



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	Through the Looking Glass	<b>SPEAKER</b>	Gary Koh
<b>THEME</b>	Significant Experiences of Grace in Our Lives	<b>DATE</b>	29 & 30 Dec 2018

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Mr Gary Koh reminded us that everything we see is filtered through the lenses of our eyes. He then introduced the topic by asking the congregation to think about our perspectives in life, whether we see from God's perspectives and respond the way God would like us to. He emphasized that we should become more like Christ and if so, this would be evident by our behaviours and noticed by the people around us. He encouraged us to live what we believe and not be conformed to the world's thinking which is heavily influenced by the media. God's grace has provided us with the power and ability to do everything He has called us to do.

## OPENING OF SPIRITUAL EYES TO KNOW THE TRUTH WHICH SETS US FREE

Luke 24:13-35 describes Jesus joining two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. Jesus walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him (v16). From the disciples' countenance, it was evident that they were sad. These disciples had put their hope in Jesus but they felt disappointed. Jesus was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people but was sentenced to death.

When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem and shared what had happened and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Mr Koh said that the disciples knew Jesus but could not recognise Jesus because their eyes were not opened. Similarly, we will not know Jesus and what He has done for us if our spiritual eyes are closed. Other passages quoted include Matthew 6:22-23, 2 Kings 6:17 and Psalms 119:18. If God does not open our eyes, we will not see the wonder of His Word.

Similarly, when praying for unsaved oikos, he encouraged us to declare Ephesians 1:17-19 "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

## THREE PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER

### 1. When we feel insignificant, look up

Our self-worth is from the Lord who is our Creator. It does not come from the world's standards, our emotions, education, financial status, marital status, or even number of likes on social media. We must place Scriptures in our heart so that we can refute the lies. When Jesus was tempted, he quoted Scriptures and we must do likewise. In Ephesians 6:10-18, it says to put on the full armor of God, so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes. He highlighted that the armour described are mainly defensive ones except for the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We must read and memorise Scriptures to sharpen our minds and grasp the truth that we are God's children, from which we derive our identity and self-worth.

### 2. When we feel discouraged, look back

Mr Koh encouraged us to develop a habit of journaling to document God's faithfulness to us over the years. He is our provider emotionally, physically and financially; He is also our healer. When we are discouraged, read the journal and look back to see how God has always been faithful in the past. This will strengthen our hearts.

1 Chronicles 16:11-12 "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced."

Psalms 143:4-5 "So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed. I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done."

### 3. When we feel weary, look ahead

When we are weary, we should focus on what is to come. Hebrews 12:1-3 says to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Don't give up despite the circumstances. Jesus himself for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Look ahead and fix our eyes on Jesus, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

## CONCLUSION

Mr Koh rounded up with Revelation 21:18-21 that our eternal home is heaven. In heaven, the wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone including sapphire, emerald. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. Therefore, when we go through moments of:

- Feeling insignificant, look up to God;
- Discouragements, look back on His Faithfulness and
- Weariness, look ahead to the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

# QUESTIONS

1. The message has outlined the importance of having our spiritual eyes opened. Share one positive testimony that highlights life transformations or salvations when spiritual eyes are opened.

2. Have there been occasions recently when you felt insignificant, discouraged or weary? What was your response and how can you apply the principles that was shared in the message.

3. As we draw to close in 2018, what are some areas in your life that could be viewed with a Godly perspective? In 2019, what is one area in your daily life that you will resolve to be more Christ-like?