

after they are saved. Their prayers may be very awkward, but when others touch them, they receive light and supply. Yet after these ones have been Christians for a period of time, the life supply in them becomes less and less. Having lived the Christian life for a few years, they pick up much knowledge and many doctrines, yet there is a lack of the supply of life. The supply of life is not a matter of knowledge but a matter of freshness. It is better to have less knowledge and less doctrine than it is to lose the supply of life. We should ask the Lord to deliver us from our inability to supply life and should pray that we live before Him in a genuine way. If we live before the Lord and are in touch with life, we will supply others with life and wash their feet every time we contact them. They will receive the freshness of life and be recovered spiritually.”

(*ibid.*, pp. 109-110)

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

### Suggested Supplementary Reading

None this week

*Our Experience in the Church Life*

#### Prayer Burdens

1. Pray for the gospel burden to continue in the church, both among the English-speaking and Chinese-speaking saints. We thank the Lord for the ones saved and baptized in the college meeting.
2. Pray for the saints serving the young people, who need much encouragement from all the saints and much strengthening from the Lord to carry this heavy burden of caring for the young people in the church.
3. In Ajax, every Tuesday a number of young people gather at a fish and chip shop to hear the gospel from a number of saints among us. Let us pray for some hearts to be opened and for the penetrating word to be released.

#### Announcements:

##### General

###### 1. Hall 3 Meeting Schedule

The Lord's Day meeting schedule is as follows:

###### 10:00am - 10:30am

Lord's Table

###### 10:30am - 11:00am

Refreshments and informal fellowship

###### 11:00am - 12:00am

Praise, Songs and Message

## The church in Toronto

Twelve Baskets Full Week 4

October 29 - November 10, 2007

### And Peter & The Washing of Feet

*Weekly Bible Reading:*

**John 13:1-14**

*Hymns:*

**645; 881; 1235; 1238**

#### Monday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

##### Mark 16:7

7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee. There you will see Him, even as He told you.

##### Matthew 28:7

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has been raised from the dead, and behold, He goes before you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

#### And Peter

##### What made Peter different from the others?

“Can you find the difference between these two passages [Mark 16:7; Matt. 28:7] after reading them? The Gospel of Matthew says that after the Lord's resurrection, an angel told the women to tell His disciples of His resurrection. The Gospel of Mark records that the angel asked the women to tell the Lord's disciples and Peter. Oh, the words ‘and Peter’ cause tears to fall. All of the four Gospels record the story of the Lord's resurrection. But only the Gospel of Mark has the words ‘and Peter.’ Since John was the one whom the Lord loved, why does the Bible not say ‘and John’? Since Thomas was doubtful about the Lord's resurrection, why does it not say ‘and Thomas’? The angel did not mention the best disciples or the most needy disciples. He specifically mentioned Peter. Why? What made Peter different from the others? “What kind of person was Peter? Three days before the resurrection, Peter committed a great sin, a sin that would cause the Lord not to confess him before the Father's angels. Peter not only denied the Lord before men, he even denied the Lord before a maid who was despised by others at that time. But the Lord wanted the women to tell the disciples and Peter about His resurrection. The words ‘and Peter’ have a very deep meaning! If any brother or sister had Peter's experience, they might think:

“ ‘Oh! I have fallen. The sin which I have committed is not a common sin. I am afraid that I cannot draw close to the Lord anymore. The Lord might have already forsaken me. I am afraid that from now on, whenever the Lord has any important thing to do, He will not take me along. I will not be able to have special experiences like I had when I was with Him on the mount of transfiguration. I will not be able to accompany

Him like I did in the garden of Gethsemane. I told the Lord that I would die for Him, and the Lord said that before the cock crowed twice, I would deny Him three times. I thought that the Lord misunderstood me. When He was taken, I even cut off a man's ear with a sword, thinking that I could love Him courageously. Yet I fell. I did not fall before the high priest or before the powerful Pilate, but before the questioning of a maid. I denied the Lord once, twice, and finally I even swore in my denial of the Lord. At one time I confessed that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God. At another time I said to Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life' But eventually, I fell just as the Lord was about to be crucified. I committed the great sin of denying Him. Although I cried with regret, I do not know how the Lord is going to treat me. It would have been better if He had not known that I denied Him. But when I denied Him, He turned His back and looked at me. He knew what I had done. What should I do? I dare not come close to Him anymore. Although He loves me, I dare not approach Him because there is a sin which separates me from Him. Perhaps from now on, I cannot be close to Him. Yet, after the Lord resurrected, several women brought back word that they were to specifically tell me about it. Oh, the Lord has not forsaken me, even though I denied Him three times. He does not hate me, nor is He angry with me. His heart was thinking of me. He did not mention anyone but me specifically. It is as though He was only thinking about me. 'And Peter!' 'And Peter!' These words are truly the most beautiful music in the world, the most wonderful tidings! If the Lord had only told the women to tell the disciples, I would have thought that I was no longer worthy of being His disciple and that I was no longer one of His disciples. I would not dare to go see Him. But since the Lord said, 'and Peter,' I know that He still wants me. Although I do not have the strength to go see Him, 'and Peter' encourages me to go. The message brought back by the women is true. The Lord told the angel to mention my name specifically. The Lord did not forsake me. I can still draw near to Him. Let me rise up and go see Him!"

*(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 18, Issue No. 29, pp. 251-252)*

## Tuesday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Acts 10:43

**43** To this One all the prophets testify that through His name everyone who believes into Him will receive forgiveness of sins.

### 1 John 1:9

**9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Hebrews 10:21-22

**21** And having a great Priest over the house of God,

**22** Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### The Essence of the Gospel — the Lord will Never be Discouraged

"Here was a fallen, sinful Peter, a Peter who had denied the Lord. Yet the Lord specifically mentioned him. This is the gospel! Brothers and sisters, do you know

This is washing one another's feet.

"Among all the things that Christians can do to help one another, there is nothing more precious than washing one another's feet, and nothing is more important than to supply life to another member of the Body. If a Christian with spiritual weariness and weakness comes to a meeting and leaves as tired as he was before, the meeting is a failure. Every time we come to a meeting, we must bring life to it; otherwise, we will increase the burden of the meeting. Everyone should come to the meeting with life so that other brothers and sisters may touch life. As soon as they touch life, their spiritual gloom will be over. They will be shining, and they will be fresh."

*(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 37, Chpt. 18, pp. 107-108)*

## Saturday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

**6** But Timothy, having just come to us from you and announcing the good news to us of your faith and love and that you have kind remembrance of us always and long to see us, just as we also you,

**7** Because of this we were comforted because of you, brothers, in all our necessity and affliction, through your faith;

**8** Because now **we live if you stand firm in the Lord.**

### 2 Corinthians 7:5-7

**5** ...when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in everything; without were fightings, within were fears.

**6** But He who comforts those who are downcast, that is, God, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

**7** And not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted because of you, declaring to us your longing, your lamentation, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced the more.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### Aspire to be Ministers of Life to Others

"...If we want to wash others' feet, we ourselves must be fresh first. If the Lord constantly does a new work in us, we always will have a new supply for others. It is a pity if others contact us and find us to be the same as we were five years ago, without anything new to offer. It is a pity if others have to wait a few years or even a few months before they can find something new in us. We need to be aggressive and active before the Lord and not stay still.

"A certain sister, who had received special dealings from the Lord, bore a particular characteristic. Every time others touched her, they could sense God's new work in her and touch the newness of life in her. When others were out of touch with the presence of the Lord and felt spiritually tired, all they had to do was go to her and sit in front of her for a few minutes, and the tiredness would disappear. Something would come out from her, and one would sense the supply of life.

"Brothers and sisters, you need to aspire to be ministers of life to others. Do not ever be disappointed that you are not as eloquent as others, or that you do not have as much Bible knowledge as others. As long as you live in life, you will be able to supply life to other members. Some people begin to pray in the prayer meeting right

refreshed and revived. Foot-washing recovers our spiritual freshness and causes us to be full of life. Brothers and sisters, foot-washing is a crucial thing. It is crucial to be recovered in life and in spiritual vitality.”

*(ibid., pp. 105-107)*

## Friday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### **Ephesians 4:2**

**2** [walk] with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

### **Ephesians 5:1-2a**

**1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children;

**2** And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us...

### **John 13:13-15**

**13** You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.

**14** If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

**15** For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **The Church Needs to Continue the Work of Foot-Washing**

“After the Lord Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He also commanded them, ‘You also ought to wash one another's feet.’ This shows us that the church needs to continue the work of foot-washing. We have to wash each others' feet.

“Let me ask if you have had the following kind of experience. On a certain day you felt that your spiritual vitality was completely sapped and you were depressed. You checked with yourself and did not discover any particular weakness or sin within. The only thing you felt was tiredness and a lack of energy. You went to a brother's home. He was a good teacher, and he gave you a good message. But the more he spoke, the colder you became. You left and went to another brother's house. You prayed with him and nothing seemed to have changed. After you left his house, you met another brother who did not preach to you or pray with you; he merely chatted with you a little. However, that little, unintentional time of talking and listening gave you strength and energy. After those few words, you could sing again. When you met him, you were grim. But after you talked with him, you began to say hallelujah. Before you met him, you could talk, but only reluctantly. After you talked with him, the whole situation changed, and you touched life. That brother supplied you with life. He washed your feet. Foot-washing is to supply other members in the church with life.

“After a day's work in a factory or in a school, you often feel very tired and spiritually debilitated. There is not much desire for reading the Bible or for prayer. While you are in this condition, you may meet a brother in a meeting or at your home who knows the Lord. The minute you touch him, energy comes and you feel that you have touched God. He has supplied you with life and has washed your feet. Once you touch life, your spiritual energy is recovered, and you brighten up once more.

that once the Lord saves you, He saves you eternally? Although you may be discouraged, the Lord will never be discouraged. A sinful person like you may feel shame in turning back to Him, but the One you have sinned against considers that there is nothing wrong in returning to Him. Why should you keep thinking of your failure when He is not concerned with it? If the Lord can remove the veil from your face today, you will not fear Him or be afraid to come near to Him. Peter might have remembered that he said to the Lord, ‘If all will be stumbled because of You, I will never be stumbled’ (Matt. 26:33). He might have also remembered what he said at the lake of Gennesaret, when he saw the glory of the Lord: ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord’ (Luke 5:8). After Peter realized his true condition, how could he dare see the Lord again? He might have remembered the Lord's pleading: ‘So were you not able to watch with Me for one hour?’ He might have heard the Lord's command in his ear: ‘Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation’ (Matt. 26:40-41). His condition was far below the Lord's requirements. How could he dare to go see Him? But he went to meet the Lord anyway. He dared to go because of the words ‘and Peter.’ Brothers and sisters, if you know the Lord's intention behind the words ‘and Peter,’ will you still turn away from Him, instead of turning toward Him? If you realize the profound significance of the words ‘and Peter,’ you have to come near to the Lord.”

### **Words of Grace are Especially Memorable to the Person Who Receives the Grace.**

“Brothers and sisters, when you are at the Lord's table meeting remembering the Lord, are you still afraid of God in your heart? Is there any sin separating you from God? You may have deeply wept, repented, and admitted that you disappointed the Lord. But do you dare say to the Lord, ‘Lord, I come to You’? Please consider this: If He was willing to go to the cross because He loved you, would He stop loving you just because you failed, fell, and backslid? Would the love He had on the cross decrease? It may be very easy for you not to love Him, draw near to Him, or return to Him; but it is impossible for Him to forget you, forsake you, or not love you. During the three days after the Lord was crucified, Peter was silent because he had fallen. But the Lord did not forget him. Therefore, if you do not have the strength to come to the Lord, as long as you are willing to believe in His words, He will give you the strength to draw near to Him. If you fall, He can make you rise up again. Although it seems that you will not be able to draw near to Him anymore, remember in faith the words ‘and Peter,’ and you will be able to draw near to Him. When you want to come close to the Lord, but feel that you are very far from Him and have no strength to come near to Him, you need to remember the words ‘and Peter.’ The more Peter fell, the more the Lord wanted to remember him. Although Peter dared not come too close to the Lord, the Lord's heart attracted him and kept him from running away from Him. May you not misunderstand the Lord's heart. If you ever hear the words ‘and Peter,’ you should know that the Lord has not forsaken you. The Lord did not desert Peter, and neither has He forsaken you. ‘And Peter’ means “and you”—‘you’ who have failed like Peter. May you see the Lord's heart for you. If you see the Lord's heart, you will run toward Him.”

*(ibid., pp. 252-254)*

## Wednesday

**John 13:1b, 5a**

- 1 ...Jesus...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
- 5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet...

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

**The Washing of Feet**

**Taking Care of Our Spiritual Condition**

"The Gospel of John shows us clearly that water signifies life. John 4 tells us how, after we have received life, it will become a spring in us welling up into eternal life. Chapter seven, in addition, shows us how this water will be like rivers of living water flowing out of man's innermost being. In chapter thirteen water has another function...We have been born again, but do we sometimes still feel as if we were not born again? In theory we know that the water the Lord gives us will become in us a spring welling up into eternal life, but have we not felt that this spring of living water is not welling up constantly? Are we saying with our mouth that we are satisfied and have no more need, yet at times feeling dissatisfied within? Have we not felt some lack, some need, and some dissatisfaction within, and nothing seemed to be welling up or flowing into others? Brothers and sisters, because our spiritual condition inevitably becomes dry and depressed at times, there is need for the water of chapter thirteen.

**The Difference Between the Washing Away of Our Sins and the Washing for Our Spiritual Condition**

"...If we want to have a proper walk before the Lord, we must know how to receive foot-washing from others and how to wash others' feet. Foot-washing is the expression of the Lord's consummate love and the work of the Lord's lasting love; it is related to the consummation of our Christian life. In other words, we must have the experience of receiving foot-washing from others as well as the experience of washing others' feet.

"...if the Lord had not washed Peter's feet, Peter would have had no part with Him in His fellowship and would have been detached from Him. We should remember that the foot-washing in John 13 has nothing to do with sin but with life and power; it is a question of freshness of life...The Lord Jesus did not rebuke the disciples for having defiled their feet. On the contrary, He washed their feet because He loved them to the uttermost. The defiling of their feet was not a question of sin...The Lord's washing of the disciples' feet was just to deal with their dimness and lack of freshness; it was not to deal with the problem of sin. In order to deal with sin, it takes the washing by the blood. We must have the blood before we can have the boldness to go before God. But the blood alone is not enough. Although we are under the cleansing of the blood, we do not necessarily have the spiritual freshness; we still need the cleansing of the water. After we are washed with water, we feel refreshed and pleasant, and spontaneously our being is restored. The washing of the blood enables us to stand before God, but the washing of the water refreshes us and makes us feel pleasant and energized."

*(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 37, Chpt. 18, pp. 103-105)*

**Ephesians 5:23b, 26**

- 23 ...Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body.
- 25 ...as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
- 26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**Hebrews 2:14**

- 14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

**Overcoming the Power of Death by Being Washed with Water**

"Satan's power is based on sin and death. Hebrews 2 shows us that Satan's power is with death. Satan attacks God's children by causing them either to sin or feel deadened. Therefore, we must not only be kept clean but must also be full of life...Satan's work is either to make us sin or to make us gloomy. He will make us feel as if nothing is meaningful, as if we are cold, far from God, and have a separating veil between us and God. Sometimes we may feel that we have not committed any specific sin, yet inwardly we feel cold, stale, and debilitated. This is death. Many Christians lack spiritual vitality. They do not have any particular weakness or sin, but they always feel apathetic, cold, and debilitated. We need to remember that no gloomy Christian can fight against Satan. Not only will sin disable us from the battle, but gloom will also disable us. Therefore, we need to keep ourselves not only from sin but also from gloom. We can mention some concrete examples of this gloom. How many times do we come to the meetings with life, and how many times are we void of spiritual vitality? In other words, how many times do we come in an active way, and how many times do we come in a passive way? Anything that is not active is death. In the meetings, the listeners as well as the speakers need life. Many people come to the meetings in a gloomy, tired, and weary mood; they have no spiritual vitality at all. If too many people are this way in the meetings, the burden of the meeting will become heavy, and no one will be able to bear it. Hence, whenever there is a meeting, everyone who comes to the meeting should supply the church with life, not just the speaking ones...

"Once our spiritual condition becomes sullen, we need to be washed with water. Therefore, the Lord Jesus not only wants us bathed, but He also wants our feet washed again and again. The one-time 'bath' enables us to have life...But how many Christians have a continual sense of the freshness of this bathing? Many people say that they will be content as long as they can keep their first love. Many people aspire to return to the condition of their initial salvation. This means that they are not as fresh as when they were first bathed. This is the reason there is the need of foot-washing. Foot-washing brings us back to the condition of being bathed. Foot-washing brings us the freshness of life; it brings us new feelings, new strength, and spiritual revival. These are the things foot-washing brings us. Foot-washing not only cleanses a person but also refreshes him. After a man has his feet washed, he is