



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. 22 No. 47

LORD’S DAY 25 NOVEMBER 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 8	Isaiah 25:1
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 49 – “How Great Thou Art!”	RHC 16 – “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 133	---
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 133</i> (to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)	---
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	John Poh	John Poh
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 549 – “When We All Get to Heaven”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Joshua 3:1-7	Romans 7:13-25
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Mr Mok Chee Cheong	Mr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Faith in Action</i>	<i>Victory Through Jesus Christ Our Lord</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 442 – “Soldiers of Christ, Arise”	RHC 359 – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Mr Mok Chee Cheong	Mr Mok Chee Cheong
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</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.

WHEN GOD IS SILENT

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 18th November 2018

Have you ever felt like God was giving you a deaf ear to your prayers? You prayed and waited on Him, but there was complete silent from Him. And you wondered whether He ever heard you or lost interest in you. The feeling is unbearable.

A Christian confesses, "I've been going through a deep valley for some time now. God seems so distant, prayer seems to bounce off the ceiling, and there is no more motivation to read the Word and pray. My spiritual aspiration has come to a dead end."

Can this "Dark Night of the Soul" last for a long period of time? Is there anything wrong with me? No. This is a common phenomenon of the Christian life.

The phrase "The Dark Night of the Soul" was coined by St John of the Cross, a 16th Century Roman Catholic monk. The term expresses something many ordinary Christians experience, a feeling that prayer and Scripture have ceased to resonate and the spiritual life has become lifeless and purposeless.

So, what should we do when God is silent? Should we call a friend and ask for help? Should we do something or anything to find relief of such unbearable feeling? How would we deal with our low ebb of spirituality?

How to Respond to God's Silence

First, do not be discouraged. When God is silent, He has a purpose. God's silence is part of His training program for His children. One of the lessons you and I need to learn is to wait on God. We can't hurry Him because His time is not our time. He makes everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

When Jesus' brothers urged Him to go to Jerusalem to show off His power to the world, He said to them, "*My time has not yet come, but your time is always here*" (John 7:6, 8). And even His death is scheduled from eternity. John tells us that the people sought to kill Him in Jerusalem, but no one laid a hand on Him because His time had not yet come (John 7:30).

What a needed lesson for all of us! James Hudson Taylor rightly said, "It is not lost time to wait on God." Waiting on God is not a waste of time though waiting on God is a trying time. Therefore, let us not be disheartened when God seems to be silent despite our persistent call on Him.

Second, take the opportunity to examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5). One of the reasons why God is silent is because of sin in our lives. God hates sin. He is pure and holy. He cannot come into contact with sin (Habakkuk 1:13). The Psalmist says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*" (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1, 2). Therefore, you and I need to ask the Holy Spirit of God to search us thoroughly to make sure every sin is confessed and cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Psalm 139:23, 24; 1 John 1:9). May I encourage you to get right with God now! Do not procrastinate!

Third, take time to reflect on our relationship with God and men. Christianity is more than a religion. It is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus came to the wicked world to die for sinners so that they may be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). Jesus had come to restore that broken relationship and fellowship which Adam and Eve enjoyed while they were in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16, 17; 3). Have we been deepening our relationship with God since conversion? Have we been walking with God? Have we been enjoying His presence daily? Where is that joy of salvation?

We not only need to reflect on our relationship with God, but also on our relationship with others. There is only one way to know whether our relationship with other fellow Christians is good and pleasing to God. The way has to do with our personal relationship with God. The logic is simple. If our personal relationship with God is bad, then we cannot say that our relationship with fellow Christians is good. Jesus says, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”* (Matthew 22:37-40).

We are commanded to love God first and then love men. Our vertical relationship with God determines our horizontal relationship with men. Therefore, when God seems to be silent, we should not complain to Him or men but we should take time to reflect on our personal relationship with God and men. Such an exercise will do us good spiritually.

Fourth, read our Bible faithfully. When God is silent, what is He saying to us? I am not saying that God cannot speak to us through other means. He can speak to us by means of people, good and bad circumstances or events. But oftentimes God speaks to us through His Word. The Word reveals God’s wonderful will for our lives. Therefore, let us make every effort to read the Word prayerfully.

Fifth, continue to pray persistently. When God is silent, we must not stop talking to Him. Our God is a prayer-answering God. He hears every prayer and He answers every one of them. But it must be according to His will, purpose and time. Therefore, we must keep calling on Him because He is just a prayer away.

Sixth, accept the sovereignty of God. Despite all adverse circumstances, God is still on the throne. He is still in control of every circumstance and situation. We may not understand everything about His sovereignty but this is a clear teaching of the Holy Scripture (Psalm 115:3; Exodus 9:29; 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12). Therefore, let us learn to submit ourselves willingly to God who is our faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19).

Seventh, live life as per normal. No matter what the situation is, we should live a normal life and carry out our daily Christian duties faithfully. Do not try to outsmart God. Let Him lead and guide us (Psalm 32:8), and wait on Him patiently (Psalm 40:1-4).

Finally, have faith in God (Matthew 13:58; Mark 11:22). Hebrews tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith in God is dynamic, not static. Faith grows daily. There are occasions of faith. Therefore, let us seize every opportunity to exercise our faith and grow in it (James 1:2-8; 1 Peter 1:6, 7).

How should we respond to God’s silence? What should we do? When God is silent, He always has a reason. Therefore, our part is not to give up but to wait on Him. While waiting on Him, there are a number of things we can do, and I have given you some of them. Let me close with this poem.

I BELIEVE

I believe in the sun
even when it isn’t shining.
I believe in love
even when I am alone.
I believe in God
even when He is silent.

May God grant us such an attitude when He seems to be silent in the time of crises! Amen.

- Rev Colin Wong

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am** and **3.00 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
Sat 1 st Dec, 3pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
<i>Next Lord's Day</i>	<i>Morning Service</i> <i>Evening Service</i>	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr. Mok Chee Cheong Mr. Mok Chee Cheong	<u>TODAY: 25/11/2018</u>
<i>Message</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Chairman:</i> John
<i>Text</i>	TBC TBC	<i>Organist:</i> Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS		<i>Pianist:</i> Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No Sunday School today.</i> • <i>Church Pulpit Ministry:</i> Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. • <i>Pray for the forthcoming preachers:</i> Nov-Jan – Mr Mok Chee Cheong. • <i>Ladies Fellowship:</i> This will be held lunch today. 		<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret
		<i>Lunch:</i> Tan Family
		<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
		<i>PA Crew:</i> Jonathan / Venise
		<u>NEXT WEEK: 02/12/2018</u>
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £321.75; Lunch: £36.30; Maintenance Fund: £100.00 Attendance - Morning: 29 (A) 5 (C), Afternoon: 21 (A) 5 (C)		Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,530.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 39

Q: What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A: The duty which God requireth of man, is OBEDIENCE TO HIS REVEALED WILL.

Comments:

Having just learned what God has done, is doing, and means to do for us, we are now to be told what he requires us to do *for him*. What he requires of us is *obedience* to all that he reveals. This is our *duty*, or *what we ought to do*.

Scriptural Reference:

Ecclesiastes 12:13, Micah 6:8

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."</i> Romans 10:9	<i>"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."</i> Romans 10:10	<i>"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."</i> 1 Timothy 4:12