



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Vol. 15 No. 30

LORD’S DAY 24 JULY 2011

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 99:5	Psalm 31:1-4
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 8 – “Holy Holy Holy”	RHC 348 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 80	Colossians 3:1-25
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 80 verses 1-2, 17-19</i> (to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)	RHC 395 – “A Heart Like Thine”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 86 – “Safely Through Another Week”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 12:1-13	Exodus 20:1-17
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Controversies over Sabbath Day Keeping</i>	<i>The Fifth Commandment – Part 2</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 81 – “Lord of the Sabbath”	RHC 389 – “Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>Lord Dismiss Us (stanzas 1 & 4)</i>

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2011 – “Continue in the Word” – 2 Timothy 3:14

BIBLICAL PRAYER – PART 29

Truly, Peter's prayer for Tabitha was remarkable. I must commend Peter for his faith and also the people for their bold initiative to call for him in a desperate and hopeless situation. However, it is God who must be praised. He answered Peter's prayer and taught all of us that He is a prayer-hearing and answering God. By now, we all know that prayer is a means God uses for great works. Then, I must raise one more question. If we know how wonderfully prayer works for God's people, "do we pray?" Knowing is one thing and doing is another. Maybe the reason why we do not see God's mighty works in our lives and church is because we do not pray like Peter and believe like the people who called for Peter to come.

12. Cornelius prayed. Acts 10:2-4, "A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. ³ He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. ⁴ And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." There are a few interesting points we may need to consider. (1) On first glance at this passage, we cannot find any purpose or reason for his prayers. However, the Lord graciously showed His grace to him. We will study this matter a bit later. (2) According to verse 30, he was fasting while praying. (3) Whatever prayers he made to God, we must pay attention to the way that God answered his prayers, by which we may know the contents of his prayers.

We need to look into a few verses more carefully. Verses 5-6 say, "And now send men to Joppa, and call for *one* Simon, whose surname is Peter: ⁶ He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." Verses 21-22 say, "Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what *is* the cause wherefore ye are come? ²² And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee." Verses 31-35 say, "And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of *one* Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. ³³ Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. ³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 11:13-14 say, "And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; ¹⁴ Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."

All these verses give us clues that let us know the contents of his prayers. (a) It is more than likely that Cornelius prayed for salvation on that day. It is because God answered his prayers by telling him to invite Peter who could deliver the word of salvation to him and his household as in Acts 11:14. (b) He was a believer of God in Judaism, though he himself was a Gentile, a soldier for the Roman Empire. He did not and could not understand Jesus. Thus, Peter preached to them about Jesus in 10:36. (c) Cornelius did not pray to bring Peter, but for salvation. God answered him by letting him know of Peter and telling him to call for him. It is a beautiful case of prayer for salvation.

When we have unsaved loved ones, either we do not know how to share the message of Jesus with them, or we are not physically available to speak to them, we pray and God sends somebody to share the Gospel with them. Cornelius prayed for him and his family, and God graciously answered his prayers in the best possible way. Who could be a better person to preach Jesus to them than Peter? (d) His prayers must be sincere, not hypocritical. His sincerity was testified by his life.

(e) There is one unforgettable lesson we must learn about prayer and answers: (i) We pray, and God answers in His ways and in His time. God uses the Gospel of Jesus to save people. Cornelius was not an exception. God told him to invite Peter. I wonder what would have happened if he had refused to invite him. Cornelius needed both the preacher and the message. (ii) We must not forget that it was God who sent Peter to Cornelius. Peter could not understand God's will for the Gentiles, but the Spirit of God led and guided him through. His visit to a Gentile family was forbidden by the Jewish law. He was not supposed to sit with the Gentiles for meals. However, all those injunctions were removed and cancelled by the Lord Himself, and Peter was enabled to come and visit Cornelius. (iii) We must not ignore the time factor. Let me count the days in this event: first day-angel visited Cornelius and he sent two servants with a soldier to Peter (10:7-8), second day-they came to Joppa and met Peter (10:9) and rest there (10:23a), third day-they and Peter left Joppa (10:23b), and the fourth day-they entered into Caesarea (10:24). This simple calculation gives us a total of four days duration for the whole journey. This is the time duration taken for Cornelius to be able to see the realized answer of his prayers. It agrees to the record in 10:30a, "And said, Cornelius, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour." In this case, four days of delay was a part of the process of God's answer to Cornelius.

(4) All of these points lead us to see a bigger picture of God's providential work for His will and kingdom. In a small and personal scale, we see a picture of one man's prayer and God's gracious answer to it that brought precious salvation to him and his household. However, in a bigger picture, the answer to Cornelius' prayer was also the manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles. As the Jews experienced the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, Samaritans in Acts 8, now the Gentiles experienced the same manifestation in Acts 10, and it all began with Cornelius' prayer. He did not know that his prayer could bring such blessings to the Gentile world, but while he was faithful to God on a personal level, he was a vehicle God used for His grand work for His church. He could not possibly imagine that he could be the starter of all these wonderful works of God. He did not pray for it, but God used him for His providential work. We are small, and our prayers may be small and very personal and not so significant in other people's eyes. However, who could know that our prayers may open new doors for God's grandeur works for His glory? Who knows if it is your prayer that may be the starter of the fire in the hearts of men and women in our church and country and world?

(5) Cornelius' prayer was incessant and without ceasing. Acts 10:2 says that he prayed to God always. We find two precious lessons from it. (a) The Greek word for prayed in this verse carries an idea of begging. He put his heart in his prayer and longed for God's answer. Such a broken and poor spirit made him pray without ceasing. It is also true to us. When we think we are rich, we lose the spirit of poverty before God. (b) Cornelius was a devout man, which is also meant to be spiritual and godly. He could not but pray because he was a godly and spiritual man. His character and life led him to be a man of prayer.

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

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.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Fri 29 July	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship Bible Study on Philippians	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Bunmi & Tope Somefin and Jaimi to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 30 July	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Study on Shorter Catechism	
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES <u>TODAY: 24/07/2011</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: Daniel / Constance Sunday School: Joy Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Brian <u>NEXT WEEK: 30/07/2011</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Joy Ushers: John / Yetta Sunday School: Jonathan / Joy Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Lee Wei
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Mr Daniel Biddle	
Message	Ministry Despite Controversies	The Fire of the Lord	
Text	Matthew 12:14-21	1 Kings 18:38-39	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies on "The Doctrine of the Church." • Basic Bible Knowledge: Pastor Ki will lead the BBK course after lunch at the manse. • Saturday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Come and join us to pray and to study God's Word. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May Chew, Brian, Mrs Ki, Constance, Deborah Sherwood, Jonathan's father, Linda Teo. • Pray for those who are/will be on travel: Jia Yun, Justin, Waiyee, Matthew, Mrs Ki, Fung. • Pray for those seeking employment: Evelyn, Yetta. • Baptism of Tom & Elisabeth Tan: Saturday 13th August, 3pm, West Kilburn Baptist Church. Please see Pastor Ki for more information. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £572.11, Lunch: £39.10 Attendance - Morning: 30 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 12 (A)			MEMORY VERSE
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 82			Last Week
<p>Q: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?</p> <p><i>A: No mere man since the Fall is able, in <u>this</u> life, PERFECTLY to keep the commandments of God, but doth <u>daily</u> break them in thought, word, and deed.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> The Law of God being thus laid before us briefly in the Ten Commandments, the question arises – Is any person able to keep this Law. This answer declares to us that there is none. It says that every person breaks the Law daily in thought, word, and act. The only exceptions to this general rule are – Jesus Christ, Adam before the Fall, and the saints now in heaven.</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Ecclesiastes 7:20, Psalm 14:3</p>			<p><i>“Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;”</i></p> <p>Ephesians 1:16</p>
			This Week
			<p><i>“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him”</i></p> <p>Ephesians 1:17</p>
			Next Week
			<p><i>“he eyes of your understanding being enlightened ; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,”</i></p> <p>Ephesians 1:18</p>