

*** GIVE THANKS ***

Thanksgiving Service

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 us approach [God] with a true and sincere heart in unqualified assurance of faith, having had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:22 (AMP)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

To be all in

Hebrews 10:38-39 (AMP)

Peter replied to him, "Lord, if it is [really] you, command me to come to you on the water." ~ *Matthew 14:28 (AMP)*

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.

We approach the awesome Jesus reverently in childlike faith. It's in God's presence that the Holy Spirit matures our faith so that we become glory-reflectors that point others to Jesus.

Craig T. Owens



Image source(s): <https://craigtowens.com/2022/02/28/the-approachable-jesus/> // <https://gloryreleaseministries.blogspot.com/2017/01/in-childlike-faith-i-wait.html>

Sunday 4 February 2024

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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Our 'must-visit' website



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

Jesus and the paralytic man

Text: Mark 2:3-12

The plight of a paralytic inspired decisiveness and unity in this story, prompting four men, along with the whole community it seems, into action. Perhaps some of them just wanted to see if Jesus could help the man. Regardless, Jesus "saw" faith in some of them (Mk 2:4-5), but his response to the paralytic man was interesting.

It is clear healing was the obvious ask. Yet, Jesus offered forgiveness of sins at first, which sparked dismay in the heart of some of his detractors. The scribes in their erroneous thinking, based on ignorance, just couldn't accept or saw Jesus as the Son of God who became the "Son of Man" and had all authority under heaven and earth (Mt 28:18).

Jesus seized the opportunity to challenged what was in their hearts, emphatically establishing his authority by healing the man too, almost as an after-thought. How do we respond to things that challenge our faith? Are we among the detractors or those willing to take steps in faith? The bible says faith is the evidence of things not yet seen (Heb 11:1).

To believe in things not seen, we need childlike faith. We have to be curious, open-minded and yet discerning. Interesting to note this is key to our walk with God too (Heb 11:6; Isa 46:9-10; Mt 6:8). A sense of urgency surrounded the event too. It seemed the men couldn't wait until perhaps Jesus emerged from where he was or pick a more convenient time to approach Jesus. Helen Keller once wrote that we should live each day as if it's our last, **"with a gentleness, a vigor and a keenness of appreciation"**.

If we were to live in the reality of the moment each day, what difference could that make to our choices, the things we prioritise, how we spend or waste those precious hours and so on? What difference could it make a difference to the strength of our faith and our walk with God? Could it inspire us to risk everything like these four men did, to take more steps out of our comfort zones in faith?

When Jesus declared that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mountain (Matt 17:20-21), this may be what he was trying to tell us. All through the last year, we were encouraged to accomplish what faith prompts us to while there's still time (2 Thes 1:11 NLT) and there's a sense of urgency to Christianity that we can't dismiss because Jesus is coming soon (John 9:4). How are we doing?

The women with the issue of blood, a sick daughter and the centurion had remarkable faith and were prepared to do whatever's required (Lk 8:43-48; Mt 15:26-28; 8:5-13). Miracles happen and the strength of our faith can be revealed by our actions. How big is your faith? How far would you go to accomplish your goals and desires? Do you give up too easily when obstacles present itself or the path ahead proved too difficult?

Bottom line:

Jesus once told the father of a demon possessed boy that **"all things are possible for those who believe"**. In response, the man asked God to help his unbelief (Mk 9:23-24). If you're struggling to take steps in faith, you could make this part of your prayer too.

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today