



intensify and increase their lure — to distract, confuse and corrupt your moral and spiritual bearings as their influence is under threat. But that's to be expected. The detachment process will be patchy and uneven, because it's hard to decimate what we've grown comfortable with all these years. Habitual patterns of thinking are always hard to break.

To form new thought patterns and build new priorities, we must first identify and label our idols. This involves honesty and courage. It's easy to justify and rationalise that what we own are necessary possessions, and that we can't function without them. Ridding them, or reducing our dependence on them, would naturally leave an awkward void in our lives.

Thus, the defensive (or is it defiant?) posture. It's very difficult to give up the tangible for the intangible. Deep within, we always have this niggling doubt about the value of cultivating simplicity and spirituality because our theological framework is suspect and suspicious of subtractions. We've surrendered too much of ourselves to the worldly estimation of value that measures worth by units of gratification, not by spiritual goals.

Still, there can be no compromise. If we want to live a truly liberated and joyous life, we must identify those things, people, relationships, desires, ideology and even ideas that possess us. An idol is something we've surrendered to or something we make to take the place of God.

We know we've made an idol when the possible loss of that particular thing or someone in question creates an inappropriate and disproportionate reaction in us. Our reactive feelings reveal the level of our attachment to our possessions and God. But as Jesus warns, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24), and "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Are you treasuring the right things in life? Evaluate what you treasure and be willing to dispose them if they've been enslaving you. Cultivate simplicity and contentment because these encourage us to enjoy all we have, but not become totally addicted to those unhelpful and unedifying relationships or things that make us feel utterly lost without them.

While it's natural to mourn the loss of these structures, releasing them actually allows us to greet new possibilities and celebrate life at its fullest. Paradoxically, an attitude of contentment also allows us to receive and enjoy more of life than we would if we spent time focusing on whether we were getting our share. Contentment transforms us from worried and preoccupied individuals into grateful people.

Pastor Song Cheng Hock

## 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

### SPECIAL APPEAL

**We will be receiving a second bag this morning for Revival Center's Building Fund.** There is no obligation to give but please pray and as the Lord moves your heart give willingly.

### APOLOGIES

**Outreach Sunday is on the 5th Sunday of the month and not on July 26th. Next Outreach Sunday will be August 30th 2009. Speaker: Rev. Timothy Khoo**

**Fellowship lunch is open to contribution. Please see Sis. Magdalene. PLEASE PRAY FOR SOULS TO BE SAVED**



### PRAYER ITEMS

- 1. Please pray for our Guest Speaker, Ps Edmund Chua**, as he brings God's Word to us this morning, that we will all be ministered to by the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Pray for Auntie Alice**, that she will be close to the Lord, and for her to trust the Lord completely during this time of trial. Pray for God's peace and strength for her, and for God's wisdom for Auntie Catherine as she takes care of her sister, as well as for the medical team in attendance.
- 3. Uncle Neville is in Penang** at the invitation of the First AG Church to share at a special meeting. This morning he will be speaking at our Penang COG. Please pray for safe travel and for the Lord to bless and protect him during the trip. Thank you.
- 4. Thank you for praying for the 7/11 rally** in Chinatown. The turnout and response was good and we praise God for answered prayers. Please continue to pray for Ps. Caleb as he does the follow-up.
- 5. Please pray for the new developments in Cambodia**, for the new Church and new Khmer school. Pray for the teachers, a



pastor (to be appointed) and for the children. Many of them are orphans whose parents have died of HIV. They now live with foster parents and are often sick and hungry. We will be collecting used children's clothes to bring to them on our next trip.



**6. PRAYER REQUEST FROM LIVE MINISTRY:** Please join us in urgent prayer for **Wayne Bays** who sings baritone in the Lighthouse Gospel Quartet. Wayne fell this morning while painting our church. He has severe head and spine injuries and was flown to Harborview Hospital in Seattle this afternoon.

**Latest:** The pressure in the brain continues to fluctuate but has been increasing. We're praying that the pressure will peak and start dropping so that they can do surgery to fuse his spine. The danger without the surgery is that they can't move him with the broken spine and there are indications of possible pneumonia.

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

We wish to advise members, when writing a cheque to the church, to please write the full name: **Church of God (Evangelical) Ltd**. This is because it is a requirement of the bank. Thank you.

### CHURCH 29TH ANNIVERSARY

We will be celebrating our 29th Anniversary on August 16th 09 and would like to invite participants to make presentations - song items, short testimonies or skits.

**Please inform the pastors if you wish to contribute before July 31st 2009. Thank you.**

### Memory Verse:

**Last week's:** The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. - **Psalm 145:8**

**This week:** This is my command: Love each other. - **John 15:17.**