that we can meet with You and You can meet with us. We pray for our fellowship, Lord, for the cleansing of Your blood, and the anointing of the Spirit. Lord, we pray for Your presence and Your word. Lord Jesus, we love You. We give glory to You. We exalt You together. Lord, may You move in this country as You never have before, even in these ten churches. Lord, do a new thing in and among us.*

### **A Background on the Lord's Move in the USA**

It is good to see you, saints. I cannot contain my excitement for finally having a meeting like this. For some months now, the brothers who are bearing the burden, the co-workers, as well as some of the brothers who are bearing responsibilities in these ten places or ten localities, have been meeting weekly. I have been waiting for this day, so that I can see all the saints and not just some brothers. The brothers should have informed all of us that these Lord's Day afternoon meetings of fellowship would be bi-weekly or fortnightly. Every other week we will gather like this. I will do my best to keep my fellowship with you to an hour.

To kick us off, I would like to say something about the Lord's move in the USA, as a background leading to these ten cities where we are having migrations to. I think that it would be good for all of us to be on the same page, with the same view about things. A lot of these things I have spoken quite a bit to different groups of saints, including the fellowship during the last Labor Day Conference. In fact, it was concerning the Lord's move in the USA.

## **The Strength of the 100 Years of the Lord's Recovery**

The Lord's move in His recovery began with Brother Watchman Nee, then on to Brother Witness Lee in the leadership. It has continued on after Brother Witness Lee departed to be with the Lord now for twenty-four years. This whole span of time, by either this year or next year, will be one hundred years. We are not a movement. We are just part of the Lord's move. But if you consider a movement, for any movement to endure for one hundred years of history and still continue to go on strong, that says something about that movement. I am not going to compare ourselves to any movements, Christian or secular. But I will say that this shows that, number one, the Lord's recovery is something of the Lord and not of men. Number two, it is something real and not fake or false. In our spirit, we can all testify to that. The truth of the word of God is with us. Not only so, but the Lord's presence is also. More than anything else, His presence is always a sign of His confirmation that this is something of Him. Number three, this shows that the recovery is grounded and rooted in a deep way on the earth today, and it is not something that you can just blow or push over. It is something that is stable, steady, and strong. All of these should be an encouragement and a comfort to us.

## **The Times and Boundaries of the USA Being Set by God**

The Lord's recovery started in Europe hundreds of years ago. We typically use the Reformation as a beginning point. That was in the 1500s, and it interestingly coincided with the so-called discovery of the New World, including these American continents and including the future United States. All that happened at that time.

You have to remember Paul's word in Acts 17, when Paul was there visiting Athens for the first time. He said, "And He, that is God, made from one, one race, every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling" (v. 26). This tells us that God not only made heaven and earth as the Creator, He also made from one race, that is, from Adam, all the nations on the earth today. He had planned, allowed, and arranged each nation of people to dwell in different

parts of the earth in various continents and locales. He even determined beforehand, these nations' appointed seasons, that is when a nation will rise and when a nation will fall, when an empire will thrive and when an empire will die. The rise and fall of all the countries and nations are something appointed by God already, showing that God is the One in control ruling over the earth. Christ today, since His ascension, has been administrating that rule on the earth, using the nations, since the nations existed, to advance His own move according to His economy.

The times, the seasons, and the ages were all preset, and not only so but the boundaries of these peoples' dwelling, meaning the boundaries of the nations, were also set by God. For example, if you read the whole history of men, even the history in these last two thousand years, you will know that the USA is a late-coming and young country. It was not discovered until a few hundred years ago and it was only founded less than three hundred years ago. It is a relatively "baby" nation. Yet this nation has as its boundaries two deep oceans, one on the east and one on the west, the Atlantic and the Pacific, providing it with natural, impenetrable borders. It is very hard to attack the USA, much less to take over the USA, because of its natural location on the globe.

I would not spend the time to talk about the history of this country, but it has always been very interesting to me and many have studied it. All you can say at the end is that truly this verse in Acts is confirmed. The times and the boundaries of this country are something of the Lord. How did the Louisiana Purchase happen? For a pittance we got millions of acres, a great part of this country. Alaska, that whole area, now a state, for a few bucks. All these areas became strategic parts of this country, and in a very quick order, because of the special founding of this country under the hands of the founding fathers. That must be the God-given wisdom to found this as a nation or a republic like none other. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are key foundations of this country. The system of government is what causes this country to be strong. I know it is

messy. I know it is noisy. I know it is sometimes corrupt. I know all of that. But still, it is a country that is strongly based on the system of democracy, and that allows this country today to exist and still go on strongly. From the Second World War until now, the story of the nations and all the things on the earth were arranged by God to cause the USA to emerge as the lone superpower. The USA is the superpower on this earth, and this is absolutely so that God can move in the world situation under a level of stability and peace. That would not have happened without the USA. I trust you have some idea about these things.

### **The Flow of the Divine Stream and Its Move to the USA**

Now let us talk about the Lord's recovery that started in Europe. It was in Europe for hundreds of years. Somewhat suddenly, that flow of the Lord's recovery, starting with Martin Luther all the way to the British brethren, took a turn. That divine stream, that flow of the Spirit, took a turn in an unbelievable way, in an astounding way, from Europe to a foreign heathen land that is called China. That is not something that you or I can plan. This is something that God had planned. After hundreds of years, the Lord continued His recovery in China by raising up some very educated young people who were caught and captivated by God for His need and use in this age. Of course, among them were one Watchman Nee, who began the Lord's recovery back in 1921-22, one hundred years ago, and also his very trusted co-worker, Brother Witness Lee. You may ask why Chinese. I am a Chinese, but I have no answer for that. It could be any race, any person, but we just have to, in these things, worship God who is sovereign.

With the change of the political situation in China, Witness Lee was sent out to Taiwan. The recovery was in mainland China for thirty years, then in Taiwan for ten years. After those forty years, that flow turned again, back to the Western Hemisphere, however, not to the old Europe, but to the New World, and that is the United States. That is also the Lord's leading. I always recommend a little book called *The Divine Stream*, where you can read some of what I have just told you,

how Brother Lee received the Spirit's leading, the Spirit's move, to leave his work in Taiwan behind and come to this country to start his ministry and his work here. That was in 1962. Therefore, next year will be the 60th year of the Lord's move in the USA. That is a long time.

### **The Lord's Blessings to His Recovery**

In these sixty years, no matter what, the recovery has been solidly planted in this land. In these sixty years, the Lord has done so much in His move through this ministry and this work of the Lord. The truth, the interpreted word, that is released by this ministry is absolutely mind-boggling. Look at the publications we have and the truth that is contained in them, the divine riches that are contained in them. This is something that the earth has never seen. In the entire Christian church history, there has not been truth that is summarized, that is so full, complete, inclusive, and well balanced as the truth that has been given to us.

Not only so, but the Lord has gained so many dear saints, His seekers and lovers, by revealing to them the vision concerning His work, concerning His plan, concerning His purpose, and concerning His economy. He has been drawing them to come together to actually practice what they see, that is the Christian life and the church life, according to the revelation of God's word. Even though we have to confess that we do not practice or apply the things adequately, the Lord has done much. Everywhere I go, when I see brothers and sisters, just as I am seeing you now, I just praise and worship the Lord. Every brother and every sister among us are dear. Every one of you paid a heavy price to come this way of the Lord. Some had to leave their fathers and mothers. Others had to abandon their organizations and so-called churches that they belonged to. Others had to give up this or that, just to take this narrow way of the kingdom, the way of the Lord's recovery. That is not a small thing.

The churches that have been raised up in this country are many. I will not go into reciting so many other blessings that the Lord has given to us. Even the full-time training that we have is such a blessing. Today I

was told they are four hundred full-timers in this country, serving primarily on the campuses. My burden is that we will see five hundred to a thousand full-timers running around in this country, young people that can serve the Lord. These are our future, the future of the Lord's recovery. We also have generations of saints that are descendants of brothers and sisters who have come in many years ago. Today, many of them are grown up and they are bearing burdens, they are taking the pathway of their parents to follow the Lord and to follow this ministry. All these things are blessings of the Lord. Today, we have to really say and declare that there is a level of one accord among the saints and the churches as never before. This is not only because of the vision that we see of the ground of oneness of the one Body and the one Spirit, but also because of the practice of blending together. Today technology has allowed us to be close, mingled, and built up together as never before.

All this is not to say that nothing bad has happened. Some things have happened. Almost every ten years there has been turmoil among us. On the one hand, turmoil is disruptive and destructive even. Unfortunately, some were affected by them to not take this way. On the other hand, every sickness in the body only makes the body stronger. If we had not been through those things, the recovery today would not be as strong and solid. So here we are.

## **Key Burdens in the Lord's Move in the USA**

### ***1. To Live Out the Truths***

Now, there is one main burden among us in these days, as far as the Lord's move is concerned. Number one, we are burdened inwardly to really practice and apply all that the Lord has spoken to us. Not just to know the truths, but to live them out. Not just to have these in the books, but to have these in our daily life, both personally and in the church life. This is a burden that is in us. It is entirely for the Lord's testimony that we live out these things and that we work out the New Jerusalem. I hope these are not just sayings among us. This is our burden, to live out the God-man life, to walk in these truths. This, brothers and sisters, is our calling and our commission today. When

people read the books and come in contact with this ministry ask, "Where can I see this?" there would be a place where they will find this being practiced and being lived out. This is a tall order, brothers and sisters, but this is our calling if we are to continue to be the Lord's recovery.

## **2. To Propagate, Proclaim, and Spread these Truths**

Secondly, today our burden is to not only work out these truths, these riches, but to propagate, proclaim, and spread them. What the Lord has given to the recovery is not just for us; it is for His entire Body. It is for all the saints, for all the brothers and sisters, including those who are not with us. We are just a small number compared to the Body of believers in the USA, and amongst them, there are many seekers and lovers of the Lord just like you and me who want something more and something deeper. Today we have a job to do and that is to bring to them these truths that we enjoy so much. We really look to the Lord for that. That's why we have Bibles for America. That's why we will do more things in the coming days. I would even say in these ten GTCA cities that you are in, that this would be part of your commission in your city, to spread these truths to so many. I would like to tell you that America is ready for this and wanting this.

## **3. To Gain the Increase**

I will say the next burden that we have today is to gain the increase. This is a strong burden. We're not here trying to be huge or to be great like the great Babylon. Of course not. But with what the Lord has given to us compared to the vast population of this country. When Brother Lee came here 60 years ago, this country was less than 200 million people. Today it is 300-330 million people of all colors, races, and ethnicities who sovereignly came to this land of immigrants. Amongst them, there are those whom God has predestinated and wants to call and to save.

## **4. To Preach the Gospel**

Today the next burden is the widespread preaching of the gospel, not just the low gospel of redemption. Neither are we speaking of the

gospel of going to heaven, but of the full gospel of God. This full gospel of God must be preached to several groups. We must preach to the people, the sinners, and the nominal believers to bring them to salvation and to bring them into the experience of Christ. Surely among them there will be those who are even marked out for God's purpose and for the church life today. Of course, we should also preach the gospel to our own children. This is why the children's work and the work with the young people is important. Next, we should share the full gospel with college students. The campuses are key fishing ponds for us to gain the younger generation when they are still open and are still being formed and are flexible. The Lord needs to gain many of these ones. The Lord has done that already, but we want to gain many more. We still do not have a presence on many major universities and colleges. When you just look at them, these fish swimming all around, these young people, it makes you jealous and makes you burdened on behalf of God. Then we need to share with those in the community, the working people, amongst our colleagues and our neighbors, and in the places where we live. We must not think that they cannot touch the Lord and be saved and come into the church life. We must reject that unbelief. Many will come to know the Lord and to know the truth, and even to come into the blessed church life.

### **5. To Strengthen the Existing Churches**

We need to strengthen the existing churches. There are many churches, but not all are that strong or prevailing or dynamic. In fact, one burden we have is to revive, to rejuvenate, and to renew so many churches that have a long history but have fallen into stale or stagnant and even fruitless condition.

### **6. To Raise Up New Churches**

At the same time as we strengthen the existing churches, we want to plant new churches, raise up new churches. There are so many towns and cities across this land that are still desolate and without a testimony of the Lord and without the lampstand. From this work the recovery in the U.S. should become a sort of a model. A model does



not mean we are superior or special, but it just means the same word as overcomer. It does not mean a superior class of Christians. These are just normal Christians against a backdrop of degradation of defeat. When I say that we should be a model, it doesn't mean we are super; it only means that we would be proper and normal and healthy against the degraded situation of the churches in Christianity today. We may be affected even in the Lord's recovery. I pray that the churches, even the small ones, would not be weak and dying and lukewarm. I pray that the churches, the large ones, medium size, and the small localities, will all become strong and healthy and thriving and fruitful.

Out of this situation that I just mentioned, the Lord would have a way to spread to other lands, to other countries like he has done in Europe and in Mexico out from the USA. I can tell you right now one continent that is exploding and that continent is Africa. The Spirit is moving in Africa. Here at Bibles for America you can go to the website and download ministry books and material. You don't need to get a hardcopy. The USA has the most downloads, of course, because this is America. Do you know what place is next? It is cumulatively, many countries in Africa. Some of the countries I can't even tell you the name because I cannot pronounce it. But unbelievably, because of technology, people are just finding us and getting books and everything they can get their hands on. That tells me that the Lord is moving there. So out of the abundance in America, the Lord must use this country to support His spread all over the globe. All this is to fulfill God's purpose at the end of this age so that He can gain a real testimony of his Body, a testimony of His bride. All this is unto the building up of the church and even unto the coming back of the Lord Jesus.

So what about GTCA? I will tell you there is a definite and strong long-term burden amongst the coworking brothers that in some sense this country is not entirely taken yet after 60 years. There are still many holes, spots and places where we do not have a testimony yet. We are particularly burdened for the middle part of the country, what we call

the heartland of the USA, the “flyover country of the USA” or the heartland that includes the Midwest, the Great Lakes area, the Plains, the Rockies, the Bible Belt, the South, the Southeast, and parts of the Eastern Seaboard. These places are full of people and full of typical Americans. Our representation in this part of the USA is disproportionately small compared to the coastal areas of the USA. Several years ago, the brothers, through prayer and much fellowship, decided that strategically we must target this part of the country to gain the people and the land there. The two things we gain, one is the land and the other is the people. This is why in this gospelization, truthization, and churchization of America is now focused on this part of the USA. We will continue to focus on it for years to come. This time with the ten cities that you belong to, that you are in or you are migrating to, is a fresh and new beginning of the work to spread the Lord's recovery. You heard the call for 300 brothers and sisters to migrate to ten cities and to raise up five new campus teams. Deep in my heart, I have something more ambitious than that. I am burdened that these ten cities will experience a spiritual renewal, even a spiritual revival that they would become, in essence, new churches. They will not meet in a routine or old way, but in a brand-new way. I think after such a long history the time has come for such renewal to take place in the US.

### **Two Talks Given by Brother Lee in September 1988**

I was reading a message of two talks given by Brother Lee in September of 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia. That was a conference that he held there where he had two talks with the elders present. It would be good for us to go look at it; volume three in the Collected Works of Witness Lee. I cannot give you the pages, but there were two talks. There, Brother Lee did mention one of the heavy burdens he had on his heart. His concern was that oldness had crept into the churches, just carrying things on in a routine way. And of course, his strong burden was that we would have a change to take the scripture revealed way, the so-called God-ordained way to practice the church life. And that burden never left him until he passed away. I'm sorry to say that he was not able to see with his own eyes the fulfillment of the

Lord's word among us. But some of us who were with him were charged by him that whether it takes 30 years, 40 years, 50 years, somewhere, somehow the Lord must work these things out because it's in the Bible. And brothers and sisters, I hope that we would join together, not because we are better people, not because we are anything or anybody, but because we see this burden and we have this view that we would consecrate ourselves, in one accord, to practice and to work this out. This is the real deep burden for the ten churches. I've not even been to all the ten places. For example, Columbia, South Carolina, I don't think I've been there. But most of these cities I have been to and visited the churches in them. But these were chosen or selected after a lot of fellowship and consideration. What am I saying? I'm saying that, dear brothers and sisters, you are the vanguard of the Lord's present new move among us.

### **What Should We Do?**

#### **1. Live and Walk in the Newness of Life and Serve in the Newness of Spirit**

What should we do? In the coming weeks we will be speaking to all the saints concerning some practical outworking and practical steps. But we're not doing that tonight or today. I just want to give you this background again, for your reflection, for your consideration, and absolutely for your prayer. I would like to suggest this if I may. Number one, that whether you are a longtime member of one of these churches, or these ten churches, or you are a new migrant to these churches, that all of us would be on the same page to think this way. "Lord, we would like you to have a new church in this locality. We're burdened that you will have a new testimony in this locality. We're open to you to shed what we should shed, to change what we need to change. Lord, we want to live in the newness of life, we want to walk in the newness of life and to serve in the newness of the Spirit." Brothers and sisters, our God is new, ever living, evergreen, and we, the human beings have a tendency after a while to become old. Of course, even biologically we age. This is just a kind of a common trajectory. But the resurrection life is different, the divine life is different. It's always new, it never gets old. It renews itself, time and

time again. Now that resurrection power is in us brothers and sisters. And not only should we be daily renewed as believers, but the church life corporately, as the new man, should also be renewed over and over again. And we should not be afraid of that. Now, I'm not just talking about merely some new practices and new way of meeting and doing things. We will touch that, by the way, and it is quite exciting to me. But we need first to have this kind of a view, that is, to give the Lord the ground to do something new among us. I really pray that the Lord would renew his recovery in the United States of America after sixty years, a whole new recovery. And even with many young brothers and sisters, a new generation, not that the older generation is not useful. But with an eye towards the future.

And I hope our meetings will be new. I hope the content of our meetings, the way we meet, the way we conduct our church life, the way we relate to one another, the way we serve, the way we preach the gospel, the way we do so many things would also all be renewed. Is it possible brothers and sisters? I say yes, and amen and absolutely, if we would cooperate with Him. This requires, firstly, that those who are local for some time, and those who are moving in recently, would all be on this same one page. So, the old ones will not say, "Well, we've been doing things like this, who are you to come and disrupt us? Who are you to come and cause things to change? Don't say that. I hope even all the existing saints, would have a feeling "We just migrated also, we just got here, what's new? And those who are migrating there should not go there and do crazy things and try to change everything that is not like the place you came from. Please don't do that either. You will really disrupt, and you will really do some damage. However, since you have migrated, you have to put aside your past from your sending locality, from wherever you came from, just like the local saints. "Lord, we're starting anew." I would like to say that sounds to me like the dance of two armies. The existing locals and the newly migrated saints; the dance of the two armies to the same music.

If we would all have the Lord's grace and mercy to really put aside the old way of doing things, the old culture or habits and really give the

Spirit the freedom to do something new in us inwardly in all the different aspects of the church life corporately, that would be marvelous. I would like to see a brand-new church in Charlotte. I'd like to see a brand-new church in Orlando, in Pittsburgh, in St. Louis, wherever. It should be unrecognizable churches, unrecognizable saints, unrecognizable meetings, because it is new. I hope this point is clear. I hope you're burdened for this. By the way, I don't know whether you have heard that of the 300 adults, half have migrated already. Then another what 30, 40, 50 have committed themselves to move. These are adults, not counting children. There are a lot of children that came with these migrants to make the church even bigger, with an eye on the future. This is a two-year move of the current round of GTCA, and we have another year ahead of us for another 100 adult saints to migrate. So let us pray that the pandemic will be over soon with a vaccine and that many saints that were waiting would be more free and would feel more safe to migrate. At least in my part of the country, spring has sprung. Springtime is ahead of us, post-pandemic springtime. It's like we've been hibernating for a year. I hope the Lord has been using this year to work in all of our lives through this health crisis to make us ready to prepare us for this new beginning when we emerge. Dear saints, let us do that.

## **2. Have a Fresh and New Consecration to the Lord**

The second thing is how about all the brothers and sisters, locals and new migrants, all of us have a fresh, new consecration to the Lord. Not only we have this consideration for a new beginning, a new church life, but we would accordingly afford the Lord the way to work in us to accomplish that by means of a new consecration. We all are one living sacrifice to be offered to God to prove his perfect will. We together would be well-pleasing to God, which is our reasonable service. Let us consecrate our being, our faculties, our capacities, and our possessions. Let us consecrate our marriages, our families, our children, and our homes. Let us consecrate all on the altar so that the Lord can have a way to come as the fire to burn. I believe the Lord would be pleased. It says, "This is our well pleasing and intelligent service" to give ourselves to the Lord in this way. I hope once we can

meet in person that these the ten churches would come together to have a consecration time to give everything to the Lord. We did that many years ago and it was powerful, inspirational, and it causes you to know that the Lord now has a way. Consecration does not mean just that we do something for the Lord. Consecration actually means that we give the Lord all the room to do what he wants to do in us.

### **3. Reach Out to One or Two Saints**

Thirdly, I would like to give you an assignment. This assignment is that if you have not done so already, that everyone would reach out to one or two other saints. This would be primarily between the migrants and the locals that you don't know, just one or two others. I'm not saying "hi" and "bye." That's too superficial. I am talking about reaching out, getting to know the other and, as the Lord leads, to even start to become related as spiritual companions, vital companions with one another. Don't wait for the lockdown to be over. Don't wait for the time when we can get back to the meeting halls. No, right now, through Zoom and through all different means, reach out. Someone has to take the initiative. Don't wait for others to contact you. With the Lord, you pray, you have to start a new church life, you consecrate yourself, then you reach out to someone. I'm sure you can find someone in your neighborhood. Find some brothers who work in the same area of town, find some mothers with a common kind of lifestyle, and so forth. Reach out to find one or two companions that you can first get to know one another and begin to open to one another. Pray together in a divinely human way, or in a humanly divine way. If you could even do this once a week, with this particular person or two persons, or two times a week, or three times a week. You don't have to have a long time. Even five or ten minutes is good to be blended together with one or two. Maybe a couple would contact another couple in a very normal way. Whatever the situation may be, it is crucial to begin to be related with others. We cannot relate to everybody, but we surely can relate to one or two. Let the Lord's renewing work and reviving work begin with each one and then begin with two or three. I'm going to say more about this in the coming weeks. But I will just say this much for right now. I know the pandemic

is a hindrance but let us break through that hindrance by means of some socially distanced contact. Meet in the garage or the backyard. I don't know your state law. I don't know how safe you feel, I'm not imposing anything. We all know what we can do and should do. Let us just let us start with that. This is my fellowship for today.