



Life Group Notes: Tuesday 5th March 2019
Recap of the 2019 Vision “Something is about to happen”

READ PHIL 1:27 – 2:2

Striving and Suffering for Christ

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Unity Through Humility

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Phil used the above scripture two weeks ago to help articulate his 2019 vision for the Church. Paul knew very well what it meant to face challenges, pressure and opposition as he reminds believers to maintain a godly conduct in the midst of such trials. Regardless of the seasons and difficulties, Paul encourages Christians to constantly demonstrate a Christ-like attitude as we have been granted to suffer for Him. He reminds us that the plans of God for His Church will come through as the vision will not tarry and His divine purpose will come to pass in our lives and our Church. Today we revisit this scripture to understand how best to support the vision of the Church. Something is about to happen!

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

1. In v27, Paul brings up the conduct and behaviour of Christ's followers into consideration and exhorts us to ensure our conduct stands scrutiny, not for us but for the sake of the gospel.
 - Is your conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ? What elements of your conducts will not stand any scrutiny under the light of the gospel? Please discuss.
 - Why does Paul emphasises that our conduct should be consistent whether he is present or absence and why does it matter? Please discuss

2. Please, read v29 and discuss what our response should be when the enemy pushes against us and what this means to you individually and how you feel this is relevant even for the wider Church? ***“v29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake”***
3. Prayer has been raised as an important point of the vision for the Church in 2019. Please, read some other highlights of the vision articulated by Phil and take time to pray about it.

Recap of vision:

- 1. Develop our life groups (Get involved)**
 - Develop relationships and plan some life groups
- 2. Alpha Marriage Course**
 - Teach people and help them be equipped
- 3. Build up our on-line presence**
 - To strengthen our presence online and facilitate the way we reach out and facilitate access points from the community.
- 4. Stretch out further for our campaign for the gospel.**
 - Step up in the advancement of the gospel (“Striving for the message of the gospel)
 - Increasing areas to enlarge the place of our tents and not holding back (Isaiah 54) Cambridge Mission Week (March 2019), Training for Evangelism (October 2019), Alpha Eddington (March 2019) are just some of the programs being looked into so we can also get a rhythm.
- 5. Stand in the gap and pray: “It all starts with the foundation of prayer...”**
 - We need to pray more. We need to know the power of prayer again as prayer is the engine room of the Church.
 - God is urging us to get into Intecessary prayer. One of the great ways to stand against opposition.
 - Surrounding people of our church congregation, leaders, and evangelists with intercession is beneficial. Remember Acts 4 v23. Where when people heard about Peter and John, they raised their voices **TOGETHER IN PRAYER to God.**
 - This is the way we will advance and respond together to the attacks of the enemy and to deal with the strongholds. In v31, After they prayed, the place where they were praying was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word boldly.
 - We need to be more targeted in prayer
 - Prayer and fasting weeks to be introduced this year.
 - Set up of a prayer room initially through 5 different Tuesdays in the year from 09:00am -05:00pm to pray and intercede for the Church.
 - Read the scripture and pray together for each of the vision items below

CLOSING

Please, specifically pray for your pastor, the elders, the operations team in the Church and your cell leader and their families.