

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
SERMON NOTES

through the eyes of God even in the worst of circumstances.

DATE : 9 NOVEMBER, 2008
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : **HAVE YOU BEEN STRETCHED TO YOUR CAPABILITIES? HAVE YOU BEEN BROKEN TO THE LIMITS?"**
TEXT : PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

Every believer is meant for bigger things, better success in their work, business, and careers and be better a person/student/homemaker in their work/schools/colleges & homes.

Biblically it is a true when we read of the lives of Jacob & Joseph in the Old Testament and Peter & Paul in the New Testament. God is in the "stretching & breaking" business!

In order for us to be stretched and to move on to greater heights, we need to look into 5 essentials:-

1. The Nature of My Faith.

- **The nature of your faith is important and the kind of faith that you have will make the person you are going to be.**
- There are 3 main kinds of faith.
 1. **The common, ordinary faith**
 2. **The faith that believes. (Heb. 11:6-8 & Isa. 41: 10 & 13) Christians must believe and learn to stand & claim on the Promises of God. To do this you have to activate your faith.**
 3. **The faith that TRUSTS even when natural circumstances appear otherwise**
Phil.1:12 = "Now I want you to know brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." From this verse, Apostle Paul was telling us that he was able to see the good thing that God had intended out of his imprisonment.
It is said that "every cloud has a silver lining." Therefore, as Christians, we must pray that we have the spiritual ability to see opportunities

2. The Level of My Maturity.

- **The level of our maturity is a virtue we all need in order to succeed in life**
- Phil. 1:18 = In this verse, we read that apostle Paul was not perturbed at all by the people-problem that he encountered. Whatever career or profession that we may be in, our limit is always painfully stretched & challenged by people-problem.
- If we are matured Christians, we will not be easily offended & upset by issues caused by people-problem. Just think, if trivial issues upset us so much, how can we handle when tribulations come?
- We must also understand that the church is not heaven yet but it is like any organisation that is filled with ordinary people & likewise, we are bound to see & encounter people-problem. As such, we must strive to grow into the level of maturity whereby we will not be unduly disturbed & upset even in the midst of misunderstandings & disputes. We will not let them pull us down but that we will arise in faith and maturity. We are to be likened to the "feathers of the ducks that's water-proof - that water cannot wet them but just slide off them."

3. The Healthiness of My Attitude.

- Phil. 1:18b = "And because of this. I rejoice. Yes, I will continue to rejoice." The emphasis of this verse is "**Rejoice in the Lord and not in the circumstances.**"
- "**My attitude will affect my altitude.**"- "**Altitude**" means "how high I will make it in life."
- "**Your attitude is the eye of your soul. If your attitude is negative, you will see things negatively. If it's positive, then you will see things positively.**"
- What is your attitude this morning? Let us pray that the Spirit of God will touch & change our attitude to become one that is divinely inspired that will enable us to see beyond the horizon & experience a divine transformation.

4. The Strength of My Commitment (Phil. 1: 21-26)

- In these verses, we read that even though apostle Paul was uncertain about his circumstances, he continued

to stay encouraged: **he did not lose heart but persevered on.**

- **It was his strength of commitment & his determination to continue on regardless of his circumstances that brought forth much fruitful rewards for the Glory of God.**
- **It is said that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. It is the men of persevering strength of commitment that make history.**

5. The Measure of My Teachability. (Phil. 2: 14-16)

- **This essential is equally important as the rest of the 4 essentials**
- **Phil. 3 :12 = “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”**
- **From this verse, it was obvious that Apostle Paul had a humble attitude of being teachable. It is an important virtue that we all must have because “the moment that we thought we have ‘arrived’, we stop being teachable. The moment we stopped being teachable, we stopped growing!”**
- **It is said that pride is a stumbling block to growth because the pride of thinking that you know everything hinders you from growing & being humble.**

Conclusion:

- **Do you have these 5 essentials? Let’s pray & ask God to help us to cultivate the essentials that we have & to increase & improve those that we lack.**