

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 4 October 2020*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

**Text: Mark 15:12-24**

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## “HAVE FAITH IN GOD”

### IMPORTANT LESSONS ABOUT FAITH

The Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples much about how to have faith in God. But they had difficulty in understanding Him. He did not fail to try and encourage them to exercise faith.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

## THE CURSING OF A FIG TREE

A special lesson of faith was recorded in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 15:12-24). The gist of the story is as follows:

1. The Lord and His disciples were on the way to Jerusalem
  - a) He would stay in Bethany
  - b) Possibly in the home of Lazarus and his sisters
  - c) He and His Disciples would make their way to Jerusalem in the day
  - d) In the evening they would make their way back
2. On one occasion
  - a) The Lord Jesus saw a barren fig tree
  - b) He said simply,  
"Let no one eat fruit from you again" Mark 11:14a
  - c) The Disciples heard what the Lord said
3. The next day
  - a) The Lord and His Disciples passed that way again
  - b) The tree that Jesus addressed was noted
  - c) The Disciples said  
"Rabbi, Look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."
  - d) They were astonished at the power of Lord
  - e) His simple words had such immense power!

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

4. The Lord Jesus uttered these simple but profound words to them  
*"Have faith in God.*

*For assuredly, I say to you,  
Whoever says to this mountain,  
'Be removed and be cast into the sea,'  
And does not doubt in his heart,  
But believes that those things he says will be done,  
He will have what he says.*

*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask  
When you pray, believe that you receive them,  
And you will have them.'"* Mark 11:22-24

- a) Have faith in God
  - i) Possess that faith
  - ii) Continue in that faith
- b) Praying in faith
  - i) Prayer is an expression of faith
  - ii) Asking in faith must be done without any doubt
  - iii) That faith will be honoured
  - iv) There will be answers to that prayer of faith

## OUR CHALLENGE

Let us determine to attempt the following:

1. Cultivate faith
2. Exercise faith in God as we pray
3. Deal with doubts effectively

May our faith deepen as we progress!

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*Write to me at:* [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WELCOME TO BETHANY

This is the first Sunday where we may have 100 people in attendance.  
May the Lord bless all who worship Him today,  
either physically or virtually!



## GRADUAL REOPENING (100 people in attendance)

1. Starting this Sunday, 4 October 2020  
We can have up to 100 people attending Worship at Bethany
2. Thank God for further easing
3. Let us continue to exercise good practice of:
  - a) Social distancing
  - b) Masking
  - c) Temperature taking

And all that is necessary to keep each other safe!



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## **Psalm 118:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup>Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!*

*For His mercy endures forever.*

*<sup>2</sup>Let Israel now say,*

*"His mercy endures forever."*

*<sup>3</sup>Let the house of Aaron now say,*

*"His mercy endures forever."*

*<sup>4</sup>Let those who fear the LORD now say,*

*"His mercy endures forever."*

### 1. Giving thanks to God

a) This should be natural

b) This should be practised diligently

### 2. A Call to give thanks to God

a) To Israel

b) To priests of the house of Aaron

c) To all who fear the LORD

### 3. Two special reasons for this call to give thanks

a) The mercy of the LORD

His mercy is truly enduring

b) The goodness of God

This is evidenced wonderfully!

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 4 October 2020**

***Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:3 Your faith grows exceedingly***

*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.*

1. Bound to give thanks

a) Paul wrote from his heart

b) He was moved by the growth of the Thessalonian Church

2. Two things were highlighted:

a) The faith of the Thessalonians had grown exceedingly

b) The love in their hearts had abounded much

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 11 October 2020**

***Text: Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith  
That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;  
that you, being rooted and grounded in love.***

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## HAVE FAITH IN GOD

It may be hard to grow our Faith but not impossible;  
The Lord Jesus kept seeking to teach His disciples.  
It was possible to cultivate a Faith that was effective;  
They must seek to possess a Faith that is not defective!

Prayer and Faith must be developed carefully;  
Both must be exercised most diligently.  
Prayer without Faith is expectedly ineffectual;  
Answers to prayers of Faith would be actual!

Our Faith in God is often taken for granted;  
We assume we have a Faith that's respected.  
The reality of our actual Faith may not be great;  
To cultivate a great Faith, we must never hesitate!

The power of Faith is unfathomable;  
The Apostles of Christ are an example.  
They had very insignificant beginnings;  
Through Faith they became outstanding!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Mark 11:1-24

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## **“Be Still and Know that I Am God”**

We face challenges at every stage of life;  
Life indeed seems so hard and full of strife.  
The problems of youth loom large when we were growing up;  
Only too pale in comparison when harsh afflictions, our lives disrupt.

Perhaps it is natural for us to fear;  
Just as we, on many occasions, succumb to tears.  
Very often, we get angry and want to retaliate;  
So often, we lose our way and our faith in God vacillates.

But “Be still and know that I am God”, we are told;  
God is in charge and knows what our futures hold.  
The Lord also added, “Is there anything too hard for Me?”;  
Why do we still fret and agonize unnecessarily?!

Let us be reminded of what God has done in the past;  
And rest assured He will always protect and provide for us.  
God knows we struggle and often find life tough;  
It is time to still our hearts and minds to experience His love.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Psalm 46:10; Jeremiah 32:27



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Perfect Our Faith

The Apostle Paul urged believers to perfect what is lacking in their faith;  
A lofty goal for Christians to consider and hopefully embrace;  
Although a tall order to plug the gap in faith;  
Try we must in return for the love Jesus gave.

To lay down His life for us is the ultimate love expression;  
Enduring excruciating pain and taunting humiliation;  
While carrying His cross on the way to His death at Calvary;  
Surely not too much to ask that we honour Him on bended knee.

With God's grace pray day and night;  
That we may be completely sanctified;  
As we abound more and more in our conviction;  
To choose His way in spite of afflictions.

Let us prepare ourselves and awaken each other;  
To watch and guard against spiritual adversaries which hover.  
So that God's work in us can be presented faultless in delight,  
To the Lord when He comes as a "thief in the night!"

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 3, 4, 5

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## THE PARABLE OF THE MINAS

Some thought that the Kingdom of God would come immediately,  
Jesus taught a parable to correct this wrong notion, skillfully.  
He spoke of a nobleman who was going on a long journey,  
This man entrusted each servant with some money.

The nobleman returned and called for his servants,  
Each one had to account for his performance.  
Each faithful one was commended and graciously rewarded,  
But the lazy one got his due and was reprimanded.

The Lord has given us responsibilities we must discharge,  
We are accountable to Him for what is under our charge.  
Each role we play in life is an area of responsibility,  
We must fulfill each role to the best of our ability.

The Lord expects much from each of His servant,  
Each servant must be responsible and diligent.  
Let us seek to be faithful and fruitful in every way,  
As we look forward to the Lord's return one day!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Luke 19:11-27

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Home Bible Study	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	7.30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor

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