



## General Superintendent's Address

*Trust ye in the Lord for ever ...*

**W**e adopted Luke 1:37, “For with God nothing shall be impossible” as the theme verse in 2015. Truly our Lord Jesus Christ has been very good to our Sunday School in 2015. We witnessed an increased in our Sunday School attendance. Our students visited more mission fields, and were engaged in the fellowship group activities in the Lively Teens Fellowship and the Youth Fellowship. We thank God for new teachers who had come on board to teach our students. Their labour of love in weekly lesson preparation and constant prayers for our students had greatly encouraged many. Yes, for with God nothing shall be impossible!

*“Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:4)*

For 2016, the Lord has given us Isaiah 26:4 as our theme verse! This is a fitting sequel to Luke 1:37. Everyone needs to learn to trust God in everything. We can trust God because He is trustworthy, and He keeps His covenant with us without fail. We have a Sovereign God whom we can trust forever. Our God is Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent. We can trust Him because in Him is everlasting strength. God has infinite wisdom and strength which we can tap constantly anywhere and any time! The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God says “call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest

not” (Jeremiah 33:3). So God’s mobile number is 333!

Trust .....

**Why do we need to trust God?** We trust God because He created us and saved us from eternal condemnation. We need to trust God because He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). God is eternally trustworthy and He is gracious unto those who put their trust in Him! What do we trust God for? We trust God in everything big or small. No matter is too small to trust God in. God is our Object of Faith. We can put our entire trust in Him. We trust God for our daily sustenance, for God is Jehovah Jireh (Gen. 22:14). God is faithful in keeping us from sins and all evil if we only learn to put our trust entirely on Him.

**How do we trust God?** This is the most important aspect of trusting God. [FAITH = OBEY] To trust in God, we need to obey Him and His words (the Bible). Hence, the first step to trusting God is to read the Bible! We can never overemphasise the importance of having our daily quiet time – reading and meditating upon God’s Word, and praying patiently, waiting upon the Lord! *“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isa. 40:31)*

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**IMPORTANT:** Sunday School staff dedication will be held today (3 Jan) at the 11am service. All Sunday School staff are requested to be present.

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Trust ye .....

I had done a Bible search on the King James Bible, and found out that there are several verses with this phrase “trust in the Lord”. Isaiah 26:4 is the only verse in the Bible that stated, “Trust **ye** in the Lord”! What is so significant about this verse? God’s people had been going through a vicious cycle of life – sinning against God, calling upon God, God’s deliverance, being deceived by Satan and going back to sin! Such is that vicious cycle that we must be warned! Hence, the Prophet Isaiah instructed God’s people to “trust ye in the Lord”. Trusting God is the individual’s responsibility! We must intentionally choose to trust in God. That is the start!

Trust ye in the Lord .....

At the beginning of the new year, 2016, we want to remind everyone that we need to trust in the Lord individually. When we respond to the Gospel, we make a confession of faith to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. This must be a volitional commitment from every individual. Our parents can’t do this on our behalf, our siblings can’t, neither can any of our friends commit on our behalf.

Our Christian life is a maturity continuum. When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ, there is the immediate sanctification from sin. We need to feed on the pure milk of God’s words and mature daily in our Christian faith (progressive sanctification). Granted that there will be ups and downs in our Christian life journey, but we need to trust in the Lord and grow deep in faith. This is the secret to a victorious Christian life – Grow deep in God! Nothing can distract us or take us away from God if we learn to grow deep in faith towards God. Isaiah reminded us that we are to “*take root downward, and bear fruit upward*” (Isa. 37:31).

If we learn to trust in the Lord, we will also learn to trust Him patiently. Not everything in life that we need will come at the moment we ask for it. Spiritual formation takes time, and we need to “*grow in grace, and the knowledge*

*of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (2 Pet. 3:18). Our God is not only a Sovereign God, He is also a gracious God – for He is the God of Sovereignty and Grace.

### **What is the difference between mercy and grace?**

*Mercy* is God not giving us what we deserve; *grace* is God giving us what we do not deserve! We are sinners and deserve the worst punishment for our every sin, but God did not give it to us because He is a Merciful God. We do not deserve eternal and abundant life, but God gives it to us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ because He is a God of Grace! In this New Year 2016, let us trust in the Lord God Jehovah because He is the God of Sovereignty and Grace.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength .....

Finally, we can only trust in this Lord God Jehovah because in Him is everlasting strength! Are you feeling weak in faith? Trust ye in the Lord! Are you living in sin and guilt? Trust ye in the Lord to deliver you! Are you living dangerously as described in Bruce Larson’s book “Living Dangerously”? Trust ye in the Lord to deliver you the way He had delivered Lazarus in John 11. The Bible tells us, “*And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*” (Jn. 11:44) When we are delivered by our Lord Jesus Christ, we become dangerous to Satan’s empire – we live dangerously for our Lord Jesus Christ through faithful witnessing daily!

May the Lord help us to trust in God always in 2016!

Because Jesus lives,  
Elder (Dr) Sherman Ong,  
General Superintendent,  
Life B-P Church Sunday School