

Sunday worship

Join online

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Watch on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/3aCxmjW>

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

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.

Psalms 91:1-2 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action
(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at **Unit 13, Skylines Village**. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.

"Faith is about trusting
God when you have
unanswered questions."

JOEL OSTEEN



Image source(s): <https://www.womansday.com/life/inspirational-stories/q28784994/quotes-about-god/>



Sunday 8 October 2023

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

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Our 'must-visit' website



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THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE

[PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)

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

How can I be sure?

Text: Genesis 15:1-21

This is an age-old question and I'm not sure how Abraham felt about God's response. Maybe he was satisfied. Mary asked a somewhat similar question of the angel and was instead told about Elizabeth's miracle (Lk 1:34-37). There are any number of examples like that in the bible, when some seek to confirm God's promises to them, including Moses, Gideon and others. (Ex 3:7-14; Jdg 6:36-40). With some patience, God would reassure them, up to a point.

Why was God so indulgent with some? With others, he does get impatient and angry. For example, he chastised Moses when God's promise to help him confront Pharaoh and free the Israelites from bondage wasn't enough (Ex 4:14-17) and the Israelites felt his wrath (Num 14:20-23). Everyone loves things that happen the moment we want them and God encourages us to come to him. So, why are questions like these problematic, especially when uncertainties can be crushing (Prov 13:12)?

The question is what level of evidence can convince us? Till today, some of us still refuse to take COVID vaccines in spite of the evidence of their veracity. The truth is, in life, we take several things on trust or by faith. More relevant for us is that it's impossible to please God without faith (Heb 11:6), but the good news is there's a preponderance of reliable evidence or examples to lean on in the word of God (Heb 11:1-40) and we're grafted into the same promises God made to Abraham (Rom 11:16-17 NLT).

However, faith goes well beyond evidence-based assurance. In Hebrew 11:1, we're called to believe in the impossible or illogical i.e. without any evidence to speak of and there may be two reasons for that. The first is it goes to the character of God. He wants to know if we take him at his word (Heb 11:6). There's no one greater and only he can guarantee his oath to us (Gen 22:15-17; Heb 6:17). That may be why Jesus scolded Thomas (Jn 20:29). It is why he was so angry with those asking him for signs, expressing his disappointment, shall we say (Matt 12:39; 16:4). A second possible reason could be found in a description of faith (Rom 10:17). It is a process.

When we seek signs, it may be an indication of unbelief (Mk 6:1-6). Paul called it foolish (1 Cor 1:21-24) and we may also be in danger of avoiding or short-circuiting the essential learning that grows our faith (Dan 11:32; 1 Kings 17:1; see also Js 5:17). As much as God values his name, he revered his word more (Psa 138:2b). Therefore, if God promised, he will do it, no matter how long it takes. The Pastor said last week he'll do it even if he needs to inviolate and institute new laws or maybe even long after we're gone, like in the case of several people of faith in Hebrews 11:1-40.

God's promises encompass everything, from salvation to sustenance to blessings. So, for our own good, we must grow our faith till we don't need assurance anymore. We need to be like Ahaz who refused to test God (Isa 7:10-11). One way is to exercise it at all times, especially (and even) when logic dictates different. God invited us to and nothing's too big or small (Mal 3:10). Also, we know our thoughts are who we are (Prov 23:7a). We must banish doubts or questions with the word of God, when they creep into our hearts to make us doubt God's promises and there are several to choose from (e.g. Isa 43:2-4; 49:15-17; 1 Cor 2:9; Rom 8:28). We need to keep track too, as a reminder. That's sometimes referred to as building an altar (e.g. Gen 35:7).

Bottom line:

Instances of absolute trust and faith never go unnoticed (Matt 8:5-10). They're rewarded too (Matt 8:5-10). In contrast, unbelief can be costly (Mk 6:4-6). Don't allow doubts to derail God's plans for you. He will fulfil his promises.

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