

5 Jan 2020

2020 Year Theme:
Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

Worship Theme: Can God Set A Table in the Wilderness?

Today's scripture texts: Psa 78:23-29,14; Ex 16:2-4, 9-15; Psa 78:19

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet. He could not hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff.

So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that somebody passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something. "HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? Help!" He yelled for hours, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice.

"Jack. Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes, I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"Yes, but...who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean GOD?"

"That's Me."

"God, please help me! I promise--If You'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's just get you down from there, and then we can talk."

Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything You say, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said to let go of the branch. Just trust Me and let go."

There was a long silence. Finally, Jack yelled, "HELP! HELP! Is there anyone else up there?"

Sounds like us sometimes, doesn't it? We say we want to serve the Lord and know His will, then when He tells us what He wants us to do, we often balk at what the Lord is doing. This was Israel's problem. They were called out of Egypt to follow the Lord by faith. However, they seemed to constantly doubt the power, the promises and the presence of God as they travelled. The entire attitude of their hearts is summed up in the 2-word question that they voice, "Can God?" When they asked this question, they were doubting everything about the Lord. They needed a lesson in trust.



5 Jan (Sun)
8.00 am & 11.00 am
 Preacher: Basil Chong
 Psalm 78:19
6.00 pm
 Preacher: Patrick Ong
 Romans 15:13

5 Jan 2020 (Sun)
 1.30 - 3.30 pm
 Focus Day 2020
 Ordered packet lunch provided

6 - 17 Jan (SIBI Class)
 Mon - Fri
9.00 am - 3.30 pm
 Study on the book of Isaiah
 Teacher: Ong Chong Fatt

8 Jan (Wed)
7.30 pm
 Wed Bible Class
 Study on the book of Ecclesiastes
 Lead Teacher: Vincent Lim
 Chinese Worship Hall

The Most Important Habit for 2020 by Bobby Harrington



I like New Year resolutions. About 60% of Americans will join with me and make them over the next few days as we head into 2020. Here is the most important one that you can make: read the Bible daily.

It is the single biggest predictor of your spiritual growth in 2020.

This fact has been demonstrated by lots of studies, and it is taught by the Word of God itself.

Dr. John Farquhar Plake may be the world's leading expert on Bible engagement and spiritual growth. He has studied all the research on spiritual formation available through the massive studies by Reveal (Willow Creek), LifeWay, and every other major organization. And then, recently, as part of his work for the American Bible study, he reviewed a comprehensive survey of 600,000 churchgoing adults and Christian university students. In a recent conversation, he told me it all points to the same conclusion.

Plake summarizes it this way: *an individual's relationship with the Bible is the single most powerful predictor of his or her overall spiritual health.*

That is important information as you make your New Year resolutions. Every experienced church leader that I know would concur. But, most importantly, this is also what the Word of God itself teaches us.

The apostle Paul tells us that faith comes from exposure to God's Word in Romans 10:14-17:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? . . . Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.

D.L. Moody describes how faith develops this way:

"I prayed for Faith, and thought that some day Faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But Faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans. . . I had closed my Bible, and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible, and began to study, and Faith has been growing ever since."

This same principle is taught in Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isaiah 55:10-12 describes the effect of God's Word in poetic language:

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

Notice that impact of God's Word? It does not return empty, it achieves what God desires and his purposes . . . and it causes people to go out in joy and peace.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 sums up the role of God's Word in our lives this way:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

One more point for emphasis. There are many priorities as you consider your New Year resolutions. Lots of people will be talking about losing weight and physical workouts. But what is more important than your spiritual life? The apostle Paul puts it starkly for us in 1 Timothy 4:8:

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

So as you make New Year resolutions, make your spiritual growth your top priority. And when you do that, make a plan to be in the Word of God daily.

Here are three good resources with daily Bible reading plans:

<https://blog.youversion.com/2011/05/the-top-5-reading-plans-from-the-bible-app-and-youversion-com/>

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

Weed The Worry Out of Your Life

By John Morgan



**BE STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS**
JOSHUA 1:9

The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but the message is crowded by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced." Mark 4:18-19

I love to garden. Weeding—not so much. However, weeding is an essential part of gardening. Weeds grow right next to my tomatoes or flowers, and if left alone, will eventually cause destruction. Weeds hinder the growth of what is good in a garden. Unchecked, They will keep a garden from being fruitful.

Jesus said that the seeds of truth He plants in our hearts get crowded out by worries, as well as by our desire for wealth or our desire for more stuff. I can say I don't desire wealth, but the fact is, I wish we had a little more. Not a lot, you understand.

Just a bit more.

Further, in a random hour of almost any day, I probably have a dozen worries flit through my brain. I don't consciously decide to worry; in fact, I try not to. But still, the cares of this life march right on through: How will we manage to pay for college? Will my husband find a new job? Are my kids on the right track? Did I say the wrong thing to a friend?

Will I meet the deadline for this project?

Jesus is the only one who can give me the fruitful life I long for. I cannot get it by trying harder, but rather by opening my life to Him, letting Him eradicate the weeds of worry and covetousness, while cultivating contentment and trust. Ironically, the way to cultivate contentment is to simply stop trying so hard.

Trust grows when we surrender to Jesus.

Faith Step: What unhealthy worries and desires for stuff or wealth are crowding out growth in your life? Are you willing to let God pull those weeds from your life?

5 January 2020



UPCOMING EVENTS

SING is held every **Saturday** afternoon at 2-4 pm at the church auditorium. Contact: Terilee or Dennis Law. SING will take a break for the month of December.

Prayer Warriors (PW) is held every **2nd & 4th Monday** of each month. Contact: Lim Lian Chye

3 New Bible Classes starting 12 Jan (Sun)

1. Sec 1 Mentoring Class (by Terry Wan)
2. P6 Apologetics Class (by Catherine Ng-Leow & Rosie)
3. Foundation Class (by Foo Yong Wee)

19 Jan (Sun)

GEMS Hour
10:45am - 12.15 pm

8 Feb (Sat)

Elders' CNY Open House
10 am - 4 pm

27 Mar (Fri)

Ladies' Day

28 Mar - 2 May

Parenting Workshop

FEEDBACK on Church Matters



<http://bit.ly/2WjVL8x>

FAMILY NEWS & CONCERNS

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



Stella Kweok - Thanks to PP leaders for serving the Lord. Thanks to Bro Chew Chong Lin who had subsidized the youth camp's fees for many years. Both youth & visitors have benefited from it and souls have been saved.

Rosalind Lee - Benjamin Thia (Andrea's husband) and his family on the passing of his grandfather.

David Dass - My new house in India. Thank God for His blessings in 2019. Thanks PPCOC.

Winston Chong - Pray for my mother's health and well being as she recovers from a fall over the Christmas holidays.

Kweok family - Pray for travel mercy for Joel as he travels to London, Canada & New York. Please protect and keep him safe in your hands.

Nikko Mayor - Pray for everyone to start the new year healthy and happy. Those who are suffering may be healed and every brother and sister to grow more spiritually. I pray for guidance, wisdom and strength from God that I can use for my new job in 2020. I know I can surpass this new challenge only with His presence and guidance.

Soo Lang - Pray for my mother's health and salvation. Pray for a good and reliable domestic helper. Thank God for 2019 and His blessings.

Jieme Liong (Cassandra's friend) - Please pray that God will continue to provide wisdom to enable me to work together with my new colleagues and be able to pass all the Pharmaceutical audits and MBA program.

5 January 2020

GEMS Celebration on 29 Dec.

GEMS Ministry wishes to thank all children and parents for their participation at last Sunday's Year End Celebration.

We also want to thank our Teachers for their untiring efforts in teaching our children the precious Word of God.

If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please see Sis Wai Leng or Rosalind Lee.



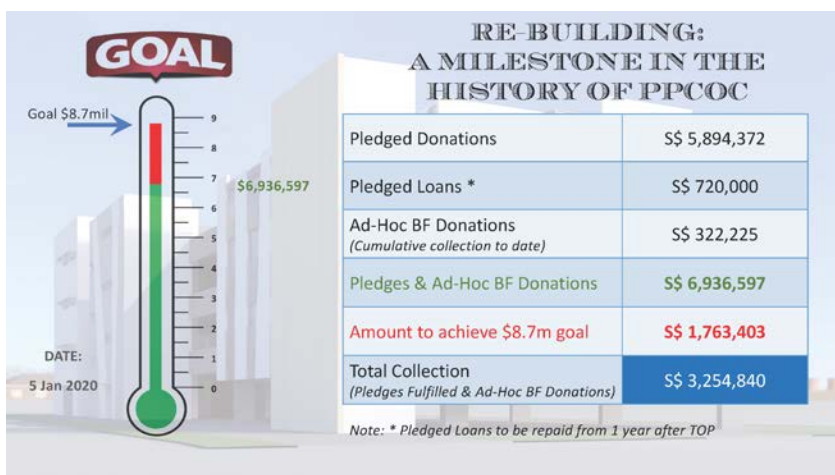
LAST SUNDAY

FACTS — FIGURES

8AM 9.30AM 11AM 6PM

126 180 192 39

GF \$ 10,240



Send this FOCUS QR Code to an absent member



<https://bit.ly/2rxopUz>

Pledge & Building Fund Committee
Peter Lim
Jim Kawi
Grace Mariaraja

Elders
Simon Goh
Peter Lim
Lim Swee Aun
Ooi Boo Chye
Terry Wan

Deacons
Dennis Law
Lim Kok Hin
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Go to Internet browser link <http://welcome.ppcoc.org> via the Church WIFI to record your attendance