

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tloke822@gmail.com

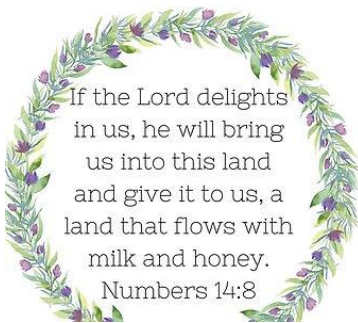
**Following Christ
Wholeheartedly
in our Golden Years
- The Example of
Caleb -**



One question that is often asked when we reached our evening years: What should a Christian do when he or she retires? What are the evidence of one who is a true follower of Christ? These are pertinent questions that we must answer and examine ourselves. Let us consider the following.

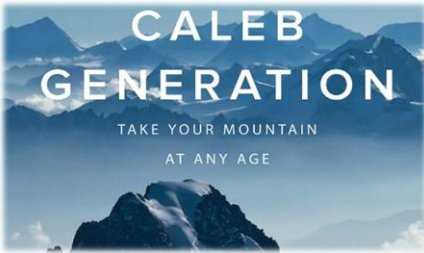
The Positive Example of Caleb who Wholeheartedly Followed God

After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea led by Moses, Joshua let the children of Israel into the Promised Land after conquering the enemies of the land. He had a notable companion in Caleb who was one of the 2 spies who gave a favourable minority report with faith in God (Num 13:29-33). **Jos 14:8-15 gives us the account of this senior servant of God who is a positive example for us to follow.** Caleb was first mentioned in Numbers 13:6. He was from tribe of Judah. He was the one along with Joshua and other 10 spies who were selected to spy out the Promised Land by Moses.



Num 14:8-9 gives a wonderful testimony of his faith in God. "***If the Lord delights in us***" (v 9) was his firm faith and trust in the Lord. He was not trusting in self or man, but he was sure of God's presence with Israel and therefore nothing to fear, even if the enemies were strong and powerful. We need this courage and God honouring perspective today in our lives.

It was said of Caleb who wholeheartedly followed the Lord, and he had a good spirit of obeying and trusting God. This was God's commendation for him (Deut 1:36). This was mentioned 3 times in Josh 14:8, 9, 14.



He was an old man of 85 years in Joshua 14. But he was still strong and his faith in the Lord was greater than ever. Many may think of slowing down when we retire in our mid or late 60s and maybe even take a break from serving God all together. **Instead of retiring, Caleb was refired spiritually by the Lord and wanted to accomplish greater things for the Lord.** So, he asked for Mt Hebron

and by God's enablement and with the help of others, he finally captured it from the enemies after a tough fight (Judges 1). Thank God for his determined and fighting spirit that won the day for the glory of the Lord.

Requirement of Following Christ

This is an account of Jesus calling His disciples (Mark 1:15-20). Without hesitation, they all left and followed Him. (Their nets and boat - bread and butter of life). This is real sacrifice and surrender. **Following Christ requires more than just coming to church on Sundays or an occasional prayer and cursory reading of the Word or mere service. It requires faith and repentance and the surrender of ourselves to Him totally.**



Rom 12:1-2 says, *'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'*



Matt 10:37-39 calls for the forsaking of our father and mother, etc. It emphasises our priorities in following Christ. We should forsake many things, things that easily take away our attention from the Lord, pleasures and leisure that take away our time from the Lord. Note what Mose challenge us in Deut 10:12, *'And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.'*

The Negative Examples of Those who Claimed to be Following Christ

Luke 9:57-61 gave us a sobering account of three people who expressed their desire to follow Christ, but for different reasons and in different ways and receive.

In vs. 57-58, the first man wanted to follow Christ for his own personal benefits or some tangible gain. But Jesus told him that He had no place to lay his head that night and he did not possess the temporal things the man was possibly looking for. That man did not last long, and we did not hear anything about that man again.

We should not follow Christ for personal benefits, such as power, fame, wealth, or other physical things, namely, to make use of God to get them for us. That is what the occult is all about. It is the manipulation of the supernatural for our personal gain; in witchcraft, tarot cards and fengshui and so on. **Christians follow must acknowledge Him by making Him the Master of our lives by surrendering all to Him our desires and our future.**

In vs. 59-60, the second man wanted to follow the Lord, but he wanted to wait till his father pass away. He wanted to first follow his father's religion, asking God to wait for a while till he buried his father one day. There are people who say they will follow the Lord when their worldly career is over one day or when they retire and have more time or when they have made enough money for themselves or when their grandmother dies. All these are distractions that lead us away from true commitment to Christ or even salvation in Him. **We dare not trifle with life and death and beware of a deadly delay in seeking Christ as we never know then the time is up for us. Note that Esau's repentance was not accepted as it was too late, and this is a warning to all of us (Heb 12:17).**

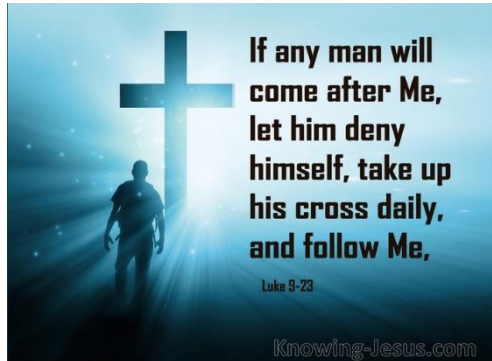
We should not delay in our repentance and in committing ourselves to Christ and surrendering our lives unto Him. Today is the day of salvation and dedication; tomorrow may be too late (2 Cor 6:2). The author was encouraged by someone who resolved to make a conscious effort to honour the Lord and return to Him and grow in His Word this year. Another person said he or she wanted to commit himself or herself to learn more about the Word of God and in prayer in the new year.

Finally, in vs. 61-62, the third man wanted to follow, but his priority was in other things, where family ties was more important to him than God. He was not fully committed to God, and he looked back into his old life, perhaps overly burdened about his family, children and other things. He too was not able to follow Christ whole heartedly. While it is not wrong to care for family and friends, it is important that we must not be encumbered with the cares of this world that we neglect our holy duties for Christ. **It is a great honour to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords, and we do it from our hearts with gratitude and cheerfulness. Following Christ requires our all to Him in total consecration and surrender in responsible stewardship and service.**



Conclusion

Who then is a genuine follower of Christ? Luke 9:23-26, *'And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.'*



There are some serious questions that we need to ask ourselves.

Are we ashamed of the cross or are we following the Lord whole heartedly?

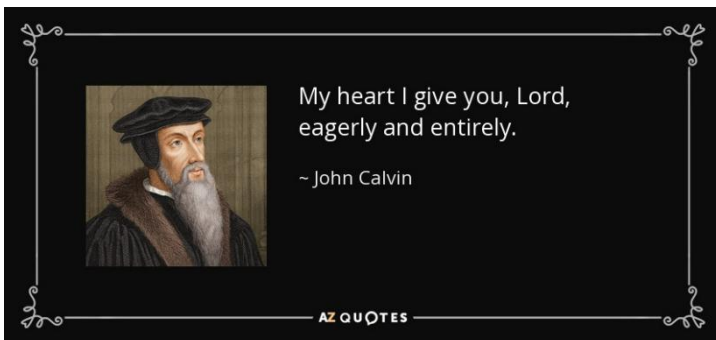
Are we not willing to give up our comfort and personal gains and our time, talent and substance to support the kingdom of God?

Are we a convenient Christian who follow God on our own terms or are a committed and truly surrendered Christian?

Would you in your advance years daily seek to honour Him first and seek His kingdom and righteousness and follow Him fully?

The call today is still the same we are to deny ourselves, to sacrificially take up the cross, and then to follow Him whole heartedly. Will you pray about it and humbly seek to serve and honour the Lord in the rest of 2025?

Jack Sin



Lord, Here I Take My Cross

Original: 主，我今背十架

Translation: Dr SH Tow

Antonin Dvorak

Lord, here I take my cross now to fol-low Thee, World-ly gain, emp-ty fame

are but dross to me. Men may sneer, men may jeer, pain may come or stay;

Naught can cause me to stray from the nar-row way,

Thro' His word, by His grace, I would faith-ful be; Till at last I reach home,

there's a crown for me, A bright crown for me, Yes, a crown for me.

Memory Verses – A Review Exercise

Eph 1:4

According as he hath _____ us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be _____ and without blame before him in love:

Eph 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being _____; that ye may know what is the _____ of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 2:10

For we are his _____, created in Christ Jesus unto _____, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:20

And are built upon the foundation of the _____ and _____, Jesus Christ himself being the _____ corner stone;

Eph 3:6

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same _____, and partakers of his _____ in Christ by the _____:

Eph 3:16

That he would grant you, according to the _____ of his glory, to be strengthened with _____ by his Spirit in the _____ man;

Eph 4:1

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye _____ of the _____ wherewith ye are _____,

Eph 4:32

And be ye _____ one to another, _____, _____ one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Eph 5:17

Wherefore be ye not _____, but _____ what the will of the Lord is.

Answers: chosen, holy, enlightened, hope, workmanship, good works, apostles, prophets, chief, body, promise, gospel, riches, might, inner, walk worthy, vocation, called, kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, unwise, understanding.



Thank God for a very blessed time together with 91yo **Dr KC Tan** (Dr Tan Kwong Leen's father) who shared about his life and we prayed together and read Psa 90. Pray for his health and faith in Christ.

Fellowship with another nonagenarian 95yo **Eld Joshua Lim**, one of the founding leaders of the BP movement.



A Word of Encouragement from Adelaide, South Australia....

Thank you for sharing about your ministries and about praying for your mum's recovery. Praise the Lord for blessing and guiding you, and for answering prayers for your mum.

Regarding the New Age Practice, we thank God for your article on meditation as we are taught in Psalm 1:2 and Psalm 119:97. Praise the Lord for His Word which is the basis for our meditation day and night, Joshua 1:8.

Regarding other subjects, such as evangelism, and the Covid-19 pandemic, we thank God that the Bible gives us answers and guidelines, so that we can have a Biblical perspective on these matters. May the Lord lead and guide us and give us understanding and discernment in these end times. Titus 2:13,14.

Rev Ed & Mrs Leah Paaue

Memory Verse

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Picture of Christ & the Family (Eph 5:22-33)***", continuing the quarterly study on the "***Book of Ephesians: Serving Christ & Exalting the Sovereignty of God in the Church***".
3. Next Sunday, Rev Daniel Gan will preach on "***Rules in the Covenant Family (Eph 6:1-10)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walking Through the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Esther (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. **Evangelism @Macpherson will be held on Sun 23 Mar** afternoon to invite the residents to our **Gospel Sunday Worship Service on 30 Mar**. Invite your family and friends to this Gospel Sunday Worship Service too.
7. **2025 Annual Church Camp** will be held on **Jun 10-13** at **Forest City Marina Hotel**, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "***Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era***" and guest speaker **Rev Tan Eng Boo**. Register by 29 Mar 2025 with Dn Paul at hp:97314733.
8. 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. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
9. Pray for:
 - **Medical: Mrs Philip Heng** [brain aneurysm post op], **Poh Suan** [fractured right ankle], **Dn Paul's mother** [medical conditions], **John W's sister Angeline** [lung Cancer], **Kim Meng** [fractured left wrist], **John W's daughter** [dialysis treatment].
 - **Myanmar Missions: Rev David Khobal** (Biblical Reformed Seminary), **Eld Habakkuk** (Gilead Balm Home), **Myitta** (Community Outreach), **Lapui** (Widows Ministry)
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**Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.