

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Yomi

OFFERING: Isaac

WORD: Guest Minister

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when **you are unable to attend**? Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

WHY DO WE PRAY?

[Prayer] gives us relief from the melancholy burden of self-absorption.

- Tim Keller

Image source(s): <https://www.meadowbrooke.org/sermon-topic/spiritual-growth/prayer/> // <https://theblazingcenter.com/2018/09/why-do-we-pray.html>



Sunday 15 August 2021

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Are you still praying?

Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-4

The bible says in the last days, people will be boastful, proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful and so on (2 Tim 3:1-4). We may agree we are in perilous times right now, and if so, there's no better time to pray. In today's text, the bible recorded what happened to a young Samuel, while serving Eli, "**before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle**". This suggest that at some point, the lamp went out, which must have been a gradual process, until it went out completely.

In Leviticus 6:13, the people of Israel were instructed not to let the fire in the temple ever go out. Yet, on this occasion, they allowed it to. Why is that? We are commanded to pray without ceasing, and prayer is one way of communicating with God. When we're going through challenges, the devil often want to stop us praying? But we should actually pray more at those times. So, this morning we must ask ourselves if the light of our prayer life is still burning as strong as it should be.

Why do we pray?

- Prayer is a tool against sin, to enter the presence of God (Psa 24:3-4; Rom 6:12).
- Prayer is a tool for warfare, to fight for the will of God to be done (2 Cor 10:4-5).
- Prayer is a tool to subdue our flesh and allow us to humble ourselves (2 Chron 7:14).
- Prayer is a tool for petition, to ask God for what we want (Matt 7:7-8).
- Prayer allows us to be dependent on God (Psa 121:1-2).

The sons of Eli were corrupt and more focused on their own affairs (1 Sam 2:12-13). This may explain how they eventually allow the fire to burn out in the temple. Sometimes, we become too familiar with God that we take him too lightly and grow nonchalant too. We draw away gradually, until we're too far to hear him.

Sometimes we draw away because we've been praying about something for so long, and we begin to believe God is not able to answer or prayer. We give up, just like Eli (1 Sam 3:18). We become discouraged and distressed (Psa 55:22; 41:10; 1 Sam 30:6) or we may be too busy for God. If we're too busy for God, we may want to consider what we should let go of. Be deliberate about renewing your connection with God and work on it with diligence (Lk 18:1; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Prov 6:10-11; 22:29) with the Holy Spirit's help (Rom 8:26).

Bottom line:

God values our prayer and he looks forward to spending time with us (Pro 3:5-6; Matt 11:28-30). We must check to see if we're lukewarm in our prayer walk, because it is God's will that we communicate / commune with him always (1 Thess 5:16-18).

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today