



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. 19 No. 28

LORD’S DAY 12 JULY 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 31:23-24

Psalm 34:1-3

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 65 – “*And Can It Be That I Should Gain?*”

RHC 113 – “*It Is Glory Just to Walk with Him*”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119: 145-160

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 145-152
(to the tune of Cleansing Fountain, RHC 173)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 102 – “*O It Is Wonderful!*”

Scriptural Text

Colossians 4:1-6

John 17:5-6

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

The Christian in Society

Serving God while Serving Others

Lord's Supper

Dr Carl Martin

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 182 – “*Lead Me to Calvary*”

RHC 445 – “*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* 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 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adapted from Life BP Church Weekly - 10 May 2015

“I have been a Christian for years, but why am I not growing spiritually?” asked a long-time Christian. What is wrong with me? What is hindering me from my spiritual growth? Are there any “spiritual earthworms” hindering the growth of my plant of spirituality?

Spiritual growth begins when a person receives salvation in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit of God comes in to live in him (John 14:16, 17). He becomes a new creation in Christ. The old sinful nature begins to give way to the new (2 Corinthians 5:17). He begins to change from within and his nature is becoming more and more like Jesus as he strives for the purpose of godly living (Romans 8:29; 1 Timothy 4:7b). He is being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the power of the Holy Spirit in a daily process (2 Corinthians 3:18). He begins to suppress the works of the flesh and manifest the different aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:19-23).

Spiritual growth is a lifelong process. There is no instant spiritual development in God’s program. The irony is that some people who have been saved for years have grown very little, but others who have been saved for a couple of months have grown very much. Certainly time is a factor in spiritual development. But in some cases, the amount of time is not important because it is a commitment to the principles of growth that makes the difference. Simply put: At times spiritual development is not measured by the calendar.

Dearly beloved in Christ, do you feel like your faith is stunted? Perhaps, this is the message for you today. What I am going to share with you is nothing new under the sun but is fundamental to the Christian life. So please prayerfully examine your life as you read on.

False Salvation

As I said, spiritual growth begins when you become a Christian. So if you are not a Christian, there is nothing for you to begin with. Therefore, what you need to do is to check your own salvation (Romans 8:9). Have you acknowledged that you are a condemned sinner? Have you realized that you can’t save yourself and you need Jesus to be your Saviour to save you from sin, misery and eternal hell? (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

This is the first step that you need to take. You need to be sure of your salvation (2 Peter 1:10) before you can begin your journey with God.

Faith Grows through Acquaintanceship with God

Faith grows by means of knowing who God is. Do I know my God? How much do I know my God? Do I know God enough to put my life in His hand?

King David was a man who knows God. He knew God so well that God called him a man after His own heart who would do all His will (Acts 13:22). How did he know God so personally and intimately? The answer is found in Psalm 27:4 – *“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.”* He had only one desire in his heart – to be in the presence of God daily.

In another Psalm, he said, *“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee”* (Psalm 9:10). What is this *“name”* here? *“Name”* here refers to the character of God. The reason why David’s faith in God was so strong was that he knew God’s nature, character and the ways He operates.

Let me illustrate. There was a three-storey house on fire. There was a girl up in the upper room crying for help. People were trying to persuade her to jump into their arms but to no avail. Then the girl heard a familiar voice. It was her father. He shouted at her: Dear, daddy is here. Jump into my arms. Without a second thought, she jumped and safely handed on her father’s arms. She trusted her father because she knew him as her daddy. It was her faith in him that saved her.

What a faith David had in his God! This faith was the fruit of years of cultivation. Such faith did not happen just last night. This growth of faith came with much self-discipline. Every day at a certain time, he would be found communing with God. That was the secret of his growing faith.

Dearly beloved in Christ, do you desire a strong, growing faith like David? There is only one way – intimacy with God. The way to achieving it is by disciplining yourselves for the purpose of godly living (1 Timothy 4:7b).

Faith Grows by Means of the Word

When a baby is born, his immediate desire is mother’s milk. He will cry for it. He does not care where he is, he cries loudly for it when he is hungry. A new Christian is like this. He has a spiritual hunger. He longs for the pure spiritual milk – *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:1).

The Bible is one of the means of spiritual growth. The Word is the food that makes faith grow – *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). Faith grows by means of the Word. Spurgeon rightly said, *“The sight of the promises themselves is good for the eyes of faith: the more we study the words of grace, the more grace shall we derive from the words”* (C. H. Spurgeon: Faith’s Checkbook).

However, faith comes not just from hearing or reading the Word. We must take heed to what it says and make every effort to practice it. The feeding of the Word and the appropriating of God’s promises will result in a growing faith (2 Peter 1:5-7).

Dearly beloved in Christ, *it is utterly important and necessary to read the Word daily. There is no other nourishment or sustenance for our spiritual development than God’s Word (Matthew 4:4). Our faith grows in direct proportion to our knowledge of and commitment to the Word. Therefore, let the Word of God dwell deeply in our heart (Colossians 3:16) and let us cherish it more than our necessary food (Job 23:12).*

Faith Grows by Means of Sharing the Word

A young man desires to have a muscular body. So he bought many books on bodybuilding. Every day he spends hours reading and studying the techniques of developing a muscular body. But his body remains the same. Why? The reason is that he did not practice what he read. In the same way, a Christian may acquire much biblical knowledge in the passage of time and still remain weak in faith because he does not share with others what he has learned.

Paul was in the city of Thessalonica for three Sabbaths preaching the Gospel to the people. Many of them came to the Lord in the midst of persecution (1 Thessalonians 1:6). He had to leave them and fled to another city because of persecution (Acts 17:1-10).

Later Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to find out the spiritual condition of the saints. Having gone there, Timothy returned with a glorious report to Paul (1 Thessalonians 3:1-10). In his letter to them, Paul highly commended the growing faith of the Thessalonians. He said, *"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly"* (2 Thessalonians 1:3). The use of the Present Tense ("*grow*") speaks of a faith that is growing over and above measure.

What was the secret of the Thessalonian growth? The answer is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:8 where Paul wrote, *"For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything."* The faith of the Thessalonians was strong because every one of them was sharing his or her faith with the unsaved wherever God placed them.

Dearly beloved in Christ, evangelism is a means to strengthen our faith. The sharing of our faith causes us to grow strong spiritually. The more we share the more we affirm in our hearts what we believe and why we believe Jesus is the only way to salvation. Paul said, *"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God"* (1 Corinthians 15:15, 15). Faith grows through sharing the Word of God.

Faith Grows by Means of Trials

Trials of life are beneficial to the Christian. The Bible says every trial in the Christian life is ordained by God for spiritual development – *“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing”* (James 1:3, 4). That is why Peter said to the persecuted Christians in Asia Minor, *“... if need be”* (1 Peter 1:6b).

Trials of life are only for a season (1 Peter 1:6a). God’s purpose of sending them is to mould and shape us to be like Christ. And when His purpose is fulfilled, God would withdraw them for a season. But He would send them again when He sees fit to test us, for our faith does not only grow at all seasons of the year, but also in the winter of affliction.

That is why Peter told the suffering Christians not to be surprised by the fiery trials that are coming in order to test them, or to feel as though something strange is happening to them (1 Peter 4:12), but to count them all joy whenever they encounter various ordeals of life (James 1:2).

Dearly beloved in Christ, are you facing certain trials of life now? Do not be despair. God never sends them without purpose or plan. You and I have to go through a refining process in order to grow strong spiritually. And going through the crucible is of no joy but God’s Word encourages us to consider it all joy, knowing that the trying of our faith will make us more precious than gold that perishes (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7; Job 12:10). Let us submit ourselves wholly to God and commit the keeping of our souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:12, 19).

What is holding you back from growing spiritually? Perhaps your stunted growth is due to your failure to do what is required of you in the Christian life. Do take time to reflect.

Amen.

Rev Colin Wong

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
Thurs 16th July	7pm	Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Anne, Janita, Desiree and TJ to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 18th July	4pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>Study on the Life of Joseph</i>	
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 12/07/2015</u>
Message	The Risk for Christians in Society	The Stewardship of Truth	Chairman: John
Text	Colossians 4:5-6	John 17:6-8	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Keene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: This week, Dr Martin will continue with the study on "<i>Building Firm Foundations</i>". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew, John, Sharon, Toby, Ellie. • Pray for expecting mothers: Magdalene, Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Sarah, Matthew, Yangfan, Michael. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. • Church cleaning after lunch next Lord's Day. 			Ushers: Daniel / Tom
			Sunday School: Keene / Rachael
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott
			<u>NEXT WEEK: 19/07/2015</u>
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £582.15, Lunch: £28.00 Attendance - Morning: 23 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 13 (A) 2 (C)			Chairman: Jonathan
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: Daniel / Yetta
			Sunday School: Keene / Rachael
			Lunch: Volunteers
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: Scott

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 76 & 77

Q: Which is the Ninth Commandment?

A: The Ninth Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR..

Q: What is required in the Ninth Commandment?

A: The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

Scriptural Reference:

Exodus 20:16, Zechariah 8:16, Proverbs 14:5, Proverbs 14:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."</i></p> <p>John 10:11</p>	<p><i>"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."</i></p> <p>John 11:25</p>	<p><i>"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."</i></p> <p>John 10:9</p>