

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 4 September 2022 ... Holy Communion Sunday

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Luke 22:31-34

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“SATAN HAS ASKED FOR YOU”

A SOBERING DISCLOSURE

The Lord Jesus spoke to Peter and warned him that Satan has targeted him. This conversation was recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

Luke 22:31-34

1. A word of warning to Peter

a) The Lord Jesus expressed great concern

i) This is seen in how He addressed Peter

ii) The Lord called him, "Simon, Simon"

b) Peter had two names

i) "Simon" was the name given at birth.

It represented his natural self.

ii) "Peter" was the name given by the Lord Jesus

It means "rock." It suggested potential strength.

2. What was the Lord's concern?

a) That Satan had asked permission to put Peter to the test

b) That the Devil would sift him as wheat is sifted

3. However, Peter did not show concern at all

a) He felt strong and confident

b) He and his fellow-disciples had cast out demons before

c) He was unafraid and took no precautions

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

THE DOWNFALL OF MANY BELIEVERS

Many believers falter and fail because they do not take heed of the many dangers that can confront them. If we were to be sifted like wheat, would we be able to hold fast to our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

The new series of Pulpit Messages would look into the matter of how we can cultivate a strong and significant faith! May the Lord strengthen us!

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 all our hearts be encouraged and strengthened!



MID-AUTUMN CAKES FOR SENIORS

The Mid-Autumn Cakes for Seniors will be given out today.
This is our way of specially remembering our Seniors!



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Zara and Sherman, on the home-calling of Zara's grandfather. The late Mr. David Ho passed away on 29 August 2022.
He was 95 years old.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Pastor Charles Tan will be ministering with Pastor Christopher Lai in Bethel this week (5-12 September 2022). Ministry in Perth includes the following:

1. ACM | Monday, 5 September 2022
2. 28th Anniversary Service | Friday, 9 September 2022
3. Pulpit Ministry | Sunday, 11 September 2022



MINISTRY THIS COMING WEEK

1. Special Seniors Program

Tuesday, 6 September 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

Thursday, 8 September 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

2. Saturday, 10 September 2022

Catechism Class | 1.00pm

Fellowship Group Meetings (YPG 1-3; YAG 1-2)

There will be no Fellowship Group Meetings this Saturday

Youth Worship | 3.15pm

3. Sunday, 11 September 2022

All Sunday School Departments | 8.30am

Morning Worship Service | 10.00am

Chinese Worship Service | 10.00am

Children's Worship | 10.00am

Crèche | 10.00am



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 122:6 - 7

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces."

1. Peace and Prosperity
 - a) These were prayed for by those who loved Jerusalem
 - b) These are things that are still prayed for today
2. Prayer amidst the fear of the ravages and cruelty of war
 - a) War was a real problem faced in the days of the Psalmist
 - b) Prayer is a necessity that we must recognize

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 4 September 2022

Text: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for"

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

1. Faith is based
 - a) On the Lord and His word
 - b) On our trust in Him
2. Faith is also concrete
 - a) Though the things hoped for are not seen
 - b) They are still very real

NEXT SUNDAY: 11 September 2022

Text: "By faith we understand" Hebrews 11:3

*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so
that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

Hebrews 11:3

POETRY CORNER

#1

UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK

Spiritual warfare is a grim reality;
Many do not take heed seriously.
Confidence in Self would be our undoing;
Satan is both wicked and very cunning!

He will sift believers most vigorously;
He has no sense of basic decency.
He will attack with relentless zeal;
He would never easily yield.

The Lord has given us a full set of armour;
We need to don each piece with ardour.
We must find the strength to do combat;
The Evil One knows just where to attack!

Let us take heed to our weaknesses;
We need to seek the Lord in earnest.
We need not fall when attacked;
With divine strength we can fight back!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Luke 22:31-34; Ephesians 6:10-18

POETRY CORNER

2

Oneness In the Same Body Of Christ

Acknowledging the depth of God's grace starts with humility,
It was through grace that we can understand without futility.
In grace the mystery of Christ was revealed through the Spirit,
And the Scriptures speak of the promises in Christ that we inherit.

Indeed, we are truly fellow heirs and of the same body of Christ,
And we partake in His promise, given when Christ sacrificed.
What a wonderful truth that we need to cherish wholeheartedly,
This invitation to His kingdom, must not be tossed away carelessly!

This knowledge of the oneness in Christ must be called into action,
It is wholesome, there is perfect assimilation, there is no rejection.
We must thus deeply appreciate and greatly honour this oneness,
Blessed be our thoughts, our ways, and our deeds in all goodness!

Dr. Tan Kok-Yang
Inspiration: Ephesians 3: 5-8

POETRY CORNER

3

SEEKING STRENGTH FROM GOD

The demands of work and life can be heavy,
They can make us feel worn out and weary.
These struggles help us see our weaknesses,
We need strength to cope with challenges.

We must turn to God and this is needful,
He is our Creator and He is truly powerful!
The greatness of His might is immeasurable,
To sustain the universe, He alone is able.

Strength from Him, we are to humbly seek,
Trusting that He will help us who are weak.
We pray and wait on the Lord with patience,
He will grant strength; this is His assurance.

Strength from God is to be sought each day,
He promises to add strength along the way.
We need not feel faint even amidst troubles,
We can rise above and soar like an eagle.

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Isaiah 40:28-31

POETRY CORNER

4

A Thorn in the Flesh

Growing up, we are protected by our families;
Life is good as we are still young and healthy.
Finances to meet living expenses are not our worry;
It is easy to give to God all the praise and glory.

But life will never be a perpetual bed of roses;
For as many as there are gains in life, there certainly will be losses.
Sometimes God puts a thorn in our flesh for a purpose;
Shall bitterness and disdain then dominate our focus?

Life's challenges and failures will be ubiquitous;
It takes wisdom to understand and accept our own weaknesses.
To be able to reconcile the paradox of strength in weakness is courageous;
Only courage derived from God can be so surreal and gracious.

May God's presence and His provision be with us always;
May the Lord's power protect us from harm's way.
Know that His promise of sufficiency to sustain us is lifelong;
And we can always say "For when I am weak, then I am strong".

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

POETRY CORNER

5

Jesus is all we need

The Lord gives us thorns in our flesh to keep us from being conceited
They serve to remind us of the futility of our desire at self sufficiency
Let not our egos rule the roost and be unwisely self-exalted
May we find the heavenly path to spiritual greatness through childlike humility

God empowers us when facing trouble and afflictions in our lives
Through His strength we are able to overcome pain and misery
We may be further enlightened to look beyond and see His divine purposes
Bestowed with heaven's blessings is to experience the power of
Christ and His glory

Jesus invites us to turn to Him when we are weary
“Take my yoke upon you for My yoke is easy and My burden is light”
How comforting to know that He sustains us entirely
He will not abandon and will be with us in might

Whatever our circumstances know that the Lord does not forsake the weak
He extends His grace and mercy to help us when we are in need
Let us submit to Him, our refuge and strength in whom we seek
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ is all we need

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; Matthew 18:1-4, 11:30

POETRY CORNER

6

WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG

Lessons of strength are taught to us all weekly,
Yet weakness continues to remain a harsh reality.
How do we reconcile the relationship between the two?
Does the promise of strength to overcome weakness hold true?

Assuredly, God's promise is not undermined by weakness physical,
For such has been wisely allowed for one to cultivate strength spiritual.
Though prayers seem unanswered — prayers for the easing of suffering,
God is really doing a work in us — a work of character and faith refining.

“My strength is made perfect in weakness” — a paradox truly profound,
Amidst distress, faith must be exercised, seeking grace which abounds.
These difficulties remind one of the need to rely on God's grace,
Regardless of one's intellect, or the importance of one's place.

Learning about strength does not mean weakness is eliminated,
Rather, it is amidst weakness that the power of Christ is exalted.
Truly strong is he who candidly admits to physical weakness,
Who for sustenance humbly relies on God's grace, divine and limitless.

Stanley Woo
Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 12

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev Mark Tan

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 331 | Be Thou my Vision

CP 339 | Higher Ground

MESSAGE

“O you of little faith” | Text: Matthew 6

Rev Dr Charles Tan

HOLY COMMUNION

1. The Bread

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

Matthew 26:26

2. The Cup

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:27-28

HYMN

CP 266 | Break Thou the Bread of Life

PRAYER OF BLESSING

HYMN

CP 316 | Have Faith in God

POSTLUDE

HYMNS

CP 331 BE THOU MY VISION

ELEANOR H. HULL

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



HYMNS

CP 339 HIGHER GROUND

JOHNSON OATMAN, JR

1. I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain

Lord, lift me up and let me stand, by faith on heaven's tableland;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

2. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
my prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

Refrain

3. I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

Refrain

4. I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

Refrain



HYMNS

CP 266 BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

ST. 1-2 MARY A.LATHBURY, ST. 3-4 ALEXANDER GROVES

1. Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord,
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word.
2. Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my All in all.
3. Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
Thy Holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live with Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.
4. O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
And in Thy Book revealed I see Thee, Lord.



HYMNS

CP 316 HAVE FAITH IN GOD

B.B. MCKINNEY

1. Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely,
He sees and knows all the way you have trod;
Never alone are the least of His children;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

Refrain

Have faith in God, He's on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watches o'er His own;
He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

2. Have faith in God when your pray'rs are unanswered,
Your earnest plea He will never forget;
Wait on the Lord, trust His Word and be patient,
Have faith in God, He'll answer yet.

Refrain

3. Have faith in God in your pain and your sorrow,
His heart is touched with your grief and despair;
Cast all your cares and your burdens upon Him,
And leave them there, oh, leave them there.

Refrain

4. Have faith in God though all else fail about you;
Have faith in God, He provides for His own;
He cannot fail though all kingdoms shall perish,
He rules, He reigns upon His throne.

Refrain

