

## **Personal Revival**

Fellowship from Minoru Chen on March 21, 2021

### **Prayer**

Lord, we pray for this hour together. May this hour be filled and even flooded with Your presence, with the life and the Spirit and Your precious holy anointing. Lord speak to us and move among us for Your move today in this country, for Your move today in these ten cities, even for Your move on this earth in Your whole Body in Your recovery. Lord we consecrate ourselves afresh to You. We give ourselves, our families and our careers, all on the altar for Your interests and for Your satisfaction. Oh Lord, speak intimately to us. Perfect us. Lead us Lord, that we would know how to go on. Build up Your testimony. Gain the increase. Lord even to fulfill Your burden for Your spread. We look to You, Lord Jesus. Cover us with Your prevailing blood. Keep us in Your way. Amen.

### **The Lord's Move**

I'm very thankful to the Lord for these Lord's day times of fellowship every other week. Though this pace of every other week is on the slow side; I wish we could do this every week, but under the circumstances that's the best that we can do. Still, what we are doing is a bit rare. We have many saints from these ten churches in the ten GTCA cities meeting together like this. I believe that this kind of a fellowship will make a substantial difference in our experience. What experience? The experience of the renewal and the rebuilding of the church life in these ten cities according to God's ordained way.

Last time, I gave you the bigger picture concerning the Lord's move in this age and in these days here in America. Of course, our heart is for the Lord's move throughout the entire earth. We should have such an expanded heart within us. We're not just for one country or one church or one region. We're here for the Lord's move on the whole earth. But the Lord has placed us sovereignly in this country of the USA for a reason. I personally believe that this country, despite all the turmoil as you all know, the messiness, the corruption, the sinfulness and worldliness and even the godlessness of the U.S. that I think you are all aware of, is still a country that the Lord raised up less than 300 years ago. In human civilization and in the history of great nations and empires, that is a very short period of time. But within that short time, the Lord raised up one of the greatest world powers in human history. Today the United States is still the leading nation on many fronts, economically, militarily, politically, educationally, and technologically. It is not a small country. It has at least 330 million people, a vast territory with so many natural resources, and it's in a very strategic location between two of the largest oceans on the earth, giving it a natural defense. You have to believe all these things are not accidental. These are all sovereignly arranged by God according to Acts 17.

We know that the very God who made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, has also determined beforehand the appointed seasons for each of these nations. Empires and nations rise and fall, and some actually cease to exist. Even their boundaries and borders are all arranged by God's wise and sovereign determination. All of this in the world situation is for the fulfillment of His purpose, and this includes the salvation of man and the release of the preaching of the gospel and the Word of His truth for the building up of His churches, for His Body. This is for His testimony and expression, even the reality of His kingdom today. The United States was raised up by God as one of the last nations, or maybe even according to Brother Lee, possibly the last of the world powers before the end of this age. Whether we were born and raised here or are first

generation immigrants, we all came to this land and this place. We should now, with this view that we have received from the ministry, realize that our presence here is something timely and not coincidental. I'm talking about us individually and about the Lord's recovery with the churches in this country. If you acquire this view, this will have an immediate effect and influence on how we live, how we serve, and how we church. We cannot just live an ordinary, humdrum, or so-so Christian life. Neither can we live here just to have a routine, common, and stale church life. There is a purpose, a commission, and a need, all of which would create a burden within all of us to live differently. So here we are.

The last time I talked a little bit about our own history in the Lord's recovery in the last 100 years and in this country in the last 60 years leading us to this point. I am increasingly convinced or persuaded that at this time, at this hour, and even at the beginning of this decade, the Lord yearns to have a fresh move in the U.S. This is a new move, a more prevailing move, a stronger move, and a more powerful move, all for Himself. He has arranged all the outward circumstances, including even this pandemic as an allowance in this world situation. All things are to work together. I believe we're in such a situation. If you don't have these eyes when looking at the outward situation, then you'll only see a mess and wonder what is going on. But if you have your inner eyes, you will see something else behind the scenes. There's the divine hand at work. We need to be keen to have this kind of perception and understanding of all the affairs of society arranged by God for His purpose.

As we draw near to the Lord, fellowship with Him, and be in oneness with the Lord, we would also have a sense, "Lord, is this it? Is this all You will do in the U.S.? Is this all You will do on the earth and Your recovery?" We must conclude that the Lord still has more to come. The bride is still not prepared, the Body is still not built, the people are still not saved, and the seekers are still not gained. There are still so many cities and towns in the U.S. without His expression, and after 60

years in this country we still have barely 20,000-25,000 saints. That is not right, and so that sense within us will cause us to have a burden as well.

### **Responding to the Lord's Purpose**

The more we fellowship about this and the more we consider this together, the more we have the same feeling. Nowadays there should be a collective cry of the Lord's people in the recovery: "Lord, do something new! Lord, go on in Your recovery! Lord, do more than ever before in this country! Lord, strengthen and build up the churches everywhere! Lord, save and gain the sinners and the seeking Christian believers! Lord, propagate these truths, these divine riches that You have given to us, not just for us to enjoy and appreciate, but for all men to know fully the truth in God's Word! Lord, You still have to spread Your Kingdom on this earth!" This should be the cry within. I hope, brothers and sisters, we all in the ten cities, whether we are local saints already there or whether we have newly, would all share this prayer and this aspiration and this dream. Otherwise, I would ask what are we doing here? Are we here to just have a nice church life? Are we happy with that, just to have a good family? Do we want to just have a good job or wonderful children? There's nothing wrong with these and they are all legitimate. But is that all? Why are we here? What is the Lord doing now? We need to ask these questions because without this we will lose our sense of purpose. If we don't have this kind of a purpose, then after a while we will just go on in a general or average way. These are special times, and we are close to the end of this age. This calls for a group of special saints who can individually and together respond to the Lord's need, to cooperate with His need, and to join the Lord in His move today. I don't care if you're in a city with 50 saints or if you're in a city with 150 saints. We need to have this burden and even a desperation.

I have this challenge to you all and a burden within that in your locality and in your church, there would be this kind of spirit, this kind of desperation, and this kind of determination that would underscore

your church life. Lord, do something in this city! Lord, do something in our church! Lord, do something in each one of us that we can be part of Your move today!

### **Going Forward**

The first thing I would ask all of you is to have mercy and grace from the Lord, to consider your church life where you are in these 10 cities, to have a new beginning. I know for some of you, it's an old church and maybe you've been there for decades. For the migrants, they may be new, but after a while they won't be that new anymore. I hope that regardless, all of us would say to the Lord, "Renew this church. Do something new in this church. Revive our church life and advance among us in a new way." Be ready and be open to throw some of the old things away, things of your old culture and even old practices in order to go on with the Lord anew. I am not advocating to change just for change sake. It is meaningless just to do something different. But I am looking forward to the Lord for what is coming. Can the Lord do something new among us? The church in my locality meets in districts, so periodically the whole church comes together or by Zoom. This morning I said, "Brothers and sisters, this pandemic soon will come to an end and then what?" Some of us may say, "Well, we'll just go back to normal." To me it would be very sad if our goal is just to go back to normal. Brothers and sisters, we should go forward, not backwards. If we go to normal, we should go to a new normal. We should go to a different place. We never go back. We have only one direction, and that is forward. What will the church look like post-pandemic in your place? Brothers, what if the Lord wants to do something fresh and something new? A new way of meeting? A new way of churching? A new way of outreaching or of shepherding? What about that? Are we open to that? Brothers, I challenge all of us.

This is actually a great opportunity for a renewal, for a change, not just for change's sake, but so that we can explore new territories of this good land. There is still a vast land for us to take, a vast spiritual territory for us to discover and to experience. We should not be stuck

where we are. We should be bold. We should be people of faith. We should be very courageous. As Jehovah told Joshua, “be very courageous, for Jehovah your God is with you; go and possess this land.” Brothers, this should be our attitude.

### **Pray for a New Church Life**

I hope we will all pray for this. In these days, especially the responsible brothers and the leading ones cannot just go by an old playbook or by the old ways. We have to kneel down and say, “Lord, what do You want to do? What do You want to change? Lord, revive and renew Your work in the midst of these years.” We have to pray that way desperately. “Lord, we give the Holy Spirit the freedom, the liberty, to move as He wishes to move. Lord, help us to lay down the past. Help us to not be entangled by the past way of doing things. Lord, we want to serve You, not in the oldness of the letter, but in the newness of the Spirit. Lord, bring about a brand-new church life, even a church life that we do not know, that we did not know exists. Bring us into a new place.” How about this?

For over 60 years, even though the church life in this country has been blessed by the Lord and has been graced by Him, in many ways we have fallen short. The increase, for example, has been way too slow. The shepherding care of the saints is still not widespread. The functioning of the universal priesthood is still not fully seen. The God-ordained way, where we all beget and nourish and teach and build, is not entirely worked out. “In so many areas, Lord, we are still short. We are hardly there. We have hardly arrived. Lord, please do something. We are desperate. We are just not an ordinary Christian group here. We are not some kind of denomination here. We are not another kind of Christian movement here. Lord, we are Your recovery. You have given us so much and shown us so much. Lord, we look to You.” How about this? How about we pray in this kind of a way?

### **Each One and Each Other**

I would like to start this way to help us practice a kind of church life

that is more up to the Lord's standard, more up to His ordination, to help us meet the present need of the Lord in the building up and in its growth and spread. Today, two words occurred to me. The first is *each one*: everyone, each individual, each member. The second is *each other*: more than one, at least two, or more than two. It became very fresh to me that if the Lord is truly going to do something fresh and new in our church life, something must happen to these two categories of saints. Something has to happen to *each one*: to me as an individual and to you as an individual, personally. If the Lord is going to do something new among us, something must happen also to *each other*, one with another.

### **Starting with Each One**

Now, let me talk about this a bit freely here, firstly about *each one*. The Lord's work among His people starts with one person, a single member. I am not here to promote any kind of individualism. I am not here, for sure, to strengthen anything selfish, even the self. No, but I am saying that the Lord's work starts with one member of His, a brother, a sister. On the one hand, you can say that we were saved together, we were regenerated together. That is according to the big picture, according to a certain fact that we were all saved at the same time, regenerated at the same time, because we are one Body just like the children of Israel. They all left Egypt as one. They crossed the Red Sea together. They were not just individuals. They were a people of God, and they experienced their salvation together. That is for sure. That is absolutely true. But, brothers and sisters, I am talking about our experience. Experientially, the Lord's work of salvation is on an individual basis. I do not use the word *individualistic*. I do use the word *individual*, or maybe a better word is *personal*.

The Lord saved me *personally*. He is my *personal* Savior. I cannot be saved for you. You cannot be saved for me. He saved me and He saved you. It is extremely *personal*. The Lord called me *personally*. I received a *personal* call from the Lord. I did. And I responded to that call. The Lord regenerated me through His resurrection. But in my experience

*personally*, I was not regenerated with a group. I may have some companions, but he regenerated me *personally* one day, one hour, one certain minute. And today the Lord is still drawing me. In the Song of Songs, it says, "Draw me; we will run after you" (1:4a). We know that eventually we, the daughters of Jerusalem, run together. And at the end of that book, you will find a corporate Shulamite, a corporate person as a counterpart to Solomon. For sure, that is God's desire. But do you know that Song of Songs is an extremely personal book of the seeker and her beloved, that is, Christ? Dear brothers and sisters, we love the Lord *personally*. We seek Him *personally*. We follow Him *personally*. And today, brothers and sisters, this revival, this renewal, this fresh advance of the Lord, likewise has to start *personally*. Brother Lee, in the Crystallization-Study of Song of Songs, said that in our relationship of love with the Lord, we must enter into a fellowship that is personal, private, intimate, affectionate, spiritual. I cannot enter into such a relationship on your behalf. Neither can you be my proxy, in my relationship with the Lord. No way. I have to love the Lord. I have to touch the Lord. I have to enter into a deep relationship with Him. You cannot do that for me, and I cannot do that for you.

### **Starting from Our Personal Revival**

Brother Lee said that the God-ordained way, which we must practice in order to bring about this new church life, starts from our *personal* revival. I love the Body. I love the saints. I love the church. But I cannot expect that that will just automatically carry me. I must go on with the Lord in a fresh way myself. I must be *personally* revived. My church life must be *personally* renewed. I must touch the Lord in a fresh way. I must receive from Him a new commission. You cannot do that for me.

Dear brothers and sisters, what does this mean? This means, in these days, we all have to go to the Lord. You know, Brother Lee talked about this thing called a vital group. He said that a vital group of more than one comes into being by a saint, a singular saint, who is desperate and absolute for the increase of the Lord's recovery. This person will take the lead *personally* to become vitalized. Through this



one and through that one, the church becomes revived, one by one. Now, it does not mean that we do not influence one another, or help one another, or strengthen one another. No, and I will talk about that. That is about *each other*. But here I am talking about *each one*. Brothers and sisters, how about you? How about you, brother? How about you, sister? How is your walk with the Lord? How is your fellowship with the Lord? Are you *personally* a revived saint? Are you being renewed yourself? If not, there will be no revival or renewal in the church. The Lord knows how burdened I am about this matter.

### **Each One in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12**

Now, I would like to say a few things to impress upon you how *each one* is so crucial. It is where everything starts, where God's work starts: with you, with me. In the New Testament, this word *each one* is used a lot. I will just give you two examples from two books. One is the book of Romans. In chapter 12, which talks about practicing the Body life or the church life, the apostle, the writer, had this to say, "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you" (v. 3a). Pay attention to the word *everyone*. There is no hiding. *Everyone*. Even this evening or this afternoon, I am speaking to *everyone*. Singular. I am speaking to you personally, my brother, my sister. It starts with *everyone*. "Not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each." This is not only *everyone*, but *each one*, *each* individual saint, *each* individual member in His Body, He has apportioned "a measure of faith" (v. 3b).

It goes on to say, "For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one Body in Christ and individually members one of another" (vv. 4-5). Look, there are two things going on here. We are members of the one Body, but at the same time it says we are not the same. We do not have the same function. And it says individually, we are members one of another. This *individually* means severally. As each one, each individual, we are members one of another.

Each one has a gift that differs according to the grace given. The apostle enumerated these different gifts. When he talked about these gifts in that book, he talked like this: “he who teaches” (v. 7b), “he who exhorts” (v. 8a), “he who gives” (v. 8b), “he who leads” (v. 8c), or “he who shows mercy” (v. 8d). *He*. The individual. Do you see this? There is absolutely the collective and corporate and *one another* life that is very important. Absolutely. No doubt about it. But it starts with the *he* or the *she*. It starts with the individual member.

I mentioned before that 1 Corinthians, also chapter 12, talks about the one Body and about the many members. In chapter 12, verse 18, it says, “But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.” Then in verse 27, it says, “Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.” Members *individually*. My brothers and sisters, I think this is the place where we have to start in our new church life – with *each one*.

### **Each One Touching the Source of Revival**

Each one of us has to pray, “Lord, start with me. Lord, do something in me. Lord, gain me. Lord, revive me. Lord, enliven me. Lord, vivify me. Lord, energize me. Lord, do something in me.” You may say, “Wow, this is so individualistic.” No, it depends. You have to say, “Lord, for the church’s sake, for the Body’s sake, start with me.”

The first thing, dear ones, that each one of us needs to do in these days, if we have this desperation and heart for a new church life and a new advance, is to go to the Lord in a fresh way. You know, in Hosea, it says, “He will enliven us after two days” (6:2a). Brothers, I feel these are the times when the churches must enter the third day. What is the third day? Resurrection day. It is through the resurrection of Christ that we are revived. The resurrection of Christ is the element of revival. The resurrection is the source of all renewal. The resurrection simply is the pneumatic Christ, the life-giving Spirit. There would be no revival, no renewal, and no change if we do not touch the Spirit.

The newness is of the Spirit and in the Spirit. So in these days, we each have to go to the Lord.

I would like to charge you all, if I may, brothers and sisters, in these days, not just one time or for just one day. I hope that the old ones among us, the young ones among us, the seniors among us, even the new ones among us, that we would each go to the Lord and spend some time with Him. We need to spend a longer time to open ourselves to Him very personally. Pray, call on His name, and touch Him in a new and fresh way, maybe in a way that you have not touched Him for a long time, for months or maybe years. Call on Him. Touch him. Enter into a very deep and personal and intimate fellowship with the Lord. Five minutes will not work, brothers, trust me. Not even 10 minutes. You and I need to spend a longer time to enter into the king's chambers. This is in Song of Song chapter one where you enter into the holiest place, deep into your spirit, to touch this living and resurrected Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we can change many outward things, such as a different way of meeting or a different way to preach the gospel, but there would be no energy there. We will still be lacking. We will still be weak. We will still not be spiritually animated. We need to touch the source of revival, and that is the resurrected Christ. Each one of us have to go to Him. "Lord, bring me into the third day. I have been in the first day or the second day for too long. Lord, revive me. Revive me, oh Lord. Come to me, Lord. Visit me, Lord. Touch me, Lord. Speak to me, Lord. Subdue me, Lord. Adjust me, Lord. Lord, here I am, I just open to You." If you are like that, spending a longer time with the Lord, the Lord will come. Do not pray the old long prayers, program prayers, the same prayers that you would pray. No, don't do that. Pray earnestly. Pray sincerely. Pray short prayers. Pray real prayers.

### **Specific Confessing**

The blind man simply said, "Son of David! I want to see!" He didn't have long sermonic prayers. He just uttered what he needed. It's real.

“Lord, I want to see.” Go to the Lord, brothers and sisters. Find a time this week and pray. “Lord, I cannot go on in a regular way, in an average way. These are special days. Lord, You are moving. You are doing something. Revive me. Do something new. Have a fresh start in me.” Then the Lord will come. When the Lord comes, do you know what the Lord will do? The Lord will touch; He will begin to shine on you and me. He will begin to touch things in our lives. These may be things that we may not even noticed, things that we may not have been so aware of. Under this special shining of the Lord our conscience will be enlivened. Our conscience will become sensitive. We will begin to be exposed. There will be a lot of conviction within us. One of the main works of the Holy Spirit is to convict. Suddenly there are things in our lives that we realize have been buried; there has been a blockade or a barrier. There has been an insulation between us and the Lord. It had not been pointed out previously.

I don't know what that is, brothers and sisters. Only the Lord knows the certain entangling sins, certain hidden worldliness, certain offenses that you have with other saints. There could be particular areas touched where you and I have not been obedient or submissive to God. I do not know. The Lord may even touch your disposition. “Look! You are just like this. How about that?” The Lord may touch your individualism, or the Lord may touch a certain part of you that is peculiar. I do not know brothers and sisters, but the Lord knows. If you give Him the time, the way, the room and the liberty, the Lord will come and shine. Brothers and sisters, here is the important thing, we should begin our confession to Him.

I'm concerned that there could be a number of us who have not thoroughly opened to the Lord to confess in the Lord's presence for a long time. Then you say, “How come I'm always defeated? How come I'm not victorious? How come I don't have the strength and the power? How come I feel spiritually impotent?” Well, it is because something is missing; something is short. It is possibly because there are so many things that have piled up within that have not been dealt

with, that have not been cleared in the presence of the Lord. All these things affect our fellowship with the Lord and the flow of life between the Lord and us. It is no wonder we are not so supplied. It is no wonder we are not so keen or alive. It is no wonder we are somewhat dead and lukewarm. It is no wonder there is indifference in us. Brothers and sisters let us go to the Lord in this way.

This kind of confession is not self-introspection. I'm not advocating that you do some self-analysis or that you do some navel gazing and find out what's wrong with yourself. No, don't do that. Don't look inward; look to the Lord's face. Look to the Lord and touch Him. Let Him shine; let Him touch you. Whatever He may touch, the more detail the better. Don't gloss over it. Don't say "That's not a big deal." Whatever the Lord may touch, let Him touch. Frequently, in my experience, it requires more than just one session of fellowship with the Lord. Time and time again, the Lord would speak something else. The Lord may even touch you that you need to go and apologize. The Lord may touch you that you need to make restitution to another person. The Lord may touch you that you must go and be reconciled with someone before you can come back to the altar and offer your offering to Him. This is in Matthew. By such a confession, we will have a clean and good conscience before God and men. Then there will be the free flow of life. Through such a confession there will be a new kind of consecration to the Lord. It is not just repeating the same old prayer, "Lord, I give myself to you" in a kind of routine way. Through such a confession everything will be cleared up. You become so one with the Lord and the Lord will have such a way within you. Just offer yourself to the Lord in an absolute way. Give Him everything in a thorough way.

Brothers and sisters, shall we not give our lives to Him? Shall we not give our marriage, our family, our children, our possessions, our future, our everything to Him and place it all on the altar? Now, dear ones, when we experience this kind of fellowship with the Lord, revival has begun in you. If each one of us in these days would have

more of this experience, the Lord will have a way in all the churches. Today, I could not speak all that I have within me, but I followed the Spirit. I would rather that we have fellowship that is more thorough and real and genuine, so that the Lord can have a good foundation in His new move in all the local churches. Amen.

### **Practice These Things**

Dear saints, practice these things. Do not just be inspired by my fellowship today. These things are practicable. Start tomorrow. Find time to be with the Lord, if not every day, then certain times in the week to be with Him in this way of opening. Do not be programmatic about it. Even the way we approach the Lord needs to change. Just be before Him in His presence. Be before Him and ask Him with earnestness and sincerity about your condition. "Lord, whatever You would do, please do. I must be revived. I must come into a third day. I cannot just go on in the same way. Lord, do a new thing in me. Lord, have mercy on me." Let the Lord have the time to touch you, item-by-item, matter-by-matter. Do not push it aside or run away. There are things that are manifested, but there are also a lot of things that are hidden. Only the Light, the One who searches our inward parts would know. "The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah shining within us." (Proverbs 20:27). The more we deal with the Lord in this way, the more we are emptying ourselves. Recall that hymn "I'm breathing out my sorrow; I'm breathing out my sin." What is confession? Confession is the pouring out of our sins, transgressions, defects, mistakes and wrongdoings in His presence.

Then we will breathe in His fullness automatically. What is that? That is the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We do not need to be Pentecostal and fast for three days or do some works of wonder and speak in tongues. Forget about that. This is the way by opening to the Lord through a deep and thorough confession of our sins and wrongdoings and whatever the Lord may touch. The more we do this, the more the Spirit will come in and fill us automatically. When we are Spirit-filled and live in this way, we are revived. Revival is not just an event or a

one-time thing. We need to live in this way so that we become an ordinarily, but miraculously revived person. Revival is no longer a thing we experience. Revival is a third day reality with us. We have to start somewhere, so let us start in this way. Let us practice these things.