

ONLINE CAMPFERENCE 2021

FAITH @ WORK [verb]

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PASTOR BENNY HO**

Via Zoom

**28 MAY (7.45PM-10PM)
29 MAY (8.45AM-4PM)**

*James 2: 18—But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”*



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Programme

FRIDAY

28TH MAY

SESSION 1

7:45pm	Zoom Meeting Open
8:00pm	Welcome & Worship
8:15pm	"Developing Dynamic Faith" by Ps Benny Ho
9:15pm	Prayer (small group)
9:45pm	End

SATURDAY

29TH MAY

WORKSHOP 1

8:45am	Zoom Meeting Open
9:00am	"Reaching Our Ageing Parents" by Ps Lim Beng Hee
11:00am	Break

WORKSHOP 2A or 2B (please choose one)

11:15am	Zoom Meeting Open
11:30am	2A: "Engaging Religions: Conversations That Matter" by Dr. Samuel Law
	2B: "Light@Work" by Rev Darren Tan
1:15pm	Lunch break

SESSION 2

1:45pm	Zoom Meeting Open
2:00pm	"Pre-Evangelism Prayer" by Ps Benny Ho
2:45pm	LIVE chat with Ps Benny Ho
3:30pm	Prayer (small group)
4:00pm	End


 FAITH
@
WORK
[verb]

James 2: 18–But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”

The Apostle James made it clear that faith must be accompanied by deeds. Faith that is lived out is faith that is dynamic. In this Campference, we will be exploring dynamic faith in the context of reaching out to the lost.

We will be covering the theme of Faith@Work in the first session by unpacking James 2: 14–26 where James talks about 3 Kinds of Faith. We will explore what they are and how we can develop dynamic faith.

We will then apply these principles into the context of praying for our pre-believing friends. If we believe that evangelism is an act of the Holy Spirit, then we must begin with prayer, that tears down the strongholds and set the lost free. We will end with some practical handles on how we can intentionally weave prayer evangelism into our daily lives, wherever God has placed us.

Speakers' Profiles

SESSION 1: "DEVELOPING DYNAMIC FAITH"

SESSION 2: "PRE-EVANGELISM PRAYER"

PS. BENNY HO has seen a lifetime of ministry work, including mission work with World Vision, bible school planting in Asia, and over 20 years in various pastoral roles in local churches. He founded Arrows College as a teaching and resource ministry to the Body of Christ, and is the Apostolic Leader of D-Net Churches, a network that carries his desire to see churches strengthened to become intentional disciple-making cell churches. Ps. Benny's twin passions in ministry are expository preaching and mentoring. He is currently the senior pastor of Faith Community Church in Perth, Australia.

WORKSHOP 1: REACHING OUR AGEING PARENTS

PS LIM BENG HEE has been worshipping at Bartley Christian Church (BCC) since June 1986. He was in the nursing profession from 1986 to 2003. (Gold Medalist - Gerontological Nursing Course [1996]). He studied in Singapore Bible College (School of Chinese Theology) from 2003 – 2007, graduated with Master of Divinity. He served as a Pastor in BCC Chinese Ministry from July 2007 to June 2019. In 2014, he attended Clinical Pastoral Education Course. He currently serves as a volunteer Associate Pastor in BCC Chinese Ministry, focusing on Elderly Ministry.

WORKSHOP 2A: ENGAGING RELIGIONS: CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

DR SAMUEL LAW is an Associate Professor for Intercultural Studies and Senior Dean of Academic Affairs at Singapore Bible College, and the Pastor-at-Large for the Evangelical Chinese Church of Seattle where has served since 1996, helping to plant three urban congregations and establishing an incarnational inner city mission. With passions for the Church and missions, his research interests include spiritual formation, church revitalisation, diaspora missiology, and research methodology for missions. Sam and his wife Esther have four children.

WORKSHOP 2B: LIGHT AT WORK— LIVING MY MISSION IN THE MARKETPLACE

REV DARREN TAN is the Managing Director/ Head Coach, LifeWorks Associates. He is the Senior Pastor of LifeUnited Church and also involved in the marketplace at the same time. He has been involved in Coaching, Training and Conference Speaking for the last 30 years. He speaks on overcoming challenges, transformational leadership, personal mastery, enriching relationships and innovative change. He is passionate about helping the individual achieve an integrated life, with their work and life in synergy, mutually reinforcing each other to achieve optimal fulfillment. He has spoken to audiences in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan, and China.

SESSION 1

Developing Dynamic Faith

Text: James 2: 14 – 26

The famous writer Sinclair Lewis was giving an hour-long lecture to a group of college students who were preparing to become writers.

Lewis asked them: “*How many of you intend to be writers?*” All the hands went up.

“*In that case,*” Lewis continued, “*my advice to you is to go home and write.*” With that, he left.

That is the *difference* between wishful *thinking* and true *belief*!

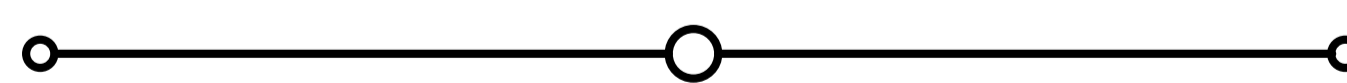


The **Apostle James** is about to bring this *same* thought and apply it to the *realm* of our **faith**.

He began to expound the *relationship* between **faith** and **works**.

We are not talking about the *works* of the *law* that the Paul preached *against*.

We are talking about the *works* of *faith* that **James** is calling for.



Billy Graham said it so beautifully:

“*There really is no conflict between faith and works. In the Christian life they go together like inhaling and exhaling. Faith is taking the Gospel in; works is taking the Gospel out.*”

✝ Like **Hebrews 11:6** says: “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*”

The kind of **faith** we have towards God will determine if we walk in true *righteousness* or not.

Question: What Kind of Faith Do We Have?

The **Apostle James** from **vs 14 to 26** outlined for us:

3 DIFFERENT KINDS OF FAITH

1. DEAD FAITH vs 14–18

James tells us in no uncertain terms that the evidence is not found in our *words* but in our *actions*!

✝ **James 2: 14** – “*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*”

James also gave us the simple *example* of someone who comes with the basic need for *food* and *clothing*.

All we do is to send him away with *warm-wishes* and fervent *prayers*.

✝ We gave him a *sermon* when he needed a *sandwich*.

✝ We gave him nice *words* when he needed a *warm* coat.

But he remains *hungry*, and he is still *cold*.



This illustration would hit home with the *Jewish* believers that **James** is writing to, because giving to the *poor* and *needy* was one of the primary ways in which they express their *devotion* to God.

It was a *poignant* example of *faith* that is not accompanied by *action* and **James** called it **DEAD FAITH**.

✝ vs 17—“*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*”

James is not saying here that faith *died* because of a lack of *action* but rather the lack of *action* proves that the *faith* was *dead* in the first place.

Something that is *dead* will not produce anything but in the same way, if our **faith** is truly *alive*, it will produce fruits of *righteous actions*.

That is why **James** goes on to say in **vs 18**—“But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

He was referring to himself as the “*I*”.

✝ So, he goes on: “*Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*”

If you have *faith* in **Jesus Christ**, and your life is locked into that *faith*; you will do good works.

✝ We are *saved* by faith alone, but this faith is *evidenced* by good works.

✝ We are not saved *by* good works, but we are saved *for* good works.



✝ **Ephesians 2:4, 5** – “*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*”

But *saved* for what?

✝ **Ephesians 2:10** – “*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*”

If one *claimed* to have **faith** but there is no *evidence* of a *changed* life, there is reason to *question* the faith.

It is like saying: “*If you don’t live it, you don’t believe it!*”



2. DECEPTIVE FAITH vs 19

✝ vs 19—“*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder!*”

James goes on to *shock* his hearers by pointing out that even *demons* can have a *belief* in God.

Demons believe that **Jesus** is the *Son of the Living God*.

They believe in a *literal* hell. They even believe in the coming *judgement*.

And they not only believe in their *mind*, but they feel it in their *soul*.

They *shudder* in *fear*!

But does that *save* them?—**No!**

They *persisted* in their *evil* acts. They still go on doing *wickedness*.

And **James** wanted us to know that we must not be *deceived* into thinking that if we believe the right *doctrines*, we are alright.

Such *faith* will not *save* us!

It is not just *intellectual* or *emotional*; in the end it must be *transformational!*
It must be *authentic*.



3.DYNAMIC FAITH vs 20–26

Finally, the **Apostle James** proved to us that *faith* without *deeds* is useless but putting *flesh* and *bones* to the concept of true **faith**.

He gave us 2 examples of faith in the Old Testament: namely **ABRAHAM** and **RAHAB**.

A. ABRAHAM

✠ **James 2: 20–22** “*You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.*”

That word, “*complete*” is a little misleading.

It does not mean that Abraham’s **faith** was *incomplete* without *actions* to go along with it.

A better translation of the word is “*fulfilled*”.

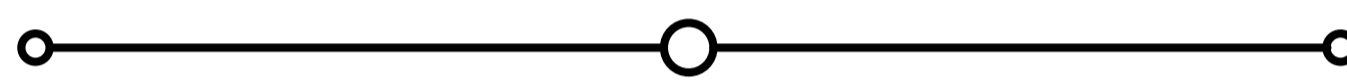
His *inner faith* was revealed in his *obedient response* to God.

Abraham was a man right with God.

God Himself called Abraham a “*friend of God*”.

Abraham did that not because he was *good* or *religious*.

After all he lied about **Sarah**, his wife not just *once* but *twice*.



How did Abraham become a man of faith?

Abraham was an 80-year-old man when God called him.

✠ Hebrews 11:8 – “*By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going...*”

It was not *easy* for him to leave the **Ur of Chaldees** because *archaeologists* have discovered that it was one of the most *modern cities* in the ancient world.

They even have houses completed with central *heating* system and *running* water.

It would be *equivalent* to God asking us to leave *comfortable* **Singapore** and go to the jungles of **Africa**. It would take *faith*.



One night, after he left the *Ur of Chaldees*, **Abraham** was inside his *tent* in the Promise Land. He was feeling *lonely* and *childless*.

God promised that he would be the “*Father of many nations*”, but it has not happened yet. So, Abraham began to *seek* God.

✝ Read **Genesis 15:1–6**

God took **Abraham** out of the *tent* and told him to look up at the stars. God said to him:

✝ “*As many as there are stars in the sky, or sand in the shore, so shall your descendants be.*”

What was God doing?

He was *painting* for **Abraham** a picture of *faith*. God was giving him something that he could *hold on* to in his *spirit*.

And the **Bible** tells us: **Abraham** *believed*, and it was *credited* to him as *righteousness*.

That very night, God wiped out his *debit* and *credited* righteousness to his *credit* side.

It was a *gift*.—Totally free. Not by *works* or else it would have become *wages*.

Abraham *illustrated* to us that *faith* could be *credited* to us as *righteousness*.



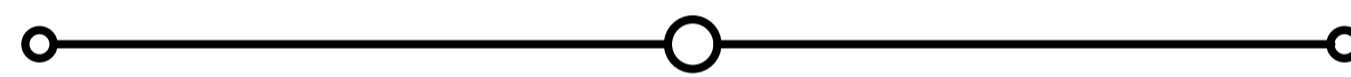
In **Genesis 22**, God tested *Abraham* on **Mount Moriah**.

He asked **Abraham** to sacrifice his heir, **Isaac** back to Him.

✠ **Genesis 22: 2**—“*And God said: Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains...*”

The **Bible** then spares us the *agony* that I am sure **Abraham** went through to *surrender* his only son.

The next morning, **Abraham** set out to *do* what God asked him to.



✠ **Hebrews 11: 17–19** – “*By faith, when Abraham was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promise offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called” accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*”

In other words, **Abraham** *believed* that God could raise **Isaac** back from the *dead*.

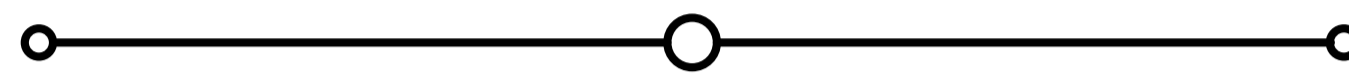
Now *father* and *son* made their way up **Mt. Moriah**. **Isaac** carried his own wood just as **Jesus** carried His own **Cross**.

But Abraham’s *faith* can be seen in what he said in **Genesis 22:5**:

✠ “*And Abraham said to his servant: “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go there and worship, and we will come back to you...”*”

Abraham knew *by faith* that **Isaac** will come back alive. Up till now, there has never been any *record* of anyone ever being *resurrected* from the *dead* but Abraham by faith *believed*.

That is **DYNAMIC FAITH!**



B. RAHAB

✝ **James 1: 25**—“*In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?*”

Rahab lived in **Jericho**. She was a *prostitute*.

She had heard *stories* about the **Israelites** and their God, **Yahweh**, who had *miraculously* brought them out of **Egypt**.

She knew they were conquering *kingdom* after *kingdom* and that they were coming for **Jericho** too.

In her *heart* she *believed*. She had **faith**, but that *faith* was made *manifest* when the *spies* visited her.

She stepped out in *faith* and *obedient* action.

She not only *believed* but she **acted** on her *faith*.

And the **reward** of her *faith* was that she entered the line of Christ.



HOW DO WE DEVELOP DYNAMIC FAITH?

1. USE YOUR HEART NOT YOUR HEAD

✝ **Romans 10: 9, 10**—“*That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your HEART that you BELIEVE and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*”

What does it mean to “*believe with our heart*”?

✝ **Romans 2: 28, 29**—“*A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is a circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code...*”

This means that the “*heart*” is referring to our “*inner man*”.

✝ **1 Peter 3: 4**—“*Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight...*”

What is this “*inner man*”? – That is right!—The **spirit**. So, to believe with your *heart* is to believe in your **spirit**!



Many people claim to have *faith* in **Jesus** and the **Bible**, but their *faith* is only in the realm of the *mind* – we call that **HEAD-FAITH**.

Having **HEAD-FAITH** is like having “**THOMAS FAITH**”.

✝ **John 20: 25**—“*Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it...*”

Thomas will only believe if his *physical* senses can *rationalise* it.

He was using **head-faith** instead of **heart-faith**.

✝ **Head Faith** says: “*I must see in order to believe.*”

✝ **Heart Faith** says: “*I believe in order to see.*”

Now *contrast* this with the faith of **Abraham**.

✝ **Romans 4: 18–21**—“*Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said of him, “so shall your offspring be”. “Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about 100 years old, and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised...*”

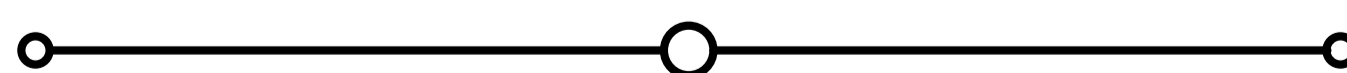
That is **heart-faith!**

“*God said it. I believe it. So be it.*”

✝ **Head-faith** is an *intellectual* acceptance of certain *facts & doctrines*.

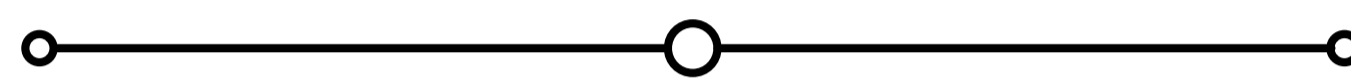
✝ **Heart-faith** takes you beyond *acceptance* into *action*.

That is why **heart-faith** produces a definite *change* in people **NOW!**



2. ACT ON IT NOT SIT ON IT

- ✝ True faith is never passive, it is active!
- ✝ Faith will always move you into positive action.
- ✝ If you have faith, you will act on it.



Story was told of some great men who died and went to heaven.

They include: *Billy Graham, Reinhard Bonke, Cho Yong Gi, & Pastor Tony.*

But unfortunately, they all arrived in *heaven* on a day when it was very *crowded*.

The *angels* saw these 4 great *men of God* in the *queue*. They did not want them to *wait* in line, so the *angel* said to them:

“You are great men of God. We cannot keep you standing in line. Why don’t you go down to a waiting room that we have? The only problem is that it is just next to hell if you don’t mind.”

So, they all went down to this *waiting room* near to *hell* to wait for their entry *processing*. Three days later, the *devil* sent a *demon* to heaven’s gate to make an *urgent* request.

The demon said: *“Can you please quickly come and take your 4 guys away? They are creating havoc in hell.”*

- ✝ That guy *Billy Graham* is preaching the gospel to all our guys and getting them saved.

- ✝ Then the other German guy *Reinhard Bonke* is laying hands on them and getting them *healed*.
- ✝ The Korean guy, *Cho Yong Gi* is planting *cell groups* all over *hell*.
- ✝ But the worst fellow is that *Tony's fellow*. He is going around raising *funds* to *air-con* the place!

What were they doing?—Just **waiting**. But faith is never *passive*, but it is *active*! It must be *acted* on!

FAITH must come *together* with **ACTION** to be **COMPLETE**.

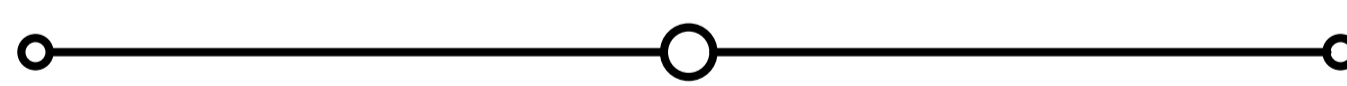
There are many *promises* in the Bible, but we will only *access* them when we *act* on what God had said.

Listen: Active faith is the key to *victorious* Christian living!

Faith that brings God's *miracle*!

“God is not moved by needs. He is moved by faith.”

“Faith moves God and then God moves mountains!”



CONCLUSION:

James ended with this concluding statement:

- ✝ **vs 26**—“*As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*”

If there is no *breath* in a body, we *conclude* it is *dead*. In the same way, if there are no *deeds*, we must conclude that the **faith** is also **dead**.

Genuine *faith* is always accompanied by good *works*.

Do not accept counterfeit *faith*...it has no *compassion*, no *conviction*, no *confidence*, no *courage*.

Instead, make a **new start** in your Christian life to attempt *great* things for the God who has done *great* things for you!

✚ **Dead Faith** touches the *mind*.

✚ **Deceptive Faith** touches the *mind* and the *heart*.

✚ **Dynamic Faith** touches the *mind*, the *heart*, and the *will*.

✚ Our **mind** must *understand* what God is saying in *His Word*.

✚ Our **emotion** must *respond* to His *love*.

✚ Our **will** must be *surrendered* to His will.

Only then will true **faith** be *birthed* in our *spirit*. And this **dynamic faith** will bring forth the fruit of *good works* in our life.

The **Holy Spirit** is *challenging* us to let our **faith** bring forth the *fruit* of good works.

✚ They are like two *oars* that we need to *propel* the boat forward.

✚ They are like two *legs* that we need to bring us *forward*.

✚ They are like two *wings* that we need to *fly* high.



If *faith* is missing, there will be no *works*.

If *works* is missing, there may be no *faith*.

Let us *believe* God for a fresh *impartation* of **dynamic faith**.



WORKSHOP 1

Reaching Our Ageing Parents

SYNOPSIS

It is always a blissful and thankful sight during service to see brothers and sisters-in-Christ standing beside their ageing parents, worshipping our Lord Jesus together. Each time, this precious sight will lead me to thank God for His answered prayers, some more than 30 years ago, and how He orchestrated all the divine opportunities to put all things to work together in the journey leading our beloved ageing parents to salvation.

We are all in His works for His kingdom's glory, I am glad to share in this 1.5-hour workshop on practical pointers and the testimonies of His work.

Timing
(mins)

- 5 1. Introduction
- 5 2. Worship and a prayer
 - Heaven Came Down And Glory Filled My Soul
- 10 3. The challenges faced when reaching out to ageing parents
- 15 4. Learning from Mark 2:1–12
- 25 5. Collaborative approach
- 20 Testimony by Ren Tze
- 10 Q & A

List 3 most challenging obstacles you will face when reaching out to your ageing parents:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. —Acts 4:12

除了祂以外，别无拯救，因为在天下人间，没有赐下别的名，我们可以靠着得救。(使徒行传 4:12)

Learning from Mark 2:1–12 (Jesus heals a paralyzed man)

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it ... —Mark 2:4

Door to _____ VS Access to _____





Collaborative Approach

Jesus said “... the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true.” —John 4:36–37

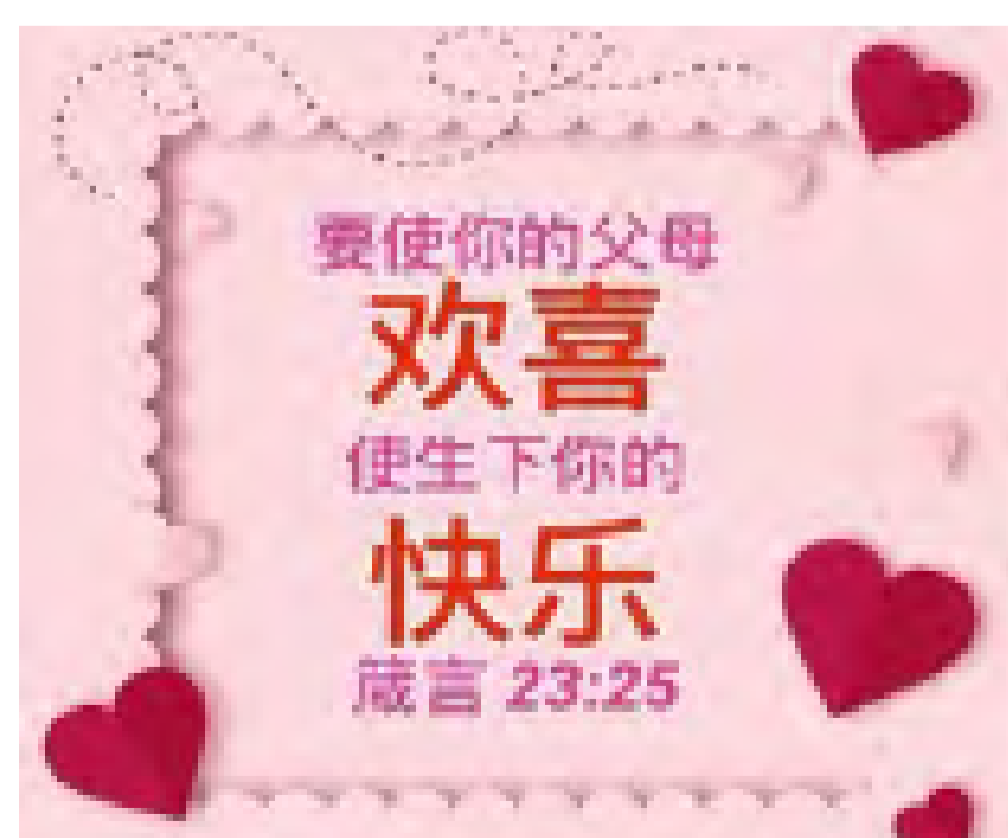
1. Pray

- a. Pray Until Something Happens (PUSH)
- b. Prayer partner
- c. Pray as a family—family’s mission for parent’s salvation

And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” —Revelation 7:10

2. Maintaining good relationship is of paramount importance

- a. Honor your parents
 - Providing their needs. *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise. —Ephesians 6:2*
 - Grace their life with joyful moments. *May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful! —Proverbs 23:25*



- b. Be bold to offer prayer for your parents
 - Thanksgiving prayer—seize opportunities.
 - In time of need. Request and made know to your parents that your CG and the Church are praying along.

3. **Intentional efforts in connecting ageing parents to spiritual family.**

Plan for it.

- a. With CG—CG family day, BBQ, etc.
- b. With the Church
 - Church camp / outings.
 - CNY event, CNY visitation, Parent’s Day Celebration, Mid-Autumn Event, Christmas Celebration, Evangelistic Events, etc.
 - Saturday Elderly Worship Service, Elderly CG, Tea Fellowship.
- c. Specific care moment, e.g., hospitalized, terminal illness, etc., arrange for pastoral visitation.




4. Co-Discipling ageing parents

- a. Accompany your parents to Church for service, fellowship, etc.
 - “ONE THING” sharing approach.
- b. Be in partnership in following up sessions with your parents, reinforce to them what they have learned, put into practice in daily life.
 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.—Philippians 4:6*
- c. Following up strategies for elderly.
 - Foundation – Assurance of Salvation
 - 麦希真牧师【幸福人生】系列² (20 messages, each 10-12 mins)

SUMMARY

 **P** _____

 **I** _____

 **C** _____

神爱世人
甚至将祂的
独生爱子赐给他们
叫一切信祂的
叫一切信祂的
不至灭亡
反得永生
约翰福音3:16

² 麦希真牧师 - 第一个信息：“到底有没有神？”

WORKSHOP 2A

Engaging Religions: Conversations that Matter

Dialogue Questions

Here are some questions that may help you to frame your dialogue.

Focus on listening and understanding their story, praying in the Holy Spirit to help you be sensitive to what you are hearing and where they are in their understanding of God

Avoid being defensive as they are sharing their opinion.

If you are asked, “what about you?” you should be ready to share your journey with Christ.

- describe your religious background (family, parents, etc)
- describe how you came to be a
- describe your journey of faith—certainty, doubts, ups and downs, steady, consistent, nominal, etc.
- describe what you believe about God, gods, supernatural, etc.
- describe what your faith teaches you about creation, evolution, life after death, etc.
- describe how you practice your faith on a daily basis both individually and corporately (e.g. go to mosque, temple, etc)

- describe what your faith teaches you about the purpose, meaning, and goals of life? How are you following these tenets?
- describe what your faith teaches about evil, suffering, good, etc.
- describe how your faith helps you during times of decision? Can you give an example?
- describe how your faith helps you during times of trial, challenges, etc. Can you give an example of divine intervention?
- How have you ever experienced God/god intervening without your asking for help?

And don't forget to ask his/her views of Christianity, even other religions. This can be insightful in shedding light on barriers. For many, Christians being arrogant and "un-Christian" (hypocritical) are one of the main barriers to people be receptive to the gospel.

- What are your thoughts on Christianity?
- How do you reconcile all the different religions? How do you know which is true?

Remember to thank them for sharing...

AVOID BEING JUDGMENTAL; AND THAT MEANS BEING MINDFUL OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE. AVOID CROSSING HANDS, FROWN ON FACE, ETC.

If you are interviewing a free thinker/atheist, consider these questions:

Even free thinkers/atheists believe in something (probably science):

- describe your religious background (family, parents, etc)
- describe how you came to be an atheist/free thinker
- what are your views on God, supernatural, etc.
- religion often provides a set of standards as do different cultures. How do you determine what is right and wrong?
- religion is often seen as being a coping mechanism during difficult times. As an atheist, how do you respond to life's challenges?
- religion often provides a purpose and direction in life. As an atheist, can you describe how you find your purpose and direction in life? What resources do you draw on to make decisions.
- the definition of religion implies an aspect of transcendence. What is your view of life after death—if you have one?

And don't forget to ask his/her views of Christianity, even other religions,
e.g.

- What are your thoughts on Christianity?
- What are your thoughts on Buddhism?
- What are your thoughts on Hinduism?
- What is your opinion of people who believe in and practice religious faith?

WORKSHOP 2B**Light At Work:** Living My Mission
In The Marketplace**Matthew 5:14–16**

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

CHECK IN**Great Commission****Matthew 28:19–20**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.



DISCUSSION: What is the Great Commission?

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

"World" = _____ (Greek) = _____ and _____

Great Commandment

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

DISCUSSION: How do you love people?

JOB versus VOCATION

_____ (Latin) = _____



DISCUSSION: What's true in Ikigai? What's missing?

Gifts and Abilities

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Time and Opportunities

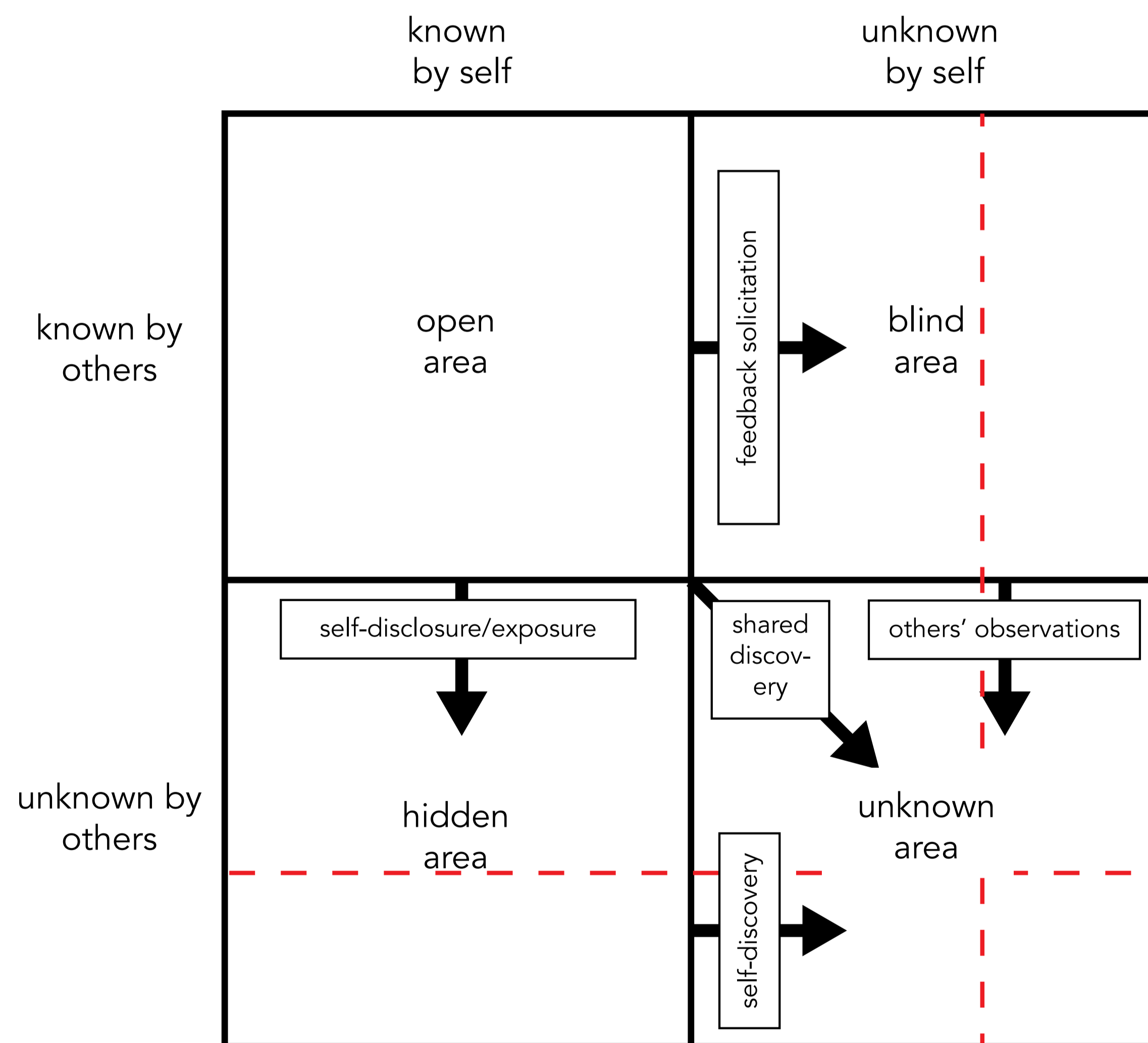
Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:10–11

I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

DISCOVERING MY MISSION



REFLECTION: What are my gifts?



	Known By Me	Unknown By Me
Known By Others		
Unknown By Others		

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

REFLECTION: What language is the Holy Spirit giving you to connect with your world?



REFLECTION:

Who/ Where am I called to?

What needs am I called to speak to?

Personal Symbol



REFLECTION:

My mission is to (Who/ Where)

With (What are the needs?)

To use my gifts of (List your gifts)

To do (What action?)

So as to (Describe Outcome)

SESSION 2

Pre-Evangelism Prayer

Text: 1 TIMOTHY 2: 1–4

INTRODUCTION:

✝ *“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving, be made on behalf of all humanity, for kings and all who were in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all persons to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.”*

This passage tells us that the Church must *consistently* and *systematically* pray for everyone in the city—and especially for those in authority—with the clear intention of seeing all of them saved.

Only then will there be true peace and tranquillity in the city.

In **1984**, when **Billy Graham** and **Luis Palau** came to England, they had the best crusade results ever. You know why?

(90,000 Christians in England formed prayer triplets, to pray for 3 non-believers each.

For one whole year, they prayed for these 9 individuals by name, week after week, pulling down strongholds & removing their spiritual blindness.

During their prayers, they were reaching out to those individuals with deeds of kindness.

By the time, **Billy Graham** and **Luis Palau** came, they were ready for the harvest.)

That is what *pre-evangelism* prayer is all about.

It is to ask God to become involved in our evangelising before and while we do it.

Have you ever been puzzled why so many Christians are faithfully *witnessing* and *inviting* people to receive Christ but with little success?

I believe that one of the main reasons for this lack of *fruit* is that we have *failed* to sufficiently *involve* God, through **prayer**, in our soul-winning efforts.

In *pre-evangelism* praying, we are asking the *omnipotent* God of heaven to reach down and work in people's lives before we do.

And what a difference that can make!

WHY INVOLVE GOD IN OUR EVANGELISM?

1. IT IS A SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

✠ **Colossians 1: 13**—“*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*”

Because evangelism is a *rescue operation*, Satan will do everything in his power to keep his captives and only through prayer will we bring into this spiritual conflict, the power of God.



2. IT STOPS SEED-STEALING

In his parable about the **4 Kinds of Soil**, Jesus taught us that the seeds that fall by the *side* of the road is trampled under *foot* and the *birds* of the air eat it up.

✠ **Luke 8: 11, 12**—“*The seed is the word of God. And those beside the road are those who have heard; and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved.*”

Why do we need to pray?

Because the *devil* hovers over like a bird, *snatching* and *eating* up the seed from the *unprepared* heart so people cannot believe and be saved.

Only *intense prayer* can chase away the demonic forces of *seed-stealers*.

We have seen people *cry* at the *altar* on **Sunday** but on **Monday** when you *call* them, the *seed* of the Word is already *stolen*.

Only a shield of *prayer* can keep the *seed-stealers* away.



3. IT OPENS BLIND EYES

Another thing that Satan does to *hinder* our evangelistic efforts is by *blinding* their *mind* spiritually.

✠ **2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4**—“*Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of the world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.*”

(When you go on board the aircraft, the airline would supply you with *eyeshades* that you can put on to *cut off* any light and go to sleep.)

The devil has put on spiritual *blindness* on the spiritual *eyes* of the *unbelievers* such that they *cannot* see the light of the glory of **Christ**.

That is why, even when we *diligently* live out **Jesus** in front of them, they are still not able to see the glory of **Christ** we are *displaying*.

✝ It is not that they *do not* want to, but they *cannot*.

✝ It is not that they *do not* want to understand but they *cannot*.

✝ Their perspective is *distorted*.

✝ They had *blindness* on.

Let me illustrate:

A woman was driving home *alone* one evening when she noticed a large *truck* following her.

Growing increasingly *fearful*, she speeds up, trying to *lose* her pursuer, but the truck continued to *chase* after her. She *exited* the highway and drove up the main street. The truck continued and even ran through a *red light* to do so.

Finally, in *panic*, she screeched into a *service station* and ran inside *screaming*. The truck *driver* ran to her car, *jerked* open her back door and pulled from the floor behind her seat a *man* who was *hiding* there.

The woman was *running* from the wrong person. She was running from her *saviour*.

The truck driver was perched *high* enough to be able to *see* that a man was *hiding* in her back seat waiting for the opportunity to *harm* her. The truck driver was *pursuing* her to *save* her at the *risk* of his own life.

This is the situation with the *unbeliever*. Because of a *distorted* perspective, he is running away from the very **Person** who can save him from destruction.

Why?—He had *spiritual blinders* on!



It is only through **prayer** that these *blinders* can be removed.

Let us go back to **2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4**.

✚ The word “*veil*” means “*to hide, cover up, wrap around*”.

One picture would be: a *tree* is veiled by bark; the *human body* is veiled by skin.

✚ The Greek word for “*veil*” is “*kalupsis*”.

✚ The Greek word for “*revelation*” is “*apo-kalupsis*”.

✚ The Greek word “*apo*” means “*off*” or “*away*”.

In other words, *revelation* is an *unveiling*, an *uncovering*.

To receive a revelation means to have the *veil* removed.

That is why what the unbeliever needs is not just *spiritual information* but *spiritual revelation*. And that can only come with *prayer*.



That is why sometimes, I get into a *debate* with an *unbeliever*. It seems like I had a very *reasonable* case.

✝ I have a *first-class* presentation.

✝ I have a *logical* approach.

✝ I have a *strong* argument.

On every count, I should *win* the *debate* hands down but at the end, he still *rejects Christ*. Why?

✝ It is not just a *philosophical* issue.

✝ It is not just an *intellectual* issue.

✝ It is a *spiritual* issue!

What is the answer? **Prayer!—Pre-evangelism Prayer!**

✝ God needs to do a *supernatural* work in people before we can reach them with *human* efforts.

✝ God must prepare their *hearts* and *minds* before they can be receptive to the Gospel.

That is why we need to first do *prayer evangelism* before we do *servant evangelism* or *proclamation evangelism*.



HOW DOES SATAN BLIND THE PRE-BELIEVERS?

What gives place to this veil?

The word “*blinded*” is “*tuphloo*” meaning “*to dull the intellect; to make blind*”. The *root* word is “*tupho*” which means “*making smoke*”.

That tells us that the *blindness* in this passage is like a *smoke screen* that *clouds* the air in such a way that it *prohibits* a person from *seeing*.

From this same root comes a word “*tuphoo*” that is used for being *high-minded, proud, or inflated*.

The picture is one of being “*puffed up*” like *smoke* puffing up.

That is the connection between *blindness* and *pride*.



Immediately, you can see that it was the sin of *pride*, passed down from Lucifer in the **Garden of Eden** that Satan uses to blind them.

Pride is at the root of all rejection of the Gospel.

Could that be the reason why there are more women than men who would respond to the gospel?

It is always harder for a man to put down his pride than a woman.

Could it be this *pride factor*? The minds of unbelievers are literally wrapped around by strongholds rooted in *pride*.

HOW THEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

✠ **2 Corinthians 10: 3–5**—“*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*”

The obvious points are:

The *weapons* of our warfare are not *carnal* or *fleshly*. On the other hand, we have weapons that are “*divinely powerful*” to pull down strongholds.

The word “*powerful*” is “*dunatos*” which is a **New Testament** word for a “*miracle*”.

That is what it takes to see a soul saved!

The word “*pulling down strongholds*” is “*katharesis*” which means “*to bring down with violence or demolish*” something.

In other words: with this powerful, miracle working dynamite behind our weapons, we become *demolition agents* violently tearing down Satan’s strongholds.

✠ Remember **Matthew 11: 12**—“*And from the days of John The Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*”



HOW TO PRAY AGAINST STRONGHOLDS?

1. SPECULATIONS

The Greek word is “*logismos*” from where we get the word “*logic*”.

This means that it is not the *scattered* individual thoughts of man but of their *calculative reasoning*, their human wisdom.

In other word, it is referring to a “*mind-set*”—Anything that causes a person to *think* a certain way. What a person really believes.

This includes philosophies, religions, humanism, materialism, intellectualism, rejections, perversions etc.

✚ How does this veil the mind of the unbeliever?

The way the human mind function is that when the *gospel* is preached, before the person even have time to *think* or *reason* about it, it is filtered through the *sub-conscious* where this “*logismos*” is stored.

This means that the unbeliever does not hear what we are *saying* but they hear what we are saying *plus* what they already *believe*.

Like people who come from dysfunctional homes don't just hear you say: “*God is a loving Heavenly Father.*”

But they hear “*If God is really my loving Heavenly Father; how can my own father abuse me?*”

That is a *mind-set*. And we need to use our *weapons* against that.



2. LOFTY THING

The word means “*hupsoma*” which is the same root word for “*Most High*” God.

It means “*any elevated place or thing*”. This speaks again about *pride*.

This referred therefore to all mind-sets that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.



3. THOUGHT

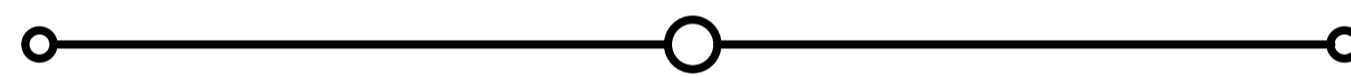
We are to “*take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*”.

✝ The word “*thought*” is “*noema*” which also means “*plans, schemes, devices or plots*”.

This refers to the spontaneous thoughts and Satan uses to assault the unbelievers and to keep them in darkness.

In intercession, we must declare that “*no weapon formed against them will prosper*”.

We should raise a *shield* of protection over them.



HOW THEN SHOULD WE PRAY FOR THE LOST?

Imagine you are praying for **John Doe** to come to Christ:

1. **Pray** that God will lift the “*veil*” over him. Ask that the *blinders* will be removed. That *revelation* and *enlightenment* will come to him.
2. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will *hover* over him to birth life where there is not like He did on the day of Creation.
3. **Pray** for *godly* people to come into his pathway each day.
4. **Pray** to cast down anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, specifically *pride* and *rebellion*. This takes care of the “*hupsoma*” aspect of the strongholds.

5. **Pray** and using the keys of the kingdom to *bind* Satan from taking John Doe captive. Restrain all wicked thought and lies that Satan would try to erect in John's mind. This takes care of the "*noema*" aspect of the strongholds.
6. **Pray** to take down every known *stronghold* like thought pattern, opinions on religion, materialism, fear etc. This takes care of the "*logismos*" dimension of the strongholds.
7. **Pray** that the *armour of God* would be placed on him. The angels would raise a shield of protection around him.



But we must remember that it takes time to tear down a **stronghold** which has been *erected* over years.

I remember watching the film "*Volcano*" where the *lava flow* needs to be diverted to the sea. The *rescuers* planted *detonators* in a huge building to create a *channel* to divert the flow to the sea.

This in some ways can also be a picture of our **prayer**. When we pray for the *lost*, we are strategically placing the *dynamite* of the **Spirit** for days, weeks and months.

But each time, we take up our *weapons* and use it against the *strongholds* of the enemies; we are placing our *explosives* in strategic places.

And sooner or later, **God** the *Holy Detonator of Heaven* is going to say: "*Enough!*"

Then there will be that mighty *explosion* in the **Spirit** and the *strongholds* will crumble to the ground and the *unbelieving* will fall to his knees in Jesus' Name! Amen.

That is why we need to *pray* all the way till we *lead* the person to **Christ**.

The *closer* they come to accepting Christ, the more *intense* the spiritual warfare becomes.

One way in which we could pray particularly in an evangelistic meeting is by looking over the people.

Then looking at specific persons, address **Satan** directly and declare that **Jesus** died specifically for that person and he has no rights to hold on to them anymore.

1. Declare that his *blindness* will have to *come off* now.
2. The *demonic* will not be able to *steal* the *seed* of the Word anymore.
3. Firmly remind Satan that the **Cross** has *defeated* him.
4. The Blood of the Lamb has *overcome* him.
5. Then ask for the *conviction* of the **Holy Spirit** to work in his heart.
6. And implore the **Father** to call him *home* and *save* him in **Jesus'** Name.



THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS

I would like to recommend a *method* that has been used for many years by some groups.

It is called “**Pre-Evangelism Triplet Praying**”.

Three is a very *common* number in the Bible.

✝ **Jesus** had his inner circle of three—**Peter, James and John**.

✝ **Moses** had **Aaron** and **Hur** to help him in the prayer to assure Israel's victory with the Amalekites.

✝ **Ecclesiastes 4: 12**—“*A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.*”

✝ **Matthew 18: 20**—“*For where two or three have gathered together in my Name, there am I in their midst.*”

Triplet praying is based on this promise that **Jesus** is present in our small group prayer. This is how it works:

1. Three Christians will each choose *three unsaved people* (making a total of nine).
2. They get together at least *once a week* to pray for these nine persons by name.
3. They pray to tear down *strongholds* until the lost come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



ADVANTAGES OF TRIPLET PRAYER

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

When you are *accountable* to 2 other people, you are more likely to stay faithful in your prayer.

2. ENCOURAGEMENT

Three people can *mutually* encourage each other to *persevere* in prayer.

They can also be *encouraged* by each other's success especially when one of the nine came to the Lord or when *strongholds* start falling.

3. RELATIONSHIP

Another *positive* dimension of triplet praying is that the relationship between the three prayer warriors can develop very strongly. They can become your *spiritual mates*.

4. PRESENCE

There is a *power* released in *triplet praying* through *united prayer*.



✠ **1 John 5: 19**—“*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*” but you & I are given authority to turn unbelievers from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to God.”

The *unbeliever* cannot *war* for himself. He *cannot* and *will not* overcome the strongholds of darkness, and he will not understand the *gospel* until the veil is lifted.

We must take up our *weapons* and *war* on their behalf. The powers of darkness will resist.

✠ But **Nehemiah 4: 14**—“*Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.*”

END OF BOOKLET



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