



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Growing Faith in God

SPEAKER Elder Low Kok Guan

THEME Faith at Home

DATE 23 & 24 June 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

We need faith (Lk 18:8; Heb 11:6) but how do we have it?

Who we are is often revealed not in what we say, but in what we do. We look at the life of Samuel to learn how to grow to become a person of faith in God (1 Sam 2:12 – 3:18).

HOW TO GROW IN FAITH

1. Know God through the Word (Rom 10:17)

(1 Sam 2:12-25) Eli's sons did not know God (1 Sam 2:12), mishandled the offerings, committed sexual immorality and stumbled others with their lifestyle. They did not listen to their earthly father, much less their heavenly Father.

In contrast, God revealed Himself to Samuel through his Word (1 Sam 2:21; 3:7) such that everything said about Samuel came true (1 Sam 9:6) and he eventually became a mentor to kings.

2. Please God through listening to Him (1 Sam 3:4,10)

(1 Sam 2:26-3:10) Eli's sons acted in a way that disgraced the Lord. But Samuel was willing to listen when the Lord spoke such that the Lord was pleased with him and he grew in favour with the Lord (1 Sam 2:26). We need to learn to respond with *"Here I am... Speak, Lord, for your servant hears"*.

3. Obey God through doing (1 Sam 2:25)

(1 Sam 3:11-18) God had spoken to Eli about his sons' misbehaviour but he honoured his sons above the Lord (1 Sam 2:29); he did not follow God wholeheartedly nor repent when Samuel conveyed his vision from the Lord to Eli (1 Sam 3:18).

Despite the fact that the first Word given to him by the Lord was a judgment on his mentor (1 Sam 3:11-15), Samuel obeyed God, likely an attitude learnt from his mother Hannah. This led him to make the statement later to King David that obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Sam 15:22).

CONCLUSION

As we seek to know, please and obey God, practical steps we can take should include:

- Reading the Bible.
- Repenting (1 Sam 2:25; 1 Jn 2:1) – this may start with finding a quiet place to still ourselves before the Lord in order to listen to Him.
- Seeking out a mentor to hold ourselves accountable to – to avoid becoming like the sons of Samuel who did not continue to obey God (1 Sam 8:1-3).

QUESTIONS

1. Growing in faith is seeking to know God. Share one thing you *now* know about God that you didn't know a year (or a month) ago.

2. Elder Kok Guan shared about finding a quiet place, i.e. a place where we can be still before the Lord to listen to Him. What/Where is *your* quiet place?

3. A mentoring relationship helps to ensure we are always seeking to please and obey God.
a) Share who your mentors are, or identify someone you can proactively approach to mentor you.
b) For those who have been in the faith for a while, share who you are mentoring, or identify someone you can proactively reach out to as a potential mentor.