



# THE PHOENIX HERALD

PHOENIX MINISTRY

July 2018

**PHOENIX MINISTRY is an organization seeking to empower, educate, and serve anyone and everyone who wants to experience the love, grace, and power of Jesus Christ.**

## President's Corner

Happy PRIDE Everyone!

So many rainbows everywhere, it's like it's raining Skittles...gay Skittles! I love it!

Things at PHOENIX MINISTRY are really cooking! Our last study on "Who Is Jesus" was my favorite study since I started teaching 9 years ago! It was incredible! There was tingle-inducing joy in the air that just left us all invigorated and desiring to go even deeper!

As I referenced in my greeting, June was the month that we celebrated PRIDE! In our ministry, we put all of our effort into discovering how we can grow more intimately with God, and an important part of that journey is discovering God's great love for our unique self. We believe, also, that having a relationship with God is strongly connected to learning how much He loves and celebrates us. He wants us to learn how to love and celebrate ourselves and each other. PRIDE is a terrific month to engage in all of those concepts, and we were there for it!

In May and June, we also celebrated our wonderful moms and dads! I know that life can be tough as a parent and so I just want to take this opportunity and give a special shout out to those parents that love and accept their children for exactly who they are! We need more parents like you! You are heroes! You make so many things work when they shouldn't work. You make a way when there is no way! You stretch a dollar and constantly point out all the things your child does right when they are always their own worst critic. God bless you! We see you and all of your efforts and we appreciate you! God bless you all from our ministry's heart to yours! XOXO

Gratefully,

Gilbert Gonzalez Jr



Join Us For A Study Near You

### Southern California

1711 N. Van Ness Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 4:00pm**

### Northern California

32300 Almaden Blvd.  
Union City, CA 94587

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at 6:00pm**

**Wishing Everyone A Safe & Fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July.**

**As we get ready to celebrate America's 242<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, we hope that you will take an opportunity to reflect on all of the aspects that make America such a great country.**

**Despite our political differences, God has blessed us in so many ways. Let us never take for granted the many Constitutional rights we have and our service men and women who have devoted their lives fighting to preserve these rights.**

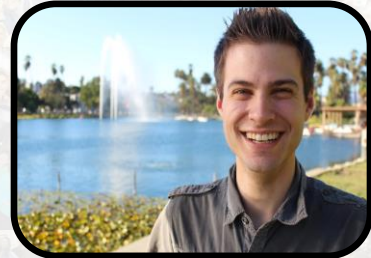
**We have so much to be grateful for and so many reasons to be proud Americans.**

*Welcome*

## A Note From The Editor

I can't believe half the year is already completed. Summer is officially here! Everyone's planning BBQ's, beach outings, going on vacations and spending time outdoors. Last month was also a very special season for me not only because I celebrated my 29<sup>th</sup> birthday, but also because it was PRIDE month. It has been a long road for me, but I can genuinely say that I feel so grateful, happy and proud to be part of such a resilient and brilliant community. In a world that politicizes who you are and who you love, your existence can be a beacon of light and hope for others. I hope everyone's PRIDE season was full of love, joy, acceptance, community, education, and solidarity. With each month, PHOENIX MINISTRY keeps growing bigger and better than ever. God is doing amazing things in the lives of our members and the ministry. I look forward to seeing what's in store for the rest of the summer and hopefully spending time with all of you at the next Bible study/event. Have a blessed summer season and remember God loves you so much.

- Matthew Lonn  
SoCal Event Coordinator



## Upcoming Studies

**SoCal-** July 7: God: The Faithful

**NorCal-** July 13: Who Is Jesus (Part 2)

- *To many, He was a Teacher. To some, He was a Prophet. To others, He was a shining example of a loving Man. However, to the Christian population, He is revered as Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe. Just who is Jesus? Where did He come from and what was His purpose here? Was/Is He really God? Was He a Savior? What did He Save His people from?*

**SoCal-** July 21: Topic TBD

**SoCal-** August 4: The Holy Spirit (Part 1)

**NorCal-** August 10: The Holy Spirit (Part 1)

**SoCal-** August 18: The Holy Spirit (Part 2)

**NorCal-** September 14: The Holy Spirit (Part 2)

- *"The Holy Spirit" or "The Holy Ghost" is often attributed to the triune identity of God, but Whom or What is it? Is it a person? A thing? An essence? So many of these questions stir in the believer's mind and for good reason. The trinity is hard to understand! No worries! We are here for you! Join us for an incredible journey into the identity of God. You don't want to miss understanding the unique and intimate relationship we have with this form of our divine Creator!*

**NorCal-** October 12: The Origin of our Enemy

- *In a war, it's always beneficial to know who and what you are up against. In this session, we will study exactly who we are up against to better defuse his attacks on our minds, our hearts, our circumstances, relationships, and our lives.*

**We want to hear what you would like to study. If you have a request, please reach out to Lawrence Lee: [secretary@phoenixministry.org](mailto:secretary@phoenixministry.org)**

## Events

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter was full of lots of exciting events at PHOENIX. In April, we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship over dinner at the Taste on Melrose.



We had the opportunity to participate in the Joyce Meyer Conference in Long Beach at the beginning of May. We completed our first hike as a group at Runyon Canyon to kick off the official start of summer and we also soaked up some fun in the sun with a pool party. We're not stopping here.



More fun social events are on the way. Be on the lookout out Facebook for upcoming events. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit a request for a future event, please email Matt Lonn:

[treasurer@phoenixministry.org](mailto:treasurer@phoenixministry.org)



# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL

***“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”***

***Exodus 20:12***

As Mother’s Day and Father’s Day come to a close this year, many of us are grateful we had the opportunity to treat our parents to breakfast in bed, stand by their side while they read a heartfelt card, or just accepted our phone call letting them know we were thinking of them while miles apart. It was special being able to show them they’re appreciated for all that they are and for all that they do.

However, for many of us, these are challenging holidays. Many of us in our communities are estranged from our parents. Many of the people who raised us are still not able to accept us for who we are and the way that we have turned out. In the battle to get them to accept us as God made us, we have ultimately had to go our separate ways for emotional, mental and spiritual survival. We have had to trust God to deal with them about our design. God still is dealing with them and it is a process that can often take a long time. God has to work against years of misguided teachings from the Church, culture, and society’s stereotypes and many are still so unwilling to be enlightened. I just want to encourage you by reminding you that it is a tremendously scary process for older people to learn new things; gain a fresh perspective and walk in new wisdom. I’d like to take this opportunity to comfort those of you who may be in this boat, with one of God’s promises.

***“Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.”***

***Psalms 27:10***

It is not the end. God is willing and able to adopt you as His very own and He will be the parent that you deserve but never had. A poor parental example is one of the strongest reasons it is so difficult for some of us to accept God as our own “Heavenly Father”. Many of us have been so hurt by our earthly fathers (or mothers) that we have no prior understanding on how to receive that kind of paternal love from God. This season, our prayer is that you will come to know God as the parent that He is with the unconditional love that He so endlessly gives. We ask that you pray this prayer with us in your alone time and ask for God to show Himself to you in this way at every ample opportunity. We promise you, He will and he is supremely eager to do so!

And to our treasured friends who are still coping with the loss of earthly parents, we stand with you and we offer our condolences. It doesn’t get easier, we know. It is true that we miss them every day and we remember the good times we had with them. We continue to grieve while life goes on without their smile, their humor, their perspective, their wisdom, and their company. However, I pray that you, too, would make the decision to press into Jesus more until the day comes that we will see your parents again. And what a glorious day that will be. Until that day comes, take with you the light and example that your parents gave you and share it with this hurting world. Many don’t know that love, and we need you help us prove that it exists. And to those of you that know God’s love, now is the time, more than ever, to let that love shine!

One of the things that makes us truly unique, is the work we put into our video productions. Every year, we create fun and exciting material to not only keep you encouraged in the things of God, but also entertained. We also like giving you the opportunity to get to know us in the process.

Log onto [www.youtube.com/phoenixministry](http://www.youtube.com/phoenixministry) and subscribe to our channel. We have sermons, devotionals, music videos, interview clips from our members, and so much more! Log on today, subscribe, and join us for the ride!

