

Habits are the learned and acculturated patterns of behaviour. However, the scary and ironical part of it is, we can be so comfortable with them that we live by their dictates almost mindlessly and unconsciously. When we live a life of impulsive habituation our level of awareness drops. For example, you can be so used to travelling by a certain route to work that you may unthinkingly use this same route even when you are going elsewhere. Your new destination requires you to go by another way but your habitual GPS conditions you to travel by the familiar way.

Sometimes we're easily identifiable and recognizable by our habits and mannerisms. Our friends and colleagues know our quirky preferences for certain foods and drinks. However, there are some habits that these friends will never know unless we've betrayed ourselves through our own involuntary Freudian slips or by our own misdemeanor.

The obvious point is, we ought to live transparent lives and get rid of all the hidden skeletons from our closets. But that is immensely difficult. In fact, it's impossible – until and unless we acknowledge their presence. Besides, behavioural modifications and change do not happen by sheer exertion of one's will power.

We must first of all be willing to label our dark proclivities and inherent vulnerability towards evil. It's not just a theological fact but also a practical reality that we're constantly tempted, if not driven, by base desires. Our dark inclinations are written deeply in our spiritual constitution.

We must therefore be alert to those habitual sins that constantly plague us. We don't always experience victory because sinful habits are hard to break. Some people are compulsive liars, manipulators or seducers. They're unable to break from its strangle hold because they've either been denying its presence, or they've been excusing themselves by claiming that "after all I'm human," or "I'm born like that" or blame others for causing them to be like that.

Scripture tells us that the way to gain victory is to change our attitude and exchange the old life for the new. The key to replacing those ungodly habits with new ones is not to give yourself the permission to return to the old way of life. As you've already been renewed in Christ, make a conscious choice to break from the past. When you give yourself the leeway to remain as you are, you're actually deadening your resolve to change and anaesthetising the power of the Spirit within you. Break out and don't fall victim to your old life.

Pastor Song Cheng Hock



DO NOT FORGET TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.

PRISON MINISTRY

Association of Christian Halfway Houses (ACHWH) have invited us to participate in their program to care for ex-offenders completing the HWH Service Model program (or released directly from prisons). The Church based After-Care program will help ex-offenders reintegrate back into society and become members of the Church.

We have three members already involved in the Prison Ministry but there is still need for more volunteers.

THOSE INTERESTED TO SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS may contact Brother Vincent Tan for more details.

Asst. Treasurer needed.

We thank God for the services of Sister Beng Hwee who has faithfully served as assistant treasurer for the past years. Sister Beng Hwee will be leaving us to join her family in Australia next month and we need to find someone to replace her. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please see our Church Treasurer, sister Desmonda for more details and duties.

FRIDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING

We would like to encourage all to come and join the Prayer Meeting every Friday at 7.45 p.m. Pastor Song is now teaching **1 Corinthians**.

WELCOME

We welcome all our friends, family members and guests to our service this morning. We truly appreciate your coming and we hope and pray that you will be ministered to as you listen to the testimony, message and songs we have prepared for you.

If at any time you need assistance, or have questions or any queries, please do not hesitate to approach one of our counsellors or ushers. We also hope that you will stay and join us for lunch after the service.

SHALOM CHAVERIM

"Peace go with you." We bid farewell to our Brother Boon Khim and his wife Enid as they leave us to join their daughter and son-in-law in New Zealand. May the Lord go with you as you start your new journey in life.

PRAYER PAGE



1. Please pray for **our guest speaker, Pastor Daniel Teh**, as he brings God's Word to us this morning. Pray also for **Bro. Raymond Tay** who will be giving his testimony. May we all be ministered to by the Holy Spirit. Pray for those who do not yet know God's love.

2. Pray for the **Worship Team**, the **audio/visual support group**, as well as the **ushers**. Pray that God will continually refresh them as they experience deeper worship themselves, leading others to worship God in spirit and in truth and to encounter Him, to the end that their lives be transformed to His glory.

3. **We praise and thank God for opportunities** to spread His word to other countries in S.E. Asia. For a long time Uncle Neville has been praying for a door to be opened to enter Laos. Some weeks ago they received an invitation to meet with Dr. Prafix Inthasone with possibilities to extend our Missions work into Laos. Please do pray for them as the travel. Neville and Anne will be travelling to Savannakhet in Laos next week. They will travel to Bangkok and then to Ubon Rajathanee where Dr. Inthasone will pick them up and drive them across to Savannakhet.

4. Continue to uphold **sister Alice** in prayer. Her heart scan results were good and she is on a new round of chemo. Pray for God's grace and strength to be with her and **sister Catherine**.

5. **Pray for families** - for oneness, growth and love in Christ. Remember families that are torn and wounded by strife.

7. We want to praise God and give thanks for the faithful services of all who serve in the **various Ministries** of the Church - may the Lord continue to bless us all with good health, strength and joy. May God always supply our need at the right time.

8. Continue to pray for the **Youths and Sunday School children**, that even in their youth they will love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Pray for teachable hearts and obedience.

PASTORAL PRAYER. *Should you or someone you know need prayer, please speak to the pastor or send your email to chggod@churchofgodsg.com.*

Memory Verse:

Last week's: *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. - Isaiah 40 : 29*

This week: *"I have come into the world as a light, that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness." - John 12 : 46*