## Sunday worship

Join online

http://bit.ly/3TSxxek

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

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Psalm 84:11-12 (NKJV)

#### THEME FOR THE YEAR

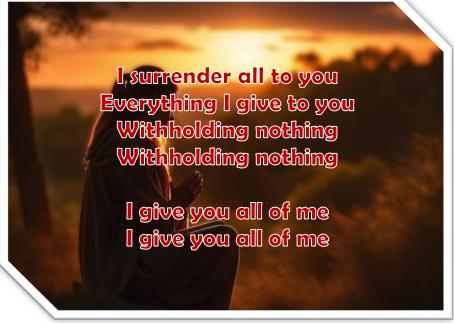
## To be all in

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.





## **WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS**

#### SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

# FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

## RCCG Bethel Parish

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

## 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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/">http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/</a>). 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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/">http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/</a>).

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**

- 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 <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a>.

#### **Mozilla Firefox**

- 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.
- Enter or paste the URL: <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a> 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.
- Select Settings and select A Specific Page or Pages from the Open Microsoft Edge With section drop down options.
- 3. Enter <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a>. (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

# Raising altars - Part II

Text: Genesis 15:1-3

We concluded last on this topic that we are the sacrifice and our lives are the altar (Rom 12:1). To build on what we've learnt, we may remember that Abraham raised altars wherever he went and the purpose of altars are to offer sacrifice and attract favour. In ancient times it was an important culture. While God values our sacrifice when we put ourselves on the altar first, people thought the value of other offerings is what mattered. So, they burnt their children. When Israelites copied the practice, God was angry with them (Jer 19:5; Lev 18:21).

The first commandment with a promise charged us to honour our father and mother (Exo 20:12). However, most parents would love their children whether they're honoured or given anything or not. However, it can be advantageous to honour our parents for additional blessings. When God told Abram: "I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward," his response was to ask for more.

We can behave like Abram too when nothing God gives us can ever be enough. If God can give us his son, will he not give us anything we need (Rom 8:31-32)? Later, after he became Abraham, he was willing to sacrifice his only son (Gen 22:1-18). What will you give to God? Is there anything too much? Are you withholding anything or any part of your life (Rom 12:1)? If so, your sacrifice may be incomplete (Mk 10:17-21). Good works doesn't get us to heaven, but we're saved onto good works (Eph 2:8-10).

Head and Shoulders shampoo is promoted as a cure for dandruff, but it only works with constant use. Likewise, Jesus told his disciples they ought to pray always and not give up (Lk 18:1) and prayer is something else we could offer on our altars. It is not only a sacrifice, but helps to build altars. Jesus felt so strongly about it he used a parable to emphasised his point (Lk 18:1-8).

Paul later said our prayers should be without ceasing, because it is God's will (1 Thess 5:16-18). Prayer is like the shampoo. It only works with constant practice and when we exercise our faith on our prayers altars, God performs miracles through us (Rom 4:17). It is also our strongest weapon of warfare (2 Cor 10:4-5).

#### **Bottom line:**

There should be nothing too big or small to offer God, including ourselves. When we raise altars, we should be the first sacrifice, closely followed by constant and persistent prayers to God in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:16-18).

# RCCG Bethel Parish

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