

## ECB NOTICE BOARD

7th Oct	10:30am	<b>Informal Worship</b> Matthew 7:24-29 Leader: Jackie Meek Preacher: Roger Winson
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Nigel Crook Submit to One Another Ephesians 5:15-21
8th Oct	3:10pm	After School Club
9th Oct	9am	Church Prayer Meeting
	10am	Rock of Ages Café
	7pm	Prayers
10th Oct	10am	Oasis small group
12th Oct	7pm	Prayers
13th Oct	10:30am-12	Garden Talk in the café
14th Oct	10:30am	<b>Harvest Celebration</b> Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Kailen Hanneng & Kim Khongsai from A Rocha
	7pm	<b>Evening Service (Café open from 6:30)</b> Harvest Festival- Eco Issues Leader: Erika Biscoe



*7th October*



*From our contributing  
writer...*

Where are God's Promises?

We are all on a journey of preparation, God is intentional in our growth in Him. I know the one thing that stops God from fulfilling His promises for me, is - me.

From the very beginning of this year, I knew this would be a year where learning to rest in Him in a deeper way would be the focus of His development for me. God often uses my personal experiences as a barometer for what He's doing in the church. So some of this may be relevant to some of you too, which is why I feel prompted to openly share this.

So this year I've spoken incessantly about resting in the Father, about trusting in him, but He intends for me to go deeper than this - to let go of all striving, and rest in Him. Literally, to be in Him, and Him in me. John 15 is my absolute favourite Bible verse, I should have realised before now that

God put that on my heart for a reason - he was intentional when he burned these verses into my heart - it is the cry of my heart (or His cry in my heart).

Here's the dilemma: I am weak, I make mistakes, I do, and say what I shouldn't, and yet still seek after His anointing and the ultimate fulfilment of His promises for me. Little wonder they are not yet realised...

But some of the reasons for my weaknesses are old wounds, stuffed down deep inside that I have tried to ignore. These cause me to see things wrongly to react badly occasionally - these are branches that need to be pruned - that is what God is doing right now. Recently I've experienced increasing levels of criticism, judgements and words spoken against me. Some of these are digging stuff up going back 20 years! This is very painful, as most are completely unfounded. Yes, some have a grain of truth to my own shame - those I can more easily accept, but really - is this necessary? Well, Yes. If I see or interpret things wrongly because of my own damage,

then that needs to be fixed. So here I am, I have no possibility to defend myself. Our enemy knows how to work around direct accusations that entice us to rebuff - he does it indirectly; whispers here and a nudge there, never direct from the accuser to the accused. So, the only action I can take is to bring this all to God, mostly in tears, often in repentance for my wrong attitudes and frustration and anger.

And His response - "Ah yes, give that to me - be restored to My rest". So, I'm growing in His rest, I'm beginning to see none of the accuser's words can touch me (unless I let them), that He is my defender and my righteousness. My own desire for self-justification (pride & striving) is subsiding. The emphasis on timing of things isn't important anymore, I know I'm on a journey of preparation. This journey is more important than anything else to me right now. The future is in the Father's hands, I choose to put the past under the blood of Christ. I am being made new, moment by moment, in the intimacy of God's immediate Presence - in the "now" of His presence and love for me.

As a body I would encourage each of you - cooperate with whatever God is doing right now - and do it quickly. The promises of God are waiting, let Him begin those, with His rest for you in whatever struggles you are facing.

*Blessings, Phil Trout*

