

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 19 July 2026

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Peter 1

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THE GENUINENESS OF YOUR FAITH

THE TRIALS OF LIFE

There will be different kinds of trials that we may encounter. But at the end of the day, if we have a faith that is genuine, it would be able to withstand every trial of life.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have

MEDITATION

been grieved by various trials,

⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9

1. The Nature of Faith

- a) True faith even if it is initial would bring joy to the heart
- b) That is the nature of faith
- c) There is a special divine joy that is inexpressible and full of glory

2. Testing of Faith

- a) Faith will be tested by various trials
- b) Sometimes the Joy of Faith is eclipsed by the difficult trials of life
- c) But genuine faith will triumph over grief

3. Genuineness of Faith

- a) Faith that is tested proves that it is genuine
- b) Faith may even be tested by fire
- c) When it is tested it would prove that it is indeed genuine
- d) It would result in the praise, honour and glory of the Lord

LET US SEEK A GENUINE FAITH

- 1. Let us seek a genuine faith in God
- 2. May we find this genuine faith in the Lord

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be enlightened and encouraged through worship and fellowship!



CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 50+3 ANNIVERSARY

1. Date: 30 August 2026
2. Venue: Shangri La
3. A special Feature at Shangri La
 - a) Darrell Ou would be accepted as a Disciple-pastor
 - b) He would commence a three-year Discipleship training program
 - c) His application to be trained as a Disciple-pastor has been approved by the Church Session on 8 July 2026
4. Anniversary Lunch Registration
Do register as early as possible.
If there are any queries, please approach us at the Booth in the Fellowship Hall during Lunch.

To sign up for Anniversary Lunch, please scan the QR code.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 50+3 ANNIVERSARY: CHILDREN'S SPECIAL LUNCH PROGRAM

We will be having a special Lunch Program for our children as part of this year's 50+3 Anniversary celebrations.

Our children will have their own lunch menu and program in a separate room, taken care by our staff and volunteers.

Details:

Date: 30 August 2026, Sunday

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Azalea Rooms (2nd Floor)

Time: 12.15pm – 2.00pm

This is open to children **aged 5 to 12.**

Please contact Pastor Benjamin Quah (9752 3036) if you have any queries.

To register for your child(ren), scan the QR code for the **Children's Special Lunch Program.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program
 - a) Tuesday, 21 July 2026 | 9.30am- 11.30am
 - b) Thursday, 23 July 2026 | 9.30am- 11.30am
2. Saturday, 25 July 2026
 - a) YPG/ YAG | 2.00pm
 - b) Youth Worship | 3.15pm
3. Sunday Ministry, 26 July 2026
 - a) Sunday School | 8.30am
 - b) Morning Worship Service | 10.30am
 - c) Chinese Worship Service | 10.30am
 - d) Children's Worship I and II | 10.30am
 - e) Crèche I and II | 10.30am
 - f) Catechism Class | 1.30pm



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Breakfast: David & Marianne

Lunch: Baoling, Edwin & Titus Koh; Rachel & Kevin Low



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 26:11-12

¹¹ But as for me, I will walk in my integrity;
Redeem me and be merciful to me.

¹² My foot stands in an even place;
In the congregations I will bless the LORD.

1. Redemption from God
 - a) It comes from mercy of God
 - b) It results in the Integrity of the true believer
2. Ramifications of Redemption
 - a) There is a desire to worship the Lord
 - b) The truly redeemed will walk in an even place

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 19 July 2026

Text: “Because you have wholly followed the LORD”

Joshua 14:9

So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ Joshua 14:9

1. Moses’ promise was given to faithful Caleb
2. The latter had proven he could follow the Lord with his whole heart
3. The land he chooses would be given to him and his descendants
4. There is every reason to faithfully follow the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY: 26 July 2026

Text: “The LORD kept me alive” Joshua 14:10

And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. Joshua 14:10

TESTIMONY

MY TESTIMONY OF FAITH AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE FULL-TIME MINISTRY

Introduction: A Debtor to Grace

Dear Brethren,

My name is Darrell and I would like to share my testimony of faith and consideration for the Full-Time Ministry in Bethany.

I know I am but a debtor to the sovereign grace of God. My deep desire is to be a new creation that seeks the Lord with all my heart, never stopping in my pursuit to equip myself, grow, and learn as a lifelong disciple of the Lord Jesus.

I. From the Wilderness of Sin to Ground Zero

Following my recent reaffirmation testimony, I found myself pridefully looking back at my life, essentially patting myself on the back for the sinful past I had “endured”. I fell into the worldly trap of treating my history as a unique redemption story, falsely believing it gave me special advantage in my faith. This was a dangerous deception. Human backgrounds are not credentials to boast in; they are simply human offerings and opinions.

If the Apostle Paul counted all his human gains as loss, I must recognise that I cannot count any of my past weaknesses as my strength. I

TESTIMONY

have absolutely nothing of value to offer from the flesh. I must be totally dependent on the new life given to me by God, as Philippians 3:7-8 declares: "What things were gain to me, I have counted loss for Christ." We must be brought to ground zero, resting in Ephesians 2:8-10 that we are His workmanship, created anew for His purposes, and in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." I only wish to gratefully declare the great mercies of God, my King, who alone has the sovereign prerogative to pardon.

2. Deep Cleansing, True Mourning, and the Fear of God

I previously assumed that a few emotional nights of crying out to God automatically meant my relationship with Him was fully restored, forgetting that only God has the sovereign prerogative to declare a person restored. Confronting Psalm 51 has forced me to feel the unworthiness I had blindly moved past. There can be no shifting of blame to my circumstances or my past. My need for constant forgiveness will never change and can only come from God. Like a leper, the build-up of my past sinful self requires a thorough, daily purging.

I carry a real, trembling fear of losing the Holy Spirit, which is why I pray daily with the gravity of Psalm 51:11: "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." I must return to genuine mourning over my sins and cannot jump prematurely to lofty goals. I must persistently plead for mercy based entirely on who God is, holding onto Isaiah 1:18: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." I am far from fully restored and must plead for this cleansing every single day.

TESTIMONY

3. Following the Lord Jesus: A Disciple for Life

The heart of what I am seeking to enter is not a role or a title. It is to follow the Lord Jesus. When He said "Follow Me" in Matthew 4:19, the disciples did not hesitate; they left everything and followed. That call, and that immediate response, is what has been on my heart day and night for over a year and a half.

I do not come with special abilities or a compelling story to offer as a credential. I come as one who was shown mercy, who can only respond with one thing: the desire to follow the Lord Jesus and to learn at His feet. I do not yet know how to follow well; I am barely beginning. But I pray that God would allow me to follow, that He would awaken my ear morning by morning as Isaiah 50:4 describes, and that He would be the one to do the work of growth and transformation while I remain faithful to simply keep following.

4. Expressions of Divine Love: God's Word and His Church

I want to serve God not as one with a dramatic story to boast in, but as a full expression of divine love through an unwavering devotion to the Scriptures and a deep commitment to His church. Personal stories do not save; only God's Word has the power to make a genuine difference in a human life. When I was deeply lost, the only thing that sustained me was holding tightly to Scripture. The comfort of Jeremiah 29:11-13, knowing the Lord's thoughts toward me were of peace, was what kept me turning from sin toward God.

This divine love must also express itself in love for the church. At

TESTIMONY

the very start of my return, I did not even dare to pray, knowing how unworthy I was. Yet the family of God opened their hearts to a stranger, never judging me, but allowing me to worship and learn alongside them. I want to persevere and equip myself so I can give back all the love I have received, serving the body of Christ with a heart that is gentle, open, and contrite.

A Broken and Contrite Spirit as I Enter

As I pray and reflect on entering full-time ministry, I enter with no confidence of my own. I cannot rewrite my own heart or force spiritual fruitfulness through human willpower. My prayer is the definitive cry of Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

I have nothing of my own to bring, no strengths to boast in, no wisdom to rely on. I enter this calling with a broken and contrite spirit, trusting that the Lord will not despise it (Psalm 51:17). I am relying entirely on the Lord Jesus as my Redeemer and Teacher, keeping Him central at all times, striving to be a disciple for life. Echoing Romans 12:1-2, by the mercies of God, I present my body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, transformed by the renewing of my mind. I ask that the Lord alone create this work in me as I serve His church with a broken and contrite spirit, for the rest of my days.

POETRY CORNER

1

GENUINENESS OF FAITH

A Faith that is genuine is recognizable easily;
There would be a Divine Joy that is full of glory.
Faith in God contains a true love for the Lord Jesus;
A genuine faith results in a life marked by righteousness.

Various trials of life may threaten this Faith in God;
Joy may be eclipsed and diminish our Joy in the Lord.
But genuine Faith will be triumphant despite being tested;
A true Faith in God will never be totally defeated!

Genuine Faith is not afraid of trials that are fiery;
There will be power from God to strengthen the weary.
Genuine Faith will find itself renewed and empowered;
The believer finds the divine Joy that is graciously offered.

Genuine faith is sometimes confused with mere knowledge;
A theoretical knowledge of God offers little advantage.
A genuine Faith is glorious and life-transforming;
Many are the blessings of God that are life-enriching!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:6-9

POETRY CORNER

2

OUR FAITH

Christians are often challenged about our beliefs;
We may even be mocked beyond reprieve.
We need to be clear about what and why we believe;
To defend and control the narrative of the salvation we have received.

Nothing can erase the reality of blessings from God's provision;
Nor negate the experience of having received His protection.
Our pastors painstakingly preach lessons from the word of the Lord;
Our faith is established and increases by hearing the word of God.

Yet rest does not come to those who hear His truths but do not receive;
Real peace is the reward only for those who trust and believe.
A Christian's faith is not mistaken when his character crystallizes for all to see;
He becomes a living testimony of one who, from sin, has been set free.

It is an additional blessing to have a faith community;
Our Bethany brethren who pray and support one another in difficulty.
Our faith is built on the core of God Himself, His word, and His witnesses at
Bethany;
May our faith continue to be strong and resolute, and grow steadily.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Deuteronomy 1:30-32; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:2

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Handbell Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Lai Chung Han

PRAYER

HYMNS

HWC 52 | O God, Our Help In Ages Past
VIP 576 | He Will Carry You

MESSAGE

"Do not fear them" | Numbers 14:1-10
Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 479 | Onward Christian Soldiers

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

HWC 52 O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST ISAAC WATTS

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!
2. Under the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guide while life shall last,
And our eternal Home.



HYMNS

VIP 576 HE WILL CARRY YOU

SCOTT WESLEY BROWN

There is no problem too big God cannot solve it,
There is no mountain too tall He cannot move it.
There is no storm too dark God cannot calm it,
There is no sorrow too deep He cannot soothe it.

If He carried the weight of the world upon His shoulders,
I know, my brother, that He will carry you.
If He carried the weight of the world upon His shoulders,
I know, my sister, that He will carry you.

He said, "Come unto Me, all who are weary,
And I will give you rest."

There is no problem too big God cannot solve it,
There is no mountain too tall He cannot move it.
There is no storm too dark God cannot calm it,
There is no sorrow too deep He cannot soothe it.

If He carried the weight of the world upon His shoulders,
I know, my brother, that He will carry you.
If He carried the weight of the world upon His shoulders,
I know, my sister, that He will carry you.
He will carry you. He will carry you.



HYMNS

HWC 479 ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS SABINE BARING-GOULD

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus going on before:
Christ the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see His banners go.

Refrain

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus going on before.

2. Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Christians, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Refrain

3. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Refrain

4. Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honour unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages we with angels sing.

Refrain



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