



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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LORD'S DAY 28 JUNE 2009

## **The Result of the Believer's Confidence**

*By Rev Charles Spurgeon, A sermon delivered on Sunday Morning, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1859  
(Part 4 of 4 of "Faith in Perfection")*

It leads him to prayer. Out upon those men who have a confidence that helps them to live without prayer. There are men that live in this world who say we do not need evidences, we do not need prayer, we do not need good works. *"The Lord has appeared of old unto me, and said unto me, Thou art one of God's elect, an thou mayest live in sin, and do whatever thou pleasest, I will save thee at last."* Such characters I hope are getting rare. Alas! there are certain places of worship where such a religion as that is fostered, if it be not begotten. There are some ministers—I trust they hardly know what they are about—who by leaving out the doctrine of man's responsibility, naturally lead men into that guilty and abominable doctrine of Antinomianism which has done so much to injure the cause of Christ. Hear then, ye seed of the presumptuous, and ye that bear the whore's forehead, hear and tremble. The Lord hath not chosen you, neither has he cast your name into his lap. He has chosen no man who lives and dies presumptuously, trusting that he is chosen when he has no evidence of it. Do you live without prayer? Ah! soul; election hath nought to do with thee. What is intended by the doctrine of reprobation is far more likely to be thy lot than the glorious inheritance of election. Dost thou live in sin, that grace may abound! Every man's damnation is just, but thine shall be emphatically so. What! dost thou dare to palm thyself off as a child of God when thou art a brat of hell? Dost thou claim that thou art a heir of light, when the damning mark of Cain is on thy very forehead? What! when thou art like Balaam, presumptuous and abominable, dost thou dare still to claim a lot in the inheritance of the saints in light? Away with thy confidence; "Hail shall sweep away thy refuge of lies." The true-born child of God has a spot that is not like thy spot; he is of a different mould and make from thee. Thou art a deceiver—not the legitimate child of God.

Mark, my friends, in the text, that a genuine confidence in God does not lead us to give up prayer, but leads us to prayer. *"The Lord will perfect me."* Am I, therefore to say, "He will do it, and I will not pray?" No, because he will do it, therefore will I pray. Many persons have such shallow minds that they cannot perceive how God's determination and our own free action can go together. I never find these people making the same mistake in common life they do on religious subjects. A man says to me, "Now, sir, if God intends to save me, I need do nothing." He knows he is a fool when he says it; or if he does not know it, I will soon make him see it. Suppose he says, again, "If the Lord intends to feed me, he will feed me, and I will go without my dinner. If the Lord intends to give me a harvest, he will give me a harvest, and I shall not sow any wheat, and I shall not plough."

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Suppose another were to say, "If the Lord intends to keep me warm to-day, he will do it; so I will not put on my coat." Suppose a man should say, again, "If the Lord intends me to go to bed to-night, I shall go to bed; and, therefore, I shall not walk towards home, but sit here as long as I like." You smile at once, because the folly is self-convicting. But is it not just the same in religion? Because *"the Lord will perfect that which concerneth me,"* am I to say I shall not pray? Why, no, my dear friends, the fact is, that a knowledge that a thing is certain prompts a wise man to action. What made Oliver Cromwell fight so bravely, but because he felt convinced that he should conquer? He did not say, "I know that I shall conquer, therefore I will not fight;" no, he said, "I know that I shall conquer; therefore keep your powder dry, trust in God, and at 'em!" So with you; if you believe the Lord will perfect that which concerneth us, begin with prayer; trust the promise, and let us go on cheerfully through the world, rejoicing in the Lord our God. Confidence must not lead to idleness, but to diligent activity.

And now, note this prayer,—*"Forsake not the works of thine own hands."* The prayer is full of confession; it must be that, or else it is never true prayer. The Psalmist confesses, that if God did forsake him it would be all over with him, and this is a truth, brethren, that you and I ought ever to keep in mind. We sometimes pray that God will not forsake us in temptation; do you not know we should be as much lost if he were to forsake us in communion as if he were to forsake us in temptation. When God puts you on the pinnacle of the temple, you need say, "Lord, hold me up and I shall be safe; do not forsake me here." When you are down on the ground, if the Lord were to forsake you, there you would perish just as easily as on the pinnacle of the temple. I have known the Christian on his knees in the den of leopards, cry, "Lord, save me now," but do you know that he has as great a need of help when he is on the top of Pisgah? for he still wants to be kept. Every moment of our life we are on the brink of hell, and if the Lord should forsake us, we should certainly perish. Let him but withdraw the salt of his grace, and the proudest believer must be cast into the depths of hell, and fall, like Lucifer, never to rise again. Oh! let this always make us cry aloud, "Forsake us not, O God."

There is yet another confession in the text—the Psalmist's confession that all he has he has from God. *"Forsake not the works of thine own hands."* I will not however dwell upon it, but urge you who are believers, to go home and cry aloud to God in prayer. Let this be a new year's-day prayer. *"Forsake not the work of thine hands. Father, forsake not thy little child, lest he die by the hand of the enemy. Shepherd, forsake not thy lamb, lest the wolves devour him. Great husbandman, forsake not thy little plant, lest the frost should nip it, and it should be destroyed. Forsake me not, O Lord now, and when I am old and grey headed, O Lord, forsake me not. Forsake me not in my joys, lest I curse God. Forsake me not in my sorrows, lest I murmur against him. Forsake me not in the day of my repentance, lest I lose the hope of pardon, and fall into despair; and forsake me not in the day of my strongest faith, lest my faith degenerate into presumption, and so I perish by mine own hand."* Cry out to God, that he would not forsake you in your business, in your family; that he would not forsake you either upon your bed by night, or in your business by day. And may God grant, when you and I shall come to the end of this year, we may have a good tale to tell concerning the faithfulness of God in having answered our prayers, and having fulfilled his promise.

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I would now this day crave a part in your prayers. My dear friends, I am confident that God will perfect that which concerneth me. There has been a work done in this place, and God has blessed the congregation; but the work is not perfect yet. It is not enough to rouse other ministers to preach the word. I hope I shall never, while I live, cease to have another project always in hand. When one thing is done, we will do something else. If we have tried to make ministers more diligent in preaching, we must try to make the churches more earnest in praying. When we have built our new chapel, we must build something else; we must always have something in hand. If I have preached the Gospel in England, it must be my privilege to preach it across the sea yet; and when I have preached it there, I must solicit longer leave of absence that I may preach it in other countries, and act as a missionary throughout the nations. I am confident that God will perfect that which concerneth me; I rely on that. Do I therefore say that you need not pray? Oh, no. Pray that he would not forsake the work of his own hands. This work is not of our own hands. This labour of love is not mine, but God's. I have done nothing, except as the instrument; he has done it all. Oh, my dear friends, you that love me, as a brother in Christ, and as your pastor in the church, go home and plead with God for me this day and henceforth, that he would not forsake his work; but that the fire which has been kindled here may run along the ground, till all England shall be in a blaze with a revival of grace and godliness. Be not content to warm your hands at the sparks of this fire. Ask that the breath of God's Spirit may blow the sparks across the sea, that other lands may catch the flames, till the whole earth burning as a holocaust to heaven, shall be accepted as whole burnt offering before the throne of God Most High.

*"May the Lord bless you, and keep you, and cause his face to shine upon you and lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace,"* and unto the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, shall be glory for ever!

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## **Biblical references - The Suffering Servant**

*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

### **Old Testament pointing to the promised Messiah:**

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5-7, 11; Jeremiah 23:5-6

### **New Testament pointing to Jesus:**

Luke 22:25-32; John 1:29; Hebrews 10:19-23

Isaiah 52:13-15      Deuteronomy 18:18; John 1:14; John 17:4

Isaiah 53:1-3      John 1:11; Romans 10:16-17; Isaiah 11:1; Matthew 22:41-42

Isaiah 53:4-6      Matthew 8:16-17; Matthew 27:17-31; Matthew 9:35-36, 26:31-32

Isaiah 53:7-9      Matthew 26:62-63, 27:25-26, 57-60

Isaiah 53:10-12      Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Philippians 3:8-9; Mark 15:27-28; John 14:6

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Today: 28/06/2009</b>	<b>Next Week: 05/07/2009</b>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Tan Ah Soon & Jez and Mr Menaham to our worship services last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld George Chew	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	Travelogue - Smyrna	What is a Christian?	
<i>Text:</i>	Revelations 2:8-11	Acts 11:26	
<i>Organist:</i>	Grace	Anthony	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	John Poh	<b>NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld George Chew	Rev Timothy Ki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calling of Resident Minister:</b> Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for Rev Timothy Ki to serve as our resident minister. Rev Ki will be here in July. Pray for his visa application.</li> <li>• <b>No DHW Bible Study today:</b> Please spend the upcoming week preparing for Lesson 10 (Genesis 12).</li> <li>• <b>Prayer Meeting:</b> Please note that there will be a Prayer Meeting next Saturday, 4 July.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), those suffering from hay-fever</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are on travel:</b> Rev Timothy Ki + Wife (Australia/Korea to London), Sophia (Singapore), Nicolas (Belgium)</li> <li>• <b>School of Theology at Metropolitan Tabernacle – 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July:</b> The theme for this year programme is “Reviving the Lost Art of Evangelistic Proclamation”. Copies of the programme are available at the Book Table.</li> </ul>
<i>Message:</i>	Suffering Servant	What is a Christian?	
<i>Text:</i>	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	John 14:23	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Grace	
Other Duties			
	<b>Today: 28/06/2009</b>	<b>Next Week: 05/07/2009</b>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Anthony / Sharon	Daniel / Yetta	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Sharon	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Lee-Wei	Joshua	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 03 July	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Bible Study – Survey of the Old Testament	
Sat 04 July	4:00pm	<b>Prayer Meeting:</b> Led by Jonathan	
Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b> £360.62		<b>Lunch:</b> £38.00	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Greed and Life</u></h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 40px;"><i>Adapted from “In Green Pastures” by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 40px;">“It makes small difference what a man believes, what doctrines he holds: it is conduct that counts.” That is the way some people talk as they fling their flippant sneers at creeds. But it does matter what one believes. Wrong believing leads to wrong living. The heathen who worships a god that he conceives of as lustful, cruel, and unholy becomes himself lustful, cruel, and unholy. The Christian who worships a God who is revealed to him as holy, righteous, pure, and good, becomes himself holy, righteous, pure, and good. Thus beliefs shape the life. It is important, therefore, that we know the truths about the character and will of Christ, as our conception of Christ will print itself upon our life.</p>			