

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

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DATE : 15 FEBRUARY, 2009  
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP  
TOPIC : “Think BIG, or MERE BIG Thoughts”  
TEXT : ISAIAH 54: 2 – 3

“Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread Out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. You’re going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family.” [Taken from the New Translation “The Message” by Eugene Peterson]

“Think BIG” is a familiar phrase that dominates every motivational seminars in the secular world. Very often, this may even sound arrogant & boastful. What about us, Christians? Should we also ‘THING BIG’? YES! We should!

Let us look at the 3 Biblical reasons why we should “THINK BIG” for God’s glory:-

**1. “Think BIG because we serve a BIG GOD!”**

- **Our view of God determines our work for Him.** This is the secret of those great men who do great work for God.
- Mark 9: 12-27 = The Parable of the Healing of a boy with evil spirits.  
Verse 24 = The boy’s father said to Jesus, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**” At a glance this statement may sound so conflicting! But if we are honest with ourselves, it is a sincere cry from deep within our hearts for many of us. Our belief may be just a mental acknowledgement of God. At one time or another, we all struggle with our level of faith. It is especially difficult for those who are in the midst of sufferings and pain.
- **Jesus said that even if your faith is as small as the mustard seed, you can “move mountains” for nothing is impossible for God ! (Matt. 17: 20-21)**
- Psalm 102:25 = “in the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands.” **This is how awesome our God is!**

- “Expect Great things from God; attempt great things for God.” (Quote from William Carey)
- “**We should boldly dream BIG dreams IN GOD.**” However, it is important for us to know that there is a difference between dreaming big dreams **FOR** God and dreaming big dreams **IN** God. Therefore, it is essentially important that we corporately spend time in prayers to seek God’s directions for the plans & visions of the Church.
- **What is your view of God this morning?? How BIG is your God in your heart? If you understand that your God is a GREAT and BIG God , you will expect GREAT and BIG things from Him**
- Rom 8:28 = “And we all know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose”. **God will make all things beautiful in His time!**

**2. “Think BIG because JESUS has given us the mandate**

- Matt. 28: 19-20 = Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus made this statement after His resurrection and before His ascension to heaven
- The present global economic recession should not hinder us, Christians, from the plans & work of expansion of God’s Kingdom
- **Our God is an awesome God and He works mysteriously**
- **Isa. 55:8** = ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither your ways, my ways’, declares the Lord
- 2 examples of modern Christian icons :-
  1. The Crystal Cathedral, USA
  2. City Harvest Church, Singapore
- **We must be willing to allow our mind to be changed radically for God.** Sometimes, the greatest challenge we faced is not with the non-believers but with ourselves - the Christians
- Mark 2:22 = “**New wine must be poured in new wineskins.**” This is to say that we cannot continue to have old paradigms/concepts/practices. **The Church**

must catch up with time and grow with new technologies of the world. One thing that remains unchanged and consistent in the midst of changes is the **MESSAGE OF GOD!** When you realise this truth, then you will understand the changes needed in various ministries are very necessary & important.

**3. “Think **BIG** because your life is shaped by your thoughts.”**

- Prov. 4:23 = Be careful how you THINK, your life is shaped by your THOUGHTS.” (Good News Bible)
- “THINK YOU CAN, THINK YOU CAN’T; EITHER WAY, YOU’LL BE RIGHT” (Quote from Henry Ford)
- A.W. Tozer said, “Our **THOUGHTS** not only **REVEAL** what we **ARE**; but they **PREDICT** what we will **BECOME**. We will soon be the **SUM TOTAL of our THOUGHTS”**
- Matt. 6:21 = “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”