

FBC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L

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Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

FBC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

f i o i YOUTH

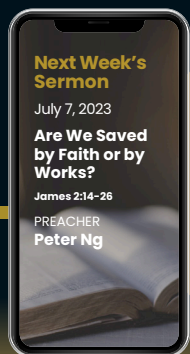
- No. 38, Jalan SS17/1D, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
- +603 5621 2623
- fbcsubangfamily@fbc.com.my
- www.fbc.com.my

- MAIN SERVICE**
| Physical & Youtube |
Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am
- YOUTH SERVICE**
| Physical |
Sundays 8:45am
- SUNDAY SCHOOL**
For Ages 3 to 12
(Preschool to std 6)
Physical Classes
8:45am / 11:15am

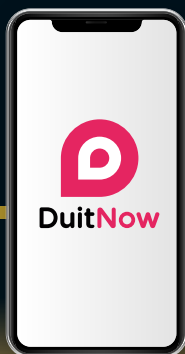
If you watched the Pixar animation "Inside Out", I would say the 2 primary emotions that run my brain is Sadness and Anger. I think that's not a very positive combo. There's plenty in life that upsets, frustrates and angers me.

A Bible verse that I remember but in a totally unbiblical way is John 21:18. Jesus was speaking to Peter "When you were younger you

—dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Completely unbiblical, but the phrase 'lead you where you do not want to go', I relate to it as a Grab driver. Come the evening peak hours, passengers always take me where I do not want to go. Bukit Bintang, KLCC, Pavilion KL. Frustrates me.



Pulpit Program
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I recognize that each person is created differently and uniquely. Allow me to quote Psalms 139:13-14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

The Psalm tells me I am fearfully and wonderfully made. But despite that, there's so much frustrations and disappointments in life. Plenty of times, I question why. A lot of those questions I have no answer. Some are rhetorical.

Why am I a perfectionist (sort of) living in an imperfect world?

Why are people trying to give me advice on how to live my life?

Why is God not in the conversations on the family dining table?

Why are my thoughts and values so different from my parents? Why do their thoughts about me affect me so much?

On this note, let me go a little deeper. Plenty of people struggle with Luke 14:26 the verse where Jesus said "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes even their own life such a person cannot be my disciple". I am not going to do an exegesis on this, but for a lot of people, even more so for traditional Chinese family where filial piety is emphasized, the phrase "hate father and mother" is very difficult for them to accept. For me, ever since I was in my secondary school days I have no issue with that verse. Because my parents' values are so different and, in many times, are in direct conflict with the Bible's. "Don't be fanatical about the whole Jesus thing" "You are getting brainwashed in church", they have said these to me.

In church, people have good things to say about Lazarus. (Ironically, I don't get those good things about me at home). I think people in church see me and think that I have probably figured things out in life, I'm doing great, I'm having a problem free life. When they think like that, it shows my mask is being put on so well. I have been trying to be genuine, especially to fellow believers, but I discovered not everyone appreciates me being honest and genuine. What I am trying to say is; I do have struggles, I do feel defeated at times, I do feel sad, ... a lot.

With constant frequent sadness, no wonder Anger is second in command in my brain right? Where's the victory in my life as a Christian? Victories like the heroes in the Bible stories?

J.I. Packer's *Knowing God* struck me. He said as Christians shouldn't we be able to say: "the unpleasantness we have had, or the pleasantness we have not had, does not matter to us?" Shouldn't I be able to say that, after knowing Christ? If I truly know God.



I know I have a long long way to go as a Christian. I'll end with the story of Job. We know Job suffered greatly from all kinds of affliction. He did not understand what was going on, he didn't know why. He argued with his friends that he did nothing wrong.

Finally, God spoke to him in chapter 38. God asked "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand". Job got a lecture about God's omniscience and omnipotence, which went on for 3 chapters. In the end (Job 42:5-6), Job said "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you... I repent".

Do you realize Job never got an answer on the reason for his afflictions? Never in his lifetime, but he was satisfied with God's words nonetheless. Hearing God was enough.



Similarly, for myself, and also to encourage others; to handle all those disappointments in life, I/we have to be simply satisfied with God's Word, and His promise as our portion forever.

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever. — Psalm 73:26 (NIV)*



By Lazarus Chong

Lazarus attends SEED Life Group and serves in Haven Ministry

PrayerSpotlight

Thanksgiving

1. We give thanks to the Lord for protecting the campers, the committee, the speaker and the panelists from serious illness, Covid 19 outbreak and accidents. Our Father had watched over all the travels, to and fro and within Penang.
2. We praise God for the many opportunities the campers had to form friendships and exercise hospitality and love in the family of God. Thank you Lord, for opening the hearts of many to understand what it means to be part of the fellowship in Christ and experiencing that through engagement and prayer.
3. We thank God for the transparency and humility during the forum sessions. For the open and lively dialogues as we tried to work through tough questions. Thank you Father for providing us with leaders who love you, your flock in FBC and your kingdom glory.
4. Praise be to our Father for the early morning prayer meetings during the camp – to be able to come together with the family before his throne of grace to worship and adore.