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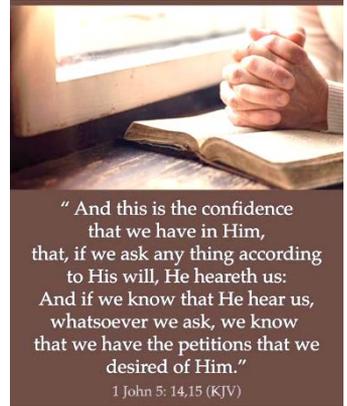
The Precepts of Supplication and Intercession

There is a great honour that everyone who believes in Christ has. It is the avenue of access to the throne of grace of God. and the church prayer meeting as a corporate body. Praying is worshipping and seeking God according to His sovereign good will. Matthew 7:7 says, *'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.'* We need to learn to pray according to the Word of God, asking and receiving. 1 John 5:14-15 says, *'And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.'* Pray for the knowledge of the unrevealed will of God in a specific situation, need, seeking and finding God as well.

The prophet in Jeremiah 29:12-13 exhorts us to pray, *'Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.'* We need to pray daily for the gracious intervention of God in our lives. We are not to seek signs and wonders or tongue speaking, but for God to guide us daily in situations by His grace and mercy when we pray. Our Lord in John 16:24 says, *'Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.'* Prayer comes with fervency and much importunity as well. Our Lord Matthew 17:20-21 quipped, *'And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.'*

Definition and Reasons for Prayer

As we study the shorter catechism, we are reminded that prayer is defined by the Shorter Catechism Q 98, *"What is prayer? Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies."* Prayer is access to heaven and is commanded of God. Matthew 26:41 says, *'Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'* Prayer is to seek God first and is more than just requesting things from God (Jas 4:2). Prayer is also



the source of all joy when God hears us. John 16:24 says, *'Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.'* Prayer can help to deliver us out of much trial and trouble (Acts 12:1-17). Prayer unlocks the treasures of God's wisdom when we humbly seek Him asking Him for wisdom. James 1:5 says, *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'* Praying is a vehicle for power and God will hear (Jer 33:3). We are told by Samuel that not to pray or prayerlessness is a sin before God. 1 Samuel 12:23 says, *'Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.'* Salvation is through prayer in faith for the sinner who called on God with the confession of sins. (Rom10,9,10) Romans 10:13 says, *'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'* We need to pray without ceasing in the Lord or continually (1 Thess 5:17) for prayer brings everlasting peace, comfort and hope (Psa 33:22).

Importance of Prayer

There are many good examples of prayer in both the NT and OT. Christ taught the disciples how to pray (see the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13). Pray in the name of Christ submitting our petition through Him alone (John 14:13-14). The Holy Spirit guides and led us when we are at a loss of words to pray (Rom 8:26-27). Pray that God's will is done in everything. James 4:15 says, *'For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.'* We need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and God's covenant people including both Jews and Gentiles (Psa 122:6). This includes the body of Christ who will one day be in the new Jerusalem when the Lord returns (Heb 10:22; Rev 3:12; 21:2). Pray for God's provision of our daily necessities (Lk 11:3).

Prayer changes our lives and in way we treat others too. Pray for forgiveness from God and also the ability to forgive others (Matt 18:21-22). We need to learn to pray for our family, our church, ourselves in faith and trusting in God. Hebrews 11:6 says, *'But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.'*

Obstacles to Prayer

We need to ask God to cleanse our hearts first before we pray as we seek God for forgiveness and humble our mind before God. (Psa 66:18)

When there is a problem of selfishness or covetousness and other sins (Jas 4:3), it can hinder prayer.

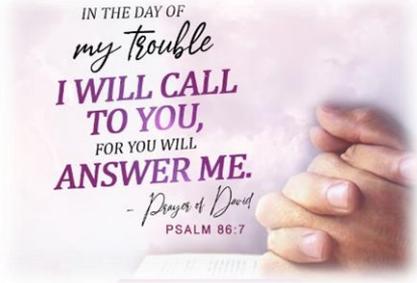
When there is iniquity in the hearts God will not hear us (Psa 66:18; Isa 59:1-2; John 9:31). When Husbands do not honour their wives, their prayers are hindered too. 1 Peter 3:7 says, *'Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered'* and Ephesians 6:18 says, *'Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.'*

Confess your sins and repent of them and ask the Lord for forgiveness and the revival of our hearts first before we worship Him.

Does God answer Prayer?

The question that is often asked is, "Does God answer our prayers?"

Look up to Jeremiah 33:3 and John 15:7 which reminds us, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.' 'If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.' Does prayer change things or make a difference at all? The answer is "Yes" and it is given in 2 Corinthians 1:1 which says, 'Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia.'



Requirements for Acceptable Prayer

Matthew 21:22 says, 'And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.' Often it can be delayed as the Lord wills. Daniel experienced delayed in his answers too from God and we need to learn to be patient and wait upon the Lord (Daniel 10:12-14). There is much inner peace when we pray for Philippians 4:6-7 says, 'Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.' We are to pray fervently. With grace from above for God answers all prayers but not always exactly as we asked for. Isaiah 55:8 says, 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.' Above all we must endure and honour and glorify God in whatever He has for us. Come to the church prayer meeting as Hebrews 4:16 says, 'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.'

Different Answers to our Prayers

John 16:24 says, 'Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.' God promises in Jeremiah 33:3 that if we call upon Him, He will hear and answer our prayers according to His will. We must keep in mind that God may not always answer our prayers the way we would like Him to for He knows best. Consider four ways by which God answers our prayers. These are the four D's by God in answer to our prayer.

A. Direct

God may choose to answer your prayer in a direct manner and give you a "yes." You might pray for something and God will grant it just the way you asked Him for it (i.e. your prayer to get a job and you get it). This type of answer means you were praying in accord and with the will of God and that is the best for us (Mt 21:22).

B. Different

Sometimes God gives us a different reply than when we can ask or imagine. You may be praying for a certain college or a university to study in but you got into another college or University instead. Sometimes our first inclination toward

an answer to prayer is that "this can't be the answer to my prayer." But yes, it is and God's different answer is better for us than ours and that is the best for us.

C. Delayed

Many times, God will answer a prayer but it will be according to His perfect timing. We may be praying according to His will, but He is preparing special circumstances which will benefit us when it is time to claim the answer (i.e. someone who desires to be married very soon but has to wait a few years to find a right partner in life and is blessed). The delayed answer teaches us a lesson in patience to wait patiently upon and to trust God (Isa 40:31).

D. Denial

This is the answer we never want to hear but it is often good for us that God denied our prayer request. When God says, "No" or denies a request, it is never to our disadvantage, even though we may not understand it. Do not say there is no answer to our prayers but say that the answer is no and often that is the best for us.

God answers our prayers in His sovereign good pleasure, will and timing as 1 John 5:14-15 says, *'And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.'*

Conclusion

Wise King Solomon reminded us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'* Thank God for this great prerogative that God has given to us. Imagine we have the handphone number or the email of God (that is how someone described Jeremiah 33:3 – God's phone number is 333) and we can call upon Him for help daily.



What a great honour and privilege and do you make full use of this privilege daily? Something to think about and act upon and to pray about.

Jack Sin



Book gifts for John Caleb. Pray for him as he completes his theological studies and graduate in Nov, and his ministry at Christ Abiding Lighthouse Ministries (CALM) in Hyderabad, India.



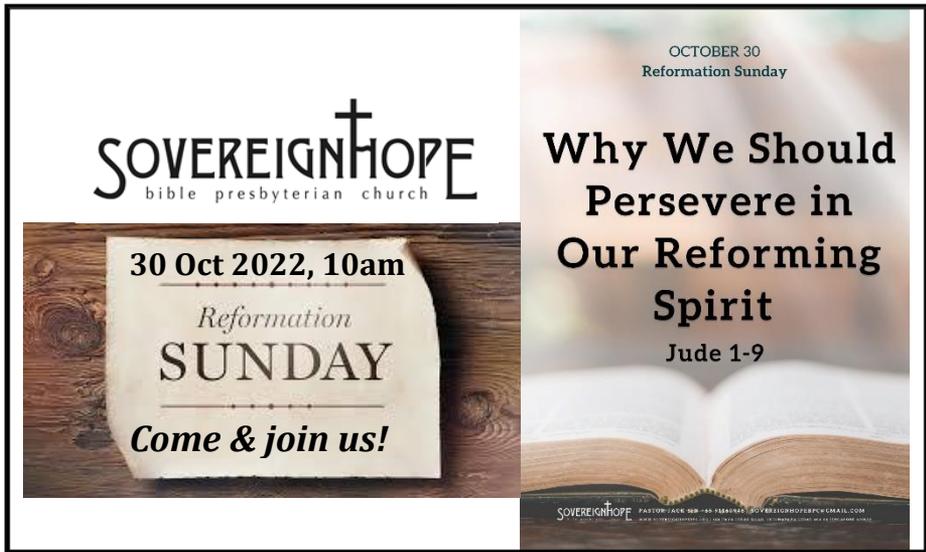
Our church tracts for customers at ACE Fish Shop.



Join the Sunday School Classes on every Sun after the worship service:

- **Answers to Objections to the Gospel** led by Bro Joseph (above)
- **Studies in Deuteronomy** led by Dn Kwong Leen (right)





Once again, thank you for the wonderful exposition of the Reformation, part 2. Especially your teaching on TULIP. That is a study that should be taught in the churches on a regular basis. Very much looking forward to next week's presentation as well. May I ask again, for a copy of this week's message to be forwarded to me as you did last week?

Series of Reformation Lectures via Zoom on Thursdays 6, 13 & 20 Oct 2022



God bless you Bro. Jack, and all the saints who were part of today's study. It blesses me beyond words to see the presence of the Holy Spirit moving throughout your part of the world. America has grown spiritually cold and can learn so much from the faithfulness of those saints in places like Myanmar, Cambodia, and Pakistan. I pray the Lord keeps you strong, Jack, as He is using you to inspire many.
 Rev David Lewis
 Pastor and Director of Faith Theological Seminary, USA

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE BELIEVER TODAY

Lord's Day Programme for Oct-Dec 2022



OCTOBER

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|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | The Work & Nature of the Holy Spirit
(John 14:16-31) | 23 | Walking in the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-16) |
| 9* | The Holy Spirit & Regeneration
(Titus 3:1-8) | 30 | REFORMATION SUNDAY
Why We Should Persevere
in Our Reforming Spirit
(Jude 1-9) |
| 16 | The Holy Spirit & Prayer
(Romans 8:20-34) | | |

NOVEMBER

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| 6 | The Filling of the Holy Spirit
(Ephesians 5:15-21) | 20 | The Holy Spirit & Sanctification
(2 Peter 1:1-11) |
| 13* | The Fruit of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-23) | 27 | The Holy Spirit & Witnessing
(Acts 1:1-11) |

DECEMBER

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| 4 | The Holy Spirit & Worship
(John 4:20-30) | 23 | CHRISTMAS SERVICE
When the Heavenly King Condescended
(1 Timothy 3:1-16) |
| 11* | The Holy Spirit & the Charismatic Movement (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) | 25 | WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
Guidelines for End Times Living
(Mark 13:20-37) |
| 18 | The Gifts of the Spirit
(Romans 12:1-12) | | |



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Memory Verse

Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “***Walking in the Spirit (Gal 5:1-16), under a new quarterly series on “The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today”***”.
3. Pastor will be preaching next Sunday on “***Why We Should Persevere in our Reforming Spirit (Jude 1-9)***”.
4. Rev Nathan of New Life BPC will provide pastoral support to our church as Pastor and Angie will be away in Vietnam from 24-29 Oct.
5. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 4 Nov 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
