

# 溫哥華五旬節堂2016夏令靈修營研討主題

## Pentecostal Tabernacle Vancouver 2016 Retreat Topics

**Day 1            August 15 (Monday)**

**Speaker:       Priscilla Lau**

**Topic:           How to live a strong and maturing Christian life?**

Bible passage: Jude 1:20-21

“...By building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep ourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

### 1. Build up yourselves in the most holy faith

- Believe firmly in the Full Gospel Truth
- Go deeper and grow in the Word of God
- Persevere in the faith and beware of ungodly and false teaching

Sharing of life application:

- a) How to stay firm in the Full Gospel and grow in the Truth?
- b) How to face the challenges of ungodly doctrines and false teachings in the last days?

Ref. Gal.1:6-9; II Tim 3:16-17; Psalm 119:24-25, 98-100, 105; II Corinth 11:3-4; I Tim. 4:6-9, 4:15-16

### 2. Pray in the Holy Spirit

- Seek the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit
- Seek the will of God and to win His favour
- Humbly submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Willing to bear fruits of the Holy Spirit and glorify God

Sharing of life application:

- a) Testifying the work of the Holy Spirit in my life and its merits
- b) What is meant by living in the Spirit?

Ref. Ephesians 6:17-18; Luke 22:42; John 15:4-5; John 16:13; Romans 8:5-8; I Tim 4:14

### 3. Keep yourselves in God’s love

- Life in Christ is life in God’s love
- To love God is to keep God’s commandments and do not love the world
- To love God is to love your neighbour as yourself and love your enemy
- Grow in the love of God – by the power of the Holy Spirit
- To be God’s witness with courage

Sharing of life application:

- a) Testifying God’s love in my life – count my blessings
- b) How do I respond to God’s love and how can I manifest God’s love in me?

Ref. John 15:9-14, 17; John 17:22-23; Romans 8:35-39; I John 2:10-11, 15-17

4. Wait for the mercy of Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life

- Examine our relationship with God, strive to be holy and blameless
- Fear God; believe in His justice and judgement
- Living in faith: walking in the light with endurance
- Living in hope: longing for eternal life and heavenly blessings
- Living in love: enjoying God's loving care and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ

Sharing of life application:

- a) Am I truly looking forward to our heavenly home and the promise of eternal life?
- b) How should I be alert and prepare for the Second Coming of Christ?

Ref. I Thess. 5:5-8, 23-24; Philippians 4:8; I John 1:6-7

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**Day 2            August 16 (Tuesday)**

**Speaker:        Edmund San**

**Topic:            Listening and Doing**

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

1. Listening to the word

- Why do we need to listen to the word?
- How should I listen to the word?
- Listening to and believing the word
- Listening to and studying the word

Sharing and discussion

- My experience of listening to and believing the word and applying what it says
- Has my heart felt like being pierced through after listening to the word?
- Have I become angry after listening to the word?
- How can I listen to the word effectively? What should be the proper attitude toward hearing God's word?

2. Doing what the word says

- Take the negative examples of the Israelites as a warning
- Take Jesus as a positive example
- The motivation for doing what the word says

Sharing and discussion

- My personal experience of applying God's word
- The difficulties I have encountered. How were they overcome?

3. Do not deceive yourselves

- Honest reflection
- Meticulous examination
- Realistic application

### Sharing and discussion

- Why do we deceive ourselves? How do we deceive ourselves?
- How to be honest with myself? And with God?
- The practice of attentive listening and serious application; and the role of the Holy Spirit in my quest.
- Experiences of being blessed and benefitted by my attentive listening and serious application of the word.

### Biblical references:

- James 1:19-25
  - Hebrews 4:12
  - Psalm 119:1-138
  - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - Romans 10:17
  - Ephesians 4:21, 22, 24
  - Matthew 13:1-23
  - Revelation 1:3
  - Deuteronomy 6:17-18
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**Day 3            August 17 (Wednesday)**

**Speaker:        Geoffrey Ko**

**Topic:            Developing an Intimate Relationship with God through Prayer**

#### **1. What is Christianity? What do Christians seek after?**

1.1 Christianity is NOT a “religion” (as characterized by doctrines and rituals).

1.2 Christianity is a personal *relationship* with the holy, loving Creator-God that is—

1.2.1 multi-faceted: Savior-sinner, Father-child, Teacher-disciple, Master-slave;

1.2.2 a growing, deepening, life-transforming and eternity-charged *friendship*.

#### **2. Assessing your relationship with God as reflected by your Prayer Life**

*This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:*

*“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength,*

*But you would have none of it. You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses.’*

*Therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’*

*Therefore, your pursuers will be swift!” (Isa 30:15-16)*

2.1 Reflection: What is your attitude towards the unique Prayer Hour in our service?

2.1.1 Embracing it as a precious opportunity for intimacy with God? OR

2.1.2 Wanting to benefit from it but uncertain about what to do or say? OR

2.1.3 Avoiding it (i.e., “fleeing on horses”) as a burdensome routine?

2.2 Reflection: How do you find your prayer life to be?

2.2.1 Enjoyable, enriching, edifying, re-energizing, alive and satisfying? OR

2.2.2 Empty, mechanical, mindlessly drifting, tiring and unfulfilling?

### 3. The proper understanding of prayer

3.1 Prayer is NOT:

3.1.1 a formula, method, program or technique to manipulate God (pop machine)

3.1.2 a well-composed mental “essay” to earn God’s acceptance (play-acting)

3.1.3 an eloquent public speech to impress its hearers (Pharisaic performance)

3.2 Prayer IS:

3.2.1 direct and honest engagement with God based on trust (Php 4:6,7)

3.2.2 thoroughly getting everything in our lives out in the open before God

3.2.3 communion with God—saying “Help” and “Thanks!”—and active listening

#### Reflection & sharing

- Which of the above statements is/are closest to what you consider prayer to be?

### 4. Identifying the obstacles and blockages to prayer

Parable of the Seeds (Mrk 4:2-8, 14-20): Relating and responding to God & his Word

4.1 On the path = a heavily-trafficked, restless (“multi-tasked”) and hardened mind

4.2 Rocky ground = an undisciplined, laid-back, insincere and superficial mind

4.3 Among thorns = an undiscerning, crowded-out mind that cannot prioritize or focus

4.4 On good soil = a mind cleared and trained to listen, meditate & articulate

#### Reflection & sharing

- How would you compare your current condition with those above?
- What priorities do you need to reset in order to develop a vibrant Prayer Life?

### 5. The Lord’s Prayer: drawing daily strength for Kingdom Living

Seven Petitions to the Heavenly Father: 3 life goals + 4 life needs (Mat 6:9-13)

5.1 Hallowed be your name = Reveal who you are *to* me and *through* me

5.2 Your kingdom come = Set the world—and also my life--right

5.3 Your will be done on earth = Do what’s best—as above, here below

5.4 Give us our daily bread = Keep us alive with three square meals

5.5 Forgive our trespasses = Forgive us as we forgive others

5.6 Spare us from temptation = Keep us safe from ourselves (pride and indulgence)

5.7 Deliver us from evil = Keep us safe from the Devil (Deceiver & Distractor)

### 6. Praying the Psalms: venturing into a growing intimacy with God

The Psalms: prayer book, hymn book and textbook of prayer for God’s people

6.1 They encompass a broad range of human experiences and emotions.

6.2 They are *verbally* expressed in elemental, not advanced, language—real, raw, honest, simple, direct, intense and passionate (and we should pray likewise).

- 6.3 Most Psalms comprise three key components that indicate spiritual maturity:
- 6.3.1 Petition(s): asking for help; expressing emotions, pleading for justice
  - 6.3.2 Meditation: remembering, honest self-examination, insightful reflection
  - 6.3.3 Contemplation: silent listening, focusing on God, his words, acts, purposes

Practicum: praying through two specific psalms

**Psalm 63: Seeking** [A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.]

V.1: David was a fugitive, but God is above all circumstances: no cry for deliverance.

V.2-5: Remembrance of God's past goodness gives hope and strengthens trust.

V.6-8: Our connection with God is seamless—constant awareness of his presence.

V.9-11: Projections of personal faith and trust—every projection came true.

Reflection: What preoccupations dilute your heart's desire for God? What memories of God's past goodness will give you hope? What challenges will you entrust to God?

**Psalm 32: Confession** [A David psalm.]—a confession of PRIDE

V.1-2: Fear of criticism & condemnation drives us to cover up and become deceitful.

V.3-4: Pride = trying to be our own Savior because of our distrust and fear of others.

V.5: Confessing = trusting God's mercy and grace, knowing that he sees our worst behaviors, dirtiest thoughts and darkest corners, yet he still loves us unreservedly.

V.6-7: Seeing God's grace in every situation gives us peace, joy, hope and security.

V.8-9: Adversities force us to abandon our pride and deceitful self-sufficiency.

Reflection : Is there anything that I am reluctant to confront and confess? What are my fears?

[♥ Guidance: 25; Adversary: 37; Adversity: 66; Intercession 67; Thanksgiving: 107]

**7. Immediate follow-up and long-term follow-through actions**

7.1 Honest assessment of the current state of our relationship with God.

Reflection and sharing: What kind of "thorns" ("bad" & "good" things) are limiting the space for God and restricting the freedom of the Holy Spirit in my heart?

7.2 Get our priorities right (i.e., clearing obstacles and blockages—Ref Pt.4 above).

Reflection: Is God my top priority? If not, then why not? What has displaced Him?

7.3 Pray continually (1Th 5:17): practice the presence of God (staying in tune).

7.4 Keep in step with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:25): yieldedness (Eph 4:30)—the Spirit is given for intimacy with God, renewal, edification, transformation and empowerment.

7.5 Embrace and savor the "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and practice it passionately.