

## "Practical Christian Living"

WHEN You Don't Feel Like PRAYING,  
Then, You **SHOULD TRY**  
"The Lord's Prayer"



If we are honest, we must admit that much of our time is spent pretending. But when we turn to God in PRAYER, we must present our REAL selves, candidly acknowledging our strengths and weaknesses and our total dependence on HIM. Dr Billy Graham once said about PRAYER, he said HEAVEN is full of answers to PRAYER for which no one ever bothered to ask. Cameron V. Thompson in his book "Master Secrets of Prayer" has to say "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from Praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we PRAY!. Beloved, just walk in the House of Prayer every Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.00pm to see the number of prayer warriors and intercessors, you can't help but agree both Dr. Billy Graham & Cameron V. Thompson. Time to wake up my beloved brethren, when you do not attend the House of Prayer it is not Pastor David Kerk is sad but rather you have fallen into deception of our evil one, satan for this.

Let's revisit the Lord's Prayer taken from Matthew 6:9-13. Actually, that which we call "The Lord's Prayer" is really not the Lord's prayer. It is a model prayer that our Lord gave to his disciples. It is a blueprint for us to follow. It is a guideline that should give direction to our personal and public prayer life.

All communications with God begin with Prayer and because this communication is importance, satan will try to disrupt it. This is why we need to pray correctly. The Lord's Prayer is centered on:

1. Focus on Our Relationship With HIM - Matthew 6:9-10
2. Focus on Our Physical, Psychological & Spiritual Needs - Matthew 6:11-12
3. Focus on Ourselves - Matthew 6:13

### 1. Our RELATIONSHIP With HIM - Matthew 6:9-10

Matthew 6:9-10. The **FIRST** word of the Lord's Prayer.. "OUR" determines the very nature of the Christian Faith. This shift the focus from me to our FATHER in Heaven.

The **SECOND** word of the Lord's Prayer... "FATHER" is the most common term used when addressing GOD for this pattern set by our Lord Jesus. Prayer should always begin with the recognition that GOD is our FATHER.

The phrase "Father In Heaven" indicates where GOD is. Before we can pray effectively, we must be convinced who GOD is and where is GOD. means the prayer should first focus on GOD and NOT on our selves. Jesus wants us to focus on GOD who is Heaven, where there is NO shortage, NO restrains and unaffected by the limitations of the world.

The next phrase "Hallowed Be Your Name" means to give GOD the

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recognition He deserves, to acknowledge His superiority, and to treat HIM with admiration and respect. Some Christians think of Prayer as a means to obtain things from GOD. Prayer is a communication system through which GOD is able to reach deep into our spirits. And impress upon us His superiority, His power and His Love. "I will do whatever you ask in my NAME" says our Lord Jesus. And why? "so that the son may bring glory to the FATHER". God's NAME stands for who HE IS - His mercy, His Compassion, His Love, His Power, His Eternity and so on. When, as God's children, we contemplate all that His NAME stands for, and reverence HIM for what HE IS.

Matthew 6:10 - Your Kingdom Come : Jesus, after making clear that prayer should first focus on God's Character, shows that next is the establishing of God's Kingdom. The Kingdom of God, unlike earthly kingdoms, is destined to success. But we not forget that there exists the kingdom of satan where the prince of darkness rules. The Almighty has given us a weapon with which to fight, that is the most powerful in all armories of the heaven. That weapon is PRAYER and as citizens of God's kingdom, we are entitled and enabled to PRAY." Thy Kingdom come!"

Your will be done, on earth as it is heaven: God demands total obedience and His will for mankind. When we obey completely the will of men, we find NOTHING but BONDAGE. But when we obey completely the WILL of GOD, we find nothing BUT FREEDOM - perfect or total freedom. Whenever we pray, we are to pray in accordance with God's will. Our Lord Jesus knew, as we all do, that IF we are to become effective in Prayer, then we MUST face up to the question: Whose Will Comes FIRST - mine or God's ? I must be willing to say 'GOD Do What You WANT and NOT what I Want!'

Next week's Sunday Times, I will continue the remaining two sections of "The Lord's Prayer" Be sure you get a copy of this week's Sunday times and keep this Lord's Prayer between the pages of your Bible. Be a wise disciple of Christ, come into His House of Prayer to Pray in unison with our brethren. You Please God's Heart and experience He granting you the desires of your heart. Make a date with our Lord every Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Put aside all the other dates whether it is to your loved one or your work or afternoon siesta.

Glad To Be In the  
HOUSE of PRAYER

Bro Roland Seah

## OUR COLLECTIONS

Mark 12:43-44; Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Dec 2009 Collection:	\$14,166.90
Jan 2010 Collection up to 24 Jan 2010:	\$15,648.40
Church Building Fund:	\$30,080.00

If you are making out a cheque, kindly mark  
"Church of Sengkang Ltd".

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## Church of Sengkang

Is called by God to be *welcoming* and  
*prayerful* community filled with and  
led by the *HOLY SPIRIT*

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICE TIME:

31st January 2010

10.30am to 12.30pm

# 2010 Bible Camp

I AM BRO JUSTYN LIM

a disciple of Christ and I am going to the 1st Bible  
Camp 2010, from March 14 to 17.

Can I be a disciple of Christ?

- What does it mean to make Jesus our Sovereign Lord?



Part of being a disciple of Christ is stewardship and repentance. If God is sovereign, He owns everything. If God owns everything, we own nothing. We don't so much as own the bodies we possess. The Bible says, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1:18-19).

We don't have ownership rights but we have management responsibilities. This basic realisation is the foundation for Christian stewardship. Good stewardship is the wise management of God's property (ourselves, our health, our money, our time, etc.), including how we invest it as His steward.

## God knows best! God knows everything!

He loves us as children (adopted into the family through Christ) and has set principles for us to live by in His Word, the Bible. We must follow God's principles. They are for our own protection. We live in a hostile world that has wilfully rejected its Creator God, and we, as His children, are not immune to the world's trials, tribulations and temptations. Once we learn this hard lesson, and we outgrow the childish notion that we know better than God, then it's easier to submit to Him repent our sins.



We all want a Saviour. We need to give Him the place in our lives that He deserves and requires, and repent of our old ways. We must be born-again. We all have a choice. We can either live our life the way we please, obeying God and disobeying God as we feel is best, or we can recognize that Christ alone offers salvation. Christ alone offers a relationship with God. Christ alone offers significance and purpose to life that we can never achieve by

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our own wisdom or might - a significance and purpose the world cannot offer. Trust in Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation, and trust that He is truly worthy of first place in your life.

Let's not miss this opportunity to grow closer to our Sovereign Lord! If you have NOT sign up for this Bible Camp, I urge you to do soonest for we are in for a FUN-FILLED and CHRIST-CENTERED BIBLE CAMP this coming March 14-17.

Please contact Bro Justyn Lim @ 98304456 Sis Vanessa @ 90023361 Sis Sandy Tan @ 81891058

This afternoon, WE Are Getting

## Water Baptised



Wang Chao



Don Ng Kwee Siah



Hu Xiao Xia



Trina Tan Pei Jun

In obedience to our Lord's Command, we are taking the physical act of water baptism at Punggol Beach. It is our outward demonstration of the inward reality that have taken place in our lives. We have willingly accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. We are grateful to the Leadership for their guidance in teaching us the doctrine of Salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ. Come and share our joy in witnessing our obedience to our Lord's Command.

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3:2:1 LITTLE Fruit - From Little To More/Abundant Harvest - Pruning  
3:2:2 PRUNING : Our Conduct With Others- To Shape & Mould Our Character

3:3 **Third Key:** You ABIDE In HIM, HE ABIDES In You  
We Are Chastened To Deal With Our Sins & Pruned To Mould Our Character

3:3:1 John 15:4-5 : You Abide In HIM, HE Abides In You - Bear MUCH Fruit

3:3:2 ABIDING : Our Relationship With HIM - To Bear MUCH/a Lot of Fruit.

3:3:3 Psalm 27:4 - Close Relationship Is Devoted (NOT devotional) Time with HIM

3:3:4 Brother Lawrence: Devoted Time With HIM is Whole Day Attentiveness to His Presence

3:3:5 GREATER Result : Abide MORE, Doing LESS

### Reflection on this Message:

God wants all of us to be FRUITFUL (read John 15:1-5). In order we become FRUITFUL, God often begin by DISCIPLINING or Chastening us first. Then He uses the cutting instrument to PRUNE us further until we DIE to ourselves and our "dead works" and totally SURRENDER our life to HIM. Jesus had said that we CANNOT "bear FRUIT unless we ABIDE in HIM"

The percentage is a generalization of what we retain.  
Understanding and Remembering are better when we make notes.

## Watz Up!

You Will Be Treated With Many TREATs from our Lord!

**TREAT No: 1** Lunar New Year Reunion Dinner - All Are Welcome. If you are coming for the steamboat dinner next Sunday, 07/02/10 from 6pm to 9pm, please inform your LG leader for food preparation and sitting arrangements. We need a lot of helpers. Please see bro Roy Tan or Pastor David Kerk.

**TREAT No: 2** Visit Me at My Home - Yes, Come & taste my baked cookies, pineapple tarts, kueh bangkit. If you allow us to visit your home, please inform your LG leader to facilitate proper co-ordination.

**TREAT No. 3** Limited Vacancies Left - Our 1st Annual Bible Camp at Celestial Ubin Resort. From March 14 to 17, We are in a blessed time with our Lord and brethren.

**TREAT No. 4** Limited to Ten Trippers ONLY. Church of Cabugao, Philippines, has invited us for a 8 days mission cum spiritual retreat from May 10 - 18, 2010 with 2 nights stay at the mountain resort of Bugaio. Please register with Pastor David Kerk.

**TREAT No. 5** One Time SPECIAL Hong Bao Thanksgiving Offering on 07/02/10 & 14/02/10. You are Honored by our Lord to be invited in participating in this SPECIAL Thanksgiving Offering. Come with a cheerful heart by way of One Time Gift to our Lord. Many of us have been BLESSED by HIM.

**TREAT No. 6** The LG Ministry Is Looking for a meeting place in Sengkang/Punggol. Your home can be a blessing to many brethren. Please call Pastor David Kerk

## Today's Sermon

**Name of Speaker:** Rev Canon Dr James Wong

**Title of Message :** The Fruitful Christian Life

**Scripture Text: John 15:1-8**

*I AM the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser*

### Introduction

When the olive trees grow old, their branches no longer produce fruit, so the farmer cut off those branches, leaving a stump several feet wide and tall. Soon new shoots began to grow out of the old stump, and new branches are sometimes grafted into the old stump. Jesus in John 15:1 identifies Himself with the tree, Jesus reveals about God's Relationship to the tree with the Father as the vinedresser who tends the tree. God, the vinedresser produces good fruit, will cut the tree and throw those barren branches into the fire.

### Main Points:

#### 1. Our ROLE in Bearing FRUIT - John 15:1

Jesus told His disciples that God wants ALL His disciples to be Fruit-Bearing. Read John 15:5

We can learn 3 things from this Parable of the TrueVine with a heavenly meaning.

- 1:1 John 15:1a - Jesus is the VINE , the trunk is most important and not the branches
- 1:2 John 15:1b - God, the Father looks after the Vine to Produce FRUIT
- 1:3 John 15:5b - We are the Branches where FRUIT will Grow

#### 2. WHAT is the Fruit? - John 15: 2, 5; Titus 3:14 & Galatians 5:22

Generally, we regard FRUIT as:

- 2:1 Soul-Winning : Number of People we lead to Christ
- 2:2 Good Works : Titus 3:14 - meeting the urgent needs of others; Psalm 1:3 bringing fruit each season
- 2:3 Glorify God In Our:
  - 2:3:1 Thoughts & Actions : Matthew 5:16 let your good deeds shine out for all to see
  - 2:3:2 Christian Character : Galatians 5:22 FRUIT of the Spirit
- 2:4 Different Levels of Fruit-Yielding (Parable of the Soil)
  - 2:4:1 NO Fruit or very little Fruit : John 15:2a HE cuts off every branch that doesn't bear Fruit
  - 2:4:2 Bear SOME Fruit : John 15:2b HE PRUNES these branches so....
  - 2:4:3 MORE Fruit : John 15:2c HE PRUNES..... so they will Produce even MORE
  - 2:4:4 MUCH Fruit : John 15:5 REMAIN in ME.... Produce MUCH fruit.

#### 3. KEYS to Fruitfulness - John 15:2-5

Jesus reveals 3 important keys to a FRUITFUL Life

- 3:1 **First Key:** HE DISCIPLINES So We Can Be Fruitful - Little Fruit  
John 15:2-3 : From A Barren To A FRUITFUL Branch - Take Up, Lift Up
  - 3:1:1 Hebrews 12:5-6: NO Fruit-HE Uses Painful measures To Bring Us To Repentance.
  - 3:1:2 DISCIPLINES : Our Sins Within Us - HE Chastises Out of Love & We Can Be Fruitful
- 3:2 **Second Key:** HE PRUNES So We Can Have Good Christian Character - More Fruit  
John 15:2b Grapes' tendency to Grow so vigorously, a lot of wood must be cut off each year.

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