



**EXCERPT FROM MINISTRY READING (THE KINGDOM CHAPTER 19):
TRANSFORMATION—ITS HARVEST IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

WATCHING AND PRAYING BY GROWING

Many Christians talk about watching and praying, but few realize the real meaning of watching and praying. The way to watch is simply to grow in Christ. No one can be watchful without the proper growth. While you are growing, you are watching. While you are growing, you are preparing the extra portion of the all-inclusive Spirit as the oil in your vessel. This is what it means to be watchful. To be watchful does not mean that you read the prophecies, study the world situation, and observe the events in Russia, Israel, and the Middle East. Watching is not a matter of reading newspapers and collecting prophecies. If this is your way of watching, I am afraid that the Lord Jesus will come one day and that you will not know it. To be watchful means to grow with the Lord Jesus. You need to pray, "Lord Jesus, I am going to the department store. Will You go with me? I am going shopping. Will You go with me?" If the Lord says, "No, I want to stay home," you should reply, "Lord, if You want to stay home, I will stay home too." This is watching. "O Lord Jesus, I need to get a haircut. Lord, how long do You want my hair to be? I am one with You. Whatever You like, that is what I like." This is what it means to be watchful.

When I was young, I was taught to watch and pray. I was taught to observe certain events such as the return of Jerusalem to the Jews and then to pray about them. I watched and then I prayed. But now I realize that to watch and to pray means to grow continually with the Lord, to live together with Him. Then you are in the kingdom. You are not only in the kingdom, but you are the kingdom. As you grow together with the Lord, you watch and pray. The Lord Jesus is with us, and His being with us is His gradual coming.

Revelation 14 reveals the maturity among all the maturities, signified by the number one hundred forty-four thousand. Some will be like this. I believe that many in the local churches will be mature, but some will be at the top of this maturity. This topmost maturity will be considered by God to be the one hundred forty-four thousand who will be the firstfruits. After this comes the harvest.

THE WAY OF LIFE

I beg you to take all these things into your spirit and bring them to the Lord in prayer. You will see this as the accurate realization of the New Testament. It is not simply a matter of interpretation of prophecies. We have studied all the good schools of prophetic interpretation. Probably some of you are familiar with G. H. Pember's books on the great prophecies. We, too, are familiar with them. However, those books simply contain doctrines of prophecies; there is not much life there. What the Lord has shown us from His Word is the way of life. Even the Lord's second coming is according to the way of life. He is the seed, He is the growth, He is the transformation, and He is even the harvest and the firstfruits. Whoever gains Him the most will be at the top of the harvest and will be the firstfruits.

Announcement:

1. 2020 Chinese speaking perfect training is scheduled for 7/18-25. 7/18, 19, 25 are dedicated for serving one training and 7/21-24 are for students training. Registration website: www.mswe1.org, due date is 6/28. For detail, contact brothers David Wang and Teng Peng.
2. 2020 Northeast Young People Summer School of Truth is open for registration now.
Topic: God's Full Salvation (Young People Lesson Book 1)
Dates: Same for both junior high and high schoolers.
Week 1: Monday, 7/27 - Friday, 7/31.
Week 2: Monday, 8/3 - Friday, 8/7. Conference: Saturday, 8/8
3. 2020 North America College Training is scheduled for 7/9-19 online. Registration link: <https://collegetraining.org/2020/>. Due date 6/28.
4. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 6/23 is scheduled at district prayer meeting on-line locations starting from 8 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
5. Corporate pursuing this week: "The Kingdom" messages 19 & 20.
6. A summer college internship between NY/NJ will take place 7/9-8/8. This internship will be an opportunity for the college students (including the graduating HS seniors) to advance in their experience of life, be constituted in the truth, be perfected in service, and be burdened for the gospel. More information is available. Registration will end soon. Please contact brother Vedens for details.

Prayer Burdens:

2020 June Semi Annual Training -

- A. Pray for the release of God's timely word.
- B. Pray that all the registered saints will actively participate in all the messages and review sections during the training.

Conferences and Trainings in the Summer -

Chinese Perfecting Training, College Training, YP Summer School of Truth, NY/NJ Summer Intern

- A. Pray for more saints to sign up and participate.
- B. Pray for all the preparation and coordination.
- C. Pray that the Lord would prepare each one's heart to receive the fresh and living word.

Children and Children Service

- A. Children enjoy online meeting, meeting with others.
- B. Parents have the burden to take care of their children in God's will.
- C. Pray for a planned fellowship with children's parents.

Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (6/12~6/13): 162
Lord's Table (6/14): 150
Prayer Meeting (6/16): 53

Sharing the Enjoyment from Reading the Book of Jeremiah

Sharing 1

Starting from June, Brothers and Sisters joined together to enter into the Book of Jeremiah. The Lord enlightens us through this book, especially under the current world situation. I am very impressed that it is mentioned many times in Jeremiah that Israel is so stubborn, evil and wicked, how they forsake God and worship the idols, that God wept, even wailed for them. Our God is righteous and strict, anything related to worshipping the idols is so wicked and abominated in His eyes. From the negative aspect, we should not think we are better than Israel. To treasure anything other than God is actually to worship an idol. We must throw out every broken cistern which holds no water in our lives and drink of God as our fountain of living waters. From the positive aspect, our God is truly compassionate, tenderhearted, and full of lovingkindness. He still promised that His people will be restored. Praise the Lord! It is of His lovingkindness that we are not consumed. If it were not for God's compassion, He would have given up on us long ago. His compassions continue anew every day. Hallelujah!

Sharing 2

The book of Jeremiah is not easy to read. It's quite lonely to read the book alone, when husband and wife read together we gain more motivation. This book is an autobiography in which Jeremiah tells us of his situation, his person, and his feeling, revealing his tender heart. Jehovah is the tenderhearted God, and in being tenderhearted Jeremiah is absolutely one with God. Because Israel was suffering in punishment, Jeremiah wept on behalf of God. God's heart is for His people to return to Him as the fountain of the living water and the Potter of the pottery so that they could receive the dispensing of life. We need to have Jeremiah's trained emotion, full of compassion to serve God with tears. May He dispense more of Himself to us to accomplish His eternal economy.

Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, / Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love; / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. (31:3)

Br. Andrew Yu: An Open Letter, Reevaluating in The Light of The Judgement Seat

The time of the Lord's return is at hand. For this reason we are reevaluating many matters in the light of the judgment seat.

The above quote is from "An Open Letter" in Issue No. 1 of The Present Testimony by Brother Watchman Nee published in January of 1928. Today, ninety-two years later, we are even closer to the time of the Lord's return. Today, seeing all the things happening around us, we feel even more deeply that the time of the Lord's return is closer than any of the previous ages. At this solemn moment, it should be a time for us to have a reevaluation. To reevaluate means that what was formerly the standard can no longer be the standard for today; what's considered acceptable living can no longer be our living today; the former goals in our lives can no longer be our goals today; our former mode of valuation can no longer be the mode of valuation today; and our former ways can no longer be our ways today. Everything needs to be reevaluated in the light of the judgment seat. This means that everything needs to be reevaluated according to the Lord's return and the consummation of the age. Our former church life, former services, and former ways of living all need to be reconsidered and reevaluated.

Reevaluate Our Living

The Lord said, "Do not be anxious for tomorrow," but "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33, 34). Do we trust in God in everything to live the life of the tent on the earth, having a living that is uprooted from the earth and storing up our treasures in heaven? Or are we still anxious for tomorrow? We need to reevaluate. The apostles called people to be delivered from sins and turn to the Lord, but the Lord called people to be delivered from mammon to follow Him (Matt. 6:24). Many preach the gospel of prosperity, but the Lord preached the gospel of poverty. The reason we are quiet, have no aspiration to spread the Lord's kingdom, have no power and courage to spread the Lord's gospel, have no living faith, and are timid is all because we have not had a thorough consecration, have not stopped living for ourselves, and have not lived entirely for the Lord!...If we live entirely for the Lord like Peter on the day of Pentecost, we will also be able to say as Peter said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene rise up and walk' (Acts 3:6b). But to say this, we must also be able to say, 'Silver and gold I do not possess!' We need to reevaluate: does our living today have dispensational value? Do we, our person, have a dispensational significance before the Lord? In order to have this kind of living, we need to be filled with the Spirit inwardly and outwardly everyday. If a balloon is not filled with air, it cannot ascend. Why do we need to have much and thorough prayer? It is for us to be filled both inwardly and outwardly.

Reevaluating Our Church Life

We should ask ourselves whether we are satisfied with our current church life. What we need to reevaluate is whether or not this kind of church life can satisfy the Lord's need, whether it can usher in the Lord's return. In the church where we are, has the number of saints grown? Are the saints vital?

In 1992 and 1993, Brother Lee was deeply dissatisfied with the church life at that time, so he released the messages on the vital groups, hoping to produce the overcomers outside of the infrastructure of the church life at that time, who would be delivered from the three great enemies of death, lukewarmness, and barrenness. Unfortunately, although the messages were released, the practice has yet to be seen. In the past twenty-three years, the church life is still mainly composed of meetings and mainly carried out by way of asking people to come to the meetings. Please consider: in the light of the Lord's return, shouldn't this kind of church life be reevaluated?

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, all physical meetings have stopped, and the saints can only communicate mostly over the internet in smaller settings. But in this process, many found out that brothers and sisters actually prefer this new mode of church life. Over the internet, everyone prays for one another, has mutual fellowship, and cares for the new ones. Everyone is able to function, and everyone practices begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building in an organic way. This is actually the vital groups that Brother Lee talked about, which is for everyone to function and for everyone to serve as a priest. In light of this new situation brought in by the pandemic, isn't it worthwhile for us to reevaluate our church life? Shouldn't we turn more from "meeting" to "people," from "coming" to "going," and from "big" to "small"?