

TOPICFrom Darkness to LightTHEMEJesus Christ & Him Crucified

SPEAKERElder Ps Ng Hua KenDATE27 & 28 April 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

From Darkness to Light

Pastor Hua Ken's sermon anchors on Acts 26:19 "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Even when he was on trial and with his life at stake, Paul continues to defend his faith and serve God wholeheartedly. Using the narrative of Apostle Paul, Pastor Hua Ken encourages us to fulfil our own salvation purpose.

Power of a Transformed Life - Apostle Paul

We are reminded that our salvation is not just for us to enjoy, but is meant for us to do God's work in opening eyes and turning others from darkness to light. Though this might sound intimidating, we must not forget that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, and this is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11).

God gives us the power to transform lives, including our own, into the image of Christ. With the power of the Holy Spirit within us, Pastor Hua Ken encourages us to use our whole lives to preach the Gospel. When our lives have preached the gospel sufficiently to those around us, when they are ready to hear more, when the Spirit of God impresses on us, we must be ready to share the message.

The story of Apostle Paul reflects this life transformation. Before encountering God, Paul was a Pharisee who persecuted the church. After encountering God, he had a change of heart and a clear purpose – to be appointed as a servant and witness to people around him (Acts 26:16). He lived a transformed life, preaching the gospel to all who saw him. When he was on trial, with his life at stake, Paul the captive staked it all to continue preaching his message to his captive audience.

The passion and strength of purpose that Paul lived his life with may seem unrealistic to us, and indeed by our own strength it would surely be impossible. Yet the mercy of God and the power of the Spirit enables us to not lose heart in times of trials, but to carry on, strengthened in our eternal purpose. In the words of Oswald Chambers: "All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them."

QUESTIONS

1. From your personal experience, share examples of believers who have preached the gospel through their lives and how they have been an inspiration or encouragement to you.

2. What are some challenges that prevent you from living out the gospel at all times? What hope and encouragement can you find from Scripture and your cell group to press on?

3. Who are the people that God has sent you to preach the gospel to? Identify these persons and pray for God's mercy and grace for you to reach out to them and love them.