

Beyond The Wall Part One

Appreciating What We Have

Introduction

Read: Philippians 4:6-13

1. Walls exist for various reasons: to keep something in, to keep something out and to protect or hide something.
2. Many times, we keep to ourselves things that are meant to be shared to others for their good.
3. Just like how we cannot wait to tell others about a good deal we found online, or the awesome food we tried over the weekend, we must not keep the good things God has done to ourselves!
4. Before we can tell others about what God has done in our lives, we need to reflect upon and appreciate the many blessings God has given us.
5. In today's lesson, we will study the Bible and discuss how we can better appreciate all that God has done in our lives.

I. Do Not Worry About What We Don't Have

- A. Paul encouraged us to not worry about anything because God knows our needs, and will meet our needs (v6-7).
- B. Instead of focusing on our lack, choose to focus on what we already have in our hands.
- C. Let God know about our needs through prayer and understand that no prayer is too big or small for God.

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

- Matthew 6:31-32

- D. Thank God in advance for all the blessings that He will shower upon us.

II. Be Contented With What We Have

- A. Paul could appreciate whatever he already had because he knew how to be contented (v11-12).
- B. Make a list of blessings that God has given unto us to remind us of his goodness!
E.g. Salvation, Provision, Acceptance, Freedom in Christ, Protection, etc.
- C. Adopt an attitude of gratefulness instead of an attitude of discontentment.
Gratefulness enables us to rejoice over what we already have, discontentment robs us of any joy over what we have.

D. Respond to God's goodness by serving Him wholeheartedly (Read Romans 12:1).

III. Appreciation Leads Us To Action

A. A right perspective of God's goodness over our lives will spur us to share about God to others (v13).

B. Recognise that there are many out there who need Jesus in their lives and that we possess the opportunity to share Christ to them.

People around us may be undergoing sickness, depression, difficulties etc. and what they need is Jesus Christ to walk them through it.

C. Put aside any form of complacency or selfishness, and make an effort to share Christ to others.

D. Step out of our comfort zone to bless those around us.

E.g. Pray together with a friend going through a rough patch, obey the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel to someone on the train/bus, etc.

Discuss!

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- *What are some things in your life that you are grateful to God for?
E.g. Salvation, education, family, friends, wisdom, etc.*

- *How can we respond to God appropriately because of His kindness towards us?
E.g. Share the Gospel to others because lost souls are important to God, do not hurt God by sinning, etc.*

Conclusion

1. God has blessed all of us in many ways and sometimes, we fail to recognise these blessings because we are too fixated on what we do not have.
2. Having a grateful heart will enable us to be joyful in all kinds of circumstances.
3. God wants others to experience the same blessings that we have experienced!

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we will have compassion for the lost souls and courage to share the Gospel to them.
- b) Pray that our focus will be on God and all that He has done for us.
- c) Ask for forgiveness for times that we have been ungrateful, and pray that God will grant us a heart of gratefulness.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*