

MIRACLE SERVICE REPORT

OCTOBER 31, 2015
REPORTED BY SARAH KOH

In an intriguing message entitled **Is The Bible True?** Pastor Rony set out to show that the Bible is about real people and events and contains candid accounts written about them.

As Christians, we all know that the Bible is God's Word. Scriptures have it that holy men of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote the truth as revealed to them. God does not mince His words or have favorites. He would reveal both the strengths and weaknesses and also the positive traits and downright sins of His people.

For instance, King Saul and King David, recorded in the Old Testament, were both chosen by God. But the difference between them was that King Saul did not make it. When he sinned against God, he refused to repent and turn to Him. King David was not a perfect king too. But every time he sinned terribly, he repented and reconciled with God. So God says in His Word that King David is a man after His own heart. A heart that is not hardened before God is a heart that pleases Him.

Two other examples in the New Testament are the disciples of Jesus, namely Judas and Peter. Judas betrayed Christ and Peter denied knowing Him thrice. Judas hardened his heart, refused to repent and headed for destruction. But Peter realized his folly, repented and was restored. So repentance is essential to keep your heart tenderized and teachable before God. The Bible tells us frankly and truly that none of God's people was perfect, but those who followed Him to the end persevered and trusted Him despite their flaws. The Bible is all about truth. Truths are stubborn facts that cannot change. When you feast on the Bible, you will be amazed how candid God is, revealing even the greatest mistakes of His people. And yet when they realized, repented and returned to God, He freely forgave and embraced them again. This is the sheer grace of God!

When Jesus walked on this earth 2,000 years ago, He said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." He came to die for the sins of humanity as Savior of the world. He specifically told the disciples that the chief priests would arrest Him to be crucified on the Cross. And on the third day, He would rise again. Did the disciples believe that Jesus would rise again alive? Let us see what the Bible says.

Mark 16:1-20 prove the point that the Bible can withstand close scrutiny. The Word of God speaks of nothing but the truth, which is relevant even till today. Here in this passage, we find that Jesus was already crucified, died but rose again and not yet ascended to the Father. The disciples had witnessed the death of Jesus on the Cross. He was put in a tomb and a large stone rolled to cover it. The women who followed Jesus grieved His death and brought spices to anoint His body in the tomb. This clearly shows that they did not believe He rose from the dead and is alive. However, they were alarmed to see the tomb stone rolled away and an angel clothed in white sitting at the entrance. He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

The women fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. They did not mention anything to anyone. Actually, they were supposed to tell Peter and the other disciples but they did not.

Perhaps they were afraid to tell because Peter and the other disciples would not believe them. All these do not look good on Jesus' disciples, yet the Bible tells it as it is. The truth of the matter was that they did not believe! There was an air of unbelief amongst the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead though He told them about His resurrection.

Interestingly, the first person Jesus appeared to was Mary Magdalene, an outcast woman whom He had delivered from seven demons. Consider this woman, whom society despised, had the honor of seeing the risen Christ. Likewise, you don't need to feel unworthy when you come to Jesus and believe Him.

She went and told the disciples who were still mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe her. After that, Jesus appeared to two other disciples as they were walking. They also reported to the rest, but none of them believed either. So far no disciple believed that Jesus rose again. Is it not true that the Bible speaks the absolute truth? If it was engineered by Christians to their own favor, would they write all that to their own embarrassment? Of course not!

Later Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples as they sat at the table. He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. Although repentant when they were chided by Jesus, they seemed like a bunch of failures. But yet the risen Lord graciously gave them hope and sent them into the world to preach the Gospel to all creation. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate signs, as promised in verse 17. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but those who do not believe will be condemned.

After Christ had spoken to them, He ascended to Heaven and sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples vibrantly went out and preached everywhere and the Lord worked with them through His Spirit and confirmed His Word by signs and wonders. Hence, multitudes received the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we have read the entire passage, it is evident that the Word of God is all about truth. The Gospel is indeed good news to those who repent and turn to God. Jesus Christ is the only One Who rose victoriously and never to die again. And because He lives, believers of Christ have hope to live eternally.

Tonight, the truth of God's Word quickened many hearts to believe and receive Christ. There were others who were wonderfully healed and delivered. Here are some of their healing experiences:

Florence Loh experienced a breakthrough. She suffered **lower back pain** for a while. For a few weeks, the pain persisted. Before coming to the Miracle Service, she tried to bend over but was unable to do so. Tonight, after prayer, she could bend over with no pain at all. She demonstrated her healing and gladly gave God praise!

Tan Kuay Hoi had a **growth in her bladder**. Due to this, she could not clear her bladder fully and had to suffer intermittent urination. It was discovered that the growth was the size of a 10-cent coin. She came to the Miracle Service to pray as well as garnered prayer support from her cell group. Yesterday, after a checkup, it was found that the growth had disappeared and there was only a slight infection. She thanked God for answering prayers.

Brenda Lee shared a belated testimony. In 2013, she **suffered excruciating pain in her hip**. She consulted a doctor and was given painkillers. But she stopped taking it after a week and decided to trust God for healing. After praying at the Miracle Service, the pain left her. Tonight, she was reminded about that healing and gave God the glory. Also, there were crescent-shaped **flashes of light which caused irritation to her left eye**. She was afraid to see the doctor and be told to go for surgery. So Brenda decided to pray every week at the service and trusted God for healing. Praise God the eye irritation and flashes were gone for good. Hallelujah!

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE REALITY OF GOD'S WORD!

lighters' link
NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Next Sunday
Encounters With God Series
Part 4
Burning Bush
By Pastor Pacer Tan

POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY

By Pastor Rony Tan

Position always comes with responsibilities. The higher the position, the greater will be the responsibilities. This is true not only in our society, but also in the spiritual Kingdom of God.

There is a growing delusion among certain Christians that their position in Christ has exempted them from making any effort to continue in the narrow way and grow in the Lord.

Today's scriptural passage will be taken from Romans chapter 8.



Messages in CDs and DVDs may be ordered at the counter.

JESUS SAID, "REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND."



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Today's Pre-Service Upperlight Prayer Items

1 Thursday Upperlight – Our Weekly Corporate Meeting

- Greater empowerment upon Pastor Rony and prayer leaders
- Greater fervency and participation from Lighters

2 Holiday Season

- Time for family bonding, meaningful activities and relaxation
- To spend more time on God's Word and witnessing to loved ones

November 19 Thursday Upperlight Prayer Items

- Miracle Service
- Healing Of Persistent Cough And Influenza
- Sunday Services And Weekdays' Activities
- Empowerment To Live In Purity
- Overcome Grief And Disappointment
- Blue-collar Workers

WORSHIP NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 8.00PM
LEW MULTI-PURPOSE HALL

Jesus promises us that He is in our midst when two or three gather in His Name. Jesus also calls us all to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. There is not telling what can happen when we gather as a church under the banner of Jesus Christ, with no other agenda but to worship Him and give Him glory. Imagine the fullness of His presence, and how we will encounter Him like never before.

So we invite you to gather at **8.00 pm** on **Friday, November 27**, at the **LEW Multi-Purpose Hall** for a night of worship like no other, for a night of encounter like no other, because the One Who is like no other is calling us to worship.

This is a night for everyone to meet with Jesus, so take the opportunity to invite your pre-believing friends and family!

AN EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK
FIRM FOUNDATION

WRITTEN BY PASTOR RONY TAN

STEPS TOWARD FAITH

When you hear, believe and receive the Word of God into your heart, God will supernaturally impart His faith to you. With faith, make the necessary application and something wonderful will happen.

Ephesians 2:8 says that faith is *"not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."* So, you see, it is a supernatural impartation from God.

Some people say that whenever you sit on a chair, you are exercising faith. Well, that's not true. At least, it is not Bible faith. Sitting on a chair doesn't require the kind of faith that we are talking about. But believing for the impossible requires Bible faith.

When you desire to consistently generate faith in your life, keep hearing, keep believing, keep receiving and keep applying the Word of God. These are the steps toward an ever-increasing faith for life, conduct and fruitfulness.

ACTION PLAN

1. Determine to develop a balanced faith life.
2. Begin categorizing Scripture under different aspects of life.
3. Spend time studying and meditating on them.
4. Begin applying God's principles.
5. Review, adjust and improve your learning experiences and process of faith.

The 5th step is very crucial. If your spark plug fails to connect and you miss it, don't get discouraged and don't give up. Wait upon the Lord and find out what's wrong. Reapply the Word again by staking your claims on God's promises. Be patient and live through each day by the fact that you are already in possession of what you have asked for. That is faith in action.

Faith hears the inaudible.
Faith speaks the unutterable.
Faith sees the invisible.
Faith believes the incredible.
Faith touches the intangible.
Faith receives the impossible.
Faith reaches the unattainable.

People say, "Love conquers all." I believe that faith conquers all. Before love can conquer, we need faith to love so deeply and so passionately so that it will conquer all.

1 John 5:4
For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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WHY OUR ATTITUDE MATTERS

BY DR. MICHAEL YOUSSEF

Have you ever suffered from a bad attitude — not just a short-term bad mood, but an all-encompassing negative view on life? When we neglect our relationship with Christ, our thoughts become influenced by our sinful human nature instead of being guided by the Holy Spirit. When we forget to draw on God's power to lead our hearts, we quickly succumb to bad attitudes. We become impatient and selfish. We whine when things do not go our way. We become dissatisfied with where God has placed us. We grumble against God's will for our lives. We complain about other believers and our spiritual leaders.

How quickly we forget the joy of our salvation. When we accepted Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit gave us overwhelming joy. Do you remember that feeling the day you became a Christian? Were you so overwhelmed with gratitude for God's love and mercy that you wanted to shout to the world what God had done for you? That bliss was never meant to be a one-time gift. God wants us to experience His joy every day for the rest of our lives. While our joy will never completely disappear, we must work to keep it strong.

At the core of our joy is our relationship with Christ and our obedience to Him. When our joy begins slipping and we begin to grumble against God, it is a sure sign that we are trying to do things our own way. We are no longer drawing on God's power, but are trying to rely on our own strength. As we drift further from Christ, joy decreases and misery increases.

A bad attitude is a significant enough problem when it affects our personal walk with Christ and steals our joy. But a far greater consequence of our grumbling is the effect it has on the nonbeliever. When we allow our bad attitudes to eclipse our joy, we not only hurt ourselves

but our testimony for Christ. Who would be attracted to the Christian faith when Christians are miserable, complaining, and bitter? Why would someone want to come to a church when its members bicker, gossip, and backbite against each other?

Who would you rather be: the person who spreads misery or the person who spreads joy? As Christians we have a serious responsibility to witness for Christ. "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Our negative testimony could have eternal consequences for someone who is searching for the Truth. We may think we are containing our grumbling and murmuring to ourselves, but the attitude of our hearts will show in how we treat others, the things we say, and in our actions. When we forget our joy, our testimony is no longer about the glory of Christ but about our own misery.

How do we live as positive testimonies for Christ? We show our faith through our conduct, the way we live, our obedience to Christ and in the joy that our relationship with our Creator brings us. As we follow Christ each day, we manifest the fruit of the Spirit and radiate our eternal joy. When we are walking in obedience to Him, He will continuously pour His power into our lives. The world will see the power of the Resurrection in us as we are transformed more and more each day in Christ-likeness. When His power is fully at work in us, our joy will be infectious, and others will want to know Jesus.

The apostle Paul told the Philippians, "Do everything

without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing" (Philippians 2:14-16).

When we are experiencing full joy, we cannot help but let that show outwardly to everyone around us. When we face trials and crises, we can continue forward in confidence and with joy, knowing Christ is with us. When we experience great successes, we can rejoice in the blessings that God has given us. Our gratitude and thanksgiving will overflow and show the world we worship a truly amazing and sovereign God.

The world is always watching us. Whether we want to be or not, all Christians are living testimonies who represent our Christ to the world. What will they see in you? A miserable, joyless faith? Or the light of Christ that brings unspeakable joy?



SWORDLIGHT 2016

Part 1

THE HISTORY AND THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

The History and the Prophets of Israel (Part 1) is a continuation of where we stopped in our study on the Life of Moses in 2013. We completed our study then on the Book of Deuteronomy. This module will commence with The Book of Joshua leading us to 2 Samuel. It covers the period from the entry into the Promised Land to the close of King David's rule of the United Kingdom of Israel.

The Prophetic books will be studied alongside the history of Israel. Oftentimes, it is a daunting task to unravel the context of these Prophetic books. However, once the historical and political settings are made clear, their messages will be understood.

Classes will be conducted on Monday at 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm. Registration form is available at the counter. On completion of the form, please drop it into the form-collection box. The church office will notify you of the class details in due course.

What our students say:

It has been eight years since I started Bible class. It has enlightened me in many ways. It has drawn me closer to God in relationship and in understanding of His love, grace, mercy and faithfulness. This has helped me walk right with Him.

Serene Lam

Indeed, my understanding of God's Word is much better during this second cycle of Swordlight Class.

Wati Gosal

I began to live a life not dwelling on the former things; not unduly affected by negative emotions but flowing with the purpose of God. Attending six years of Swordlight has changed me tremendously.

Iris Gan