

**CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE**  
**SERMON-NOTES**

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DATE : 15 MACH, 2009  
SPEAKER : REV, LAWRENCE YAP  
TOPIC : **“ THINK BIG ” – “ EVEN WHEN THE  
CHIPS ARE DOWN .”**  
TEXT : PHILPPIANS 4: 10 – 13

How is the ‘hong cheng” (situation) out there? Is anything up??  
**YES!! The opportunities for exploration, resourcefulness and creativity is up! The opportunities to serve people in need is going up! The opportunities to learn to trust God is going up! The opportunities to build a strong faith when the storms of life hit us, is going up!**

**2 Preparations to meet the trying time ahead**

**A. PRAY MORE and COMPLAIN LESS**

- There are still many of us who have yet to learn to pray with intensity
- Are you still unconvinced that **prayer changes things?**
- Many of us are still using our own flesh to cope with the circumstances of our lives as there are more complaining and murmurings about this and that, rather than getting down on our knees to pray and seek divine intervention from God to our needs, be they personal or global.
- Eph. 6:18 = **“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”**

**B. INCULCATE 4 PATTERNS OF MINDSETS about CHALLENGES**

1. **No Pain, No Pearl.** (James 1: 2–4)
  - What is meant by this? **God works mysteriously. God has His purpose even in the midst sufferings and pain. Our human mind may not be able to comprehend it but God makes all things beautiful in His own time.**

- How is pearl formed? It is said that this **tiny jewel was conceived through irritation, born of adversity and nursed by adjustments.**
  - What is your pain today? And what is the **pearl** that God is preparing for you? You may not be able to understand it **but know that God’s Grace is sufficient for you. Alleluia!!**
2. **No Wind, No Strength.** (Psalm 1: 1 – 5)
    - Even though many of us have never seen an oak tree before, yet we have read about it somewhere. Oak trees are known as very strong and tough trees, resilient even in the fiercest storms because they have very strong roots that give them very firm foundation.
    - How about you? Are you easily shaken and discouraged by the adversities & trials of lives?
    - It is said that **character and substance are shaped in the crucible of adversity. Show me someone who lives a carefree life with no problems or trials or dark nights of the soul and I’ll show you a shallow person.”**
    - Being a matured person has nothing to do with the age of person. You can be 70 years old & yet you can be immature in your attitude and character. Likewise, our spiritual maturity is not based on the number of years of being a Christian. Our spiritual maturity is developed through our personal, experiential encounter with God in our Christian walk.
  3. **No Wilderness, No Promised Land.** ( Isaiah 51:3)
    - **“For the Lord shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like a garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.”** The Israelites had wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before they came to the Promised Land.
    - Likewise, it is so for us, at least symbolically in terms of our trials and adversities that vary with individuals. But let’s us not be discouraged because the wilderness that we may be having is a training ground that will make us more

resilient as God has promised us that He will make a road even in the desert for us.

- Whatever wilderness that they you may be in today, don't feel negative about it but rather be farsighted for the Promised Land awaits us.
- It is said that "the only way **OUT** is **THROUGH IT**; and when you are through, you bring with you the goodies of the world."

#### 4. No Brokenness, No Wholeness

- Psalm 51:17 = "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart O God, thou will not despise."
- One person faces circumstances and has **PEACE**; another goes to **PIECES**.  
One man builds **CASTLES**; another digs **CAVES**.  
One man's **WEED** is another man's **FLOWER**. The man's **TRASH** is another man's **TREASURE**.
- The secret of success lies in what people do when they are BROKEN – not in how many BREAKS they get!
- It is wonderful to know Jesus Christ as our Saviour. But we could never know Him as our **SAVIOUR** if we had not been **SINNERS**. We could not be **SAVED** if we were not **LOST**. We could not be **HEALED** if we were not **SICK**.
- We appreciate the **DAWN** because there has been a **NIGHT**. We do not know **VICTORY** unless we have known **DEFEAT**. Experiencing **POVERTY** makes us appreciate **PROSPERITY**.

#### Conclusion:

- Often, we take blessings from God for granted & we are only able to appreciate them when they are taken away from us. **Have we been taking things in your life for granted? If so, it's time not only to start learning to appreciate even the simplest thing in our life but also to learn to pray more and complain less!!!**