

4 Reasons We Can Be Thankful (Joe Carter)

(In last week's Pastor's desk, we looked at the first of four reasons why we can be thankful in times of trouble. The first reason was: "Because we are not alone". This week, we explore three more reasons.)

2. BECAUSE GOD IS SOVEREIGN

As Christians we can be thankful that we are children of the sovereign Lord. Even when our life seems to be spinning out of control, we can trust that God is fully in command and that he uses times of trouble to make us mature and complete.

As James writes, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2-3).

3. BECAUSE WE HAVE HOPE

We tend to think of hope as an emotional state that reflects what we would like to happen in the future but are unsure will actually happen. For instance, we may "hope" that our ruptured marriage will be mended or we can avoid financial ruin. Despite our earnest desire, though, we have no assurance we will get the outcome we prefer

In Scripture, though, hope means something entirely different. Hope is a desire for a future outcome that is absolutely certain. We know that for those who love God all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). Because we trust in God's promises, we can be completely confident about the outcome. Because we know God can and will do what he says, our hope is a form of knowing. As R. C. Sproul says, "Hope is faith looking forward."

4. BECAUSE WE HAVE GOD

Over time, the practice of thanksgiving becomes a gift in itself. As we grow in gratitude, we learn to be thankful not only for the good gifts God gives us but for everything in our life, including our trials and sufferings. We learn that even in grief and pain we can be grateful, since we still have the greatest gift we could ever want: God himself.

The act of thanksgiving helps us to deepen our trust in the goodness of God and helps us to be humble in whatever circumstance we may be called upon to endure. While we don't have to be thankful for our circumstances, knowing that we have God for all eternity can help us learn to be thankful in our present circumstances.

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$5,154.45
Weekly Required:	\$5,500.00
Shortfall:	\$1,118.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544
Description:	Offering

17 December 2017

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au or 'like' us for further updates at facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am and 11:00am





serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Mervin	Joshua
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew	Jansen
	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Eilen	Ivy/An Ping
	Stella	Noel
Wash Up	SaLT	YF Sunday
Welcome	Amy	Amy
	Ken	Ken
	Stephanie	Stephanie
	<i>Marilyn</i>	<i>Marilyn</i>
	<i>Joy</i>	<i>Joy</i>
	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Andrew</i>
Stewards	Jeffery	Jeffery
	Meng Yin	Meng Yin
	Matthew	Matthew
	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
	<i>Aaron</i>	<i>Aaron</i>
	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Aaron	Deborah
Vocal	Deborah	Chloe
PA	William	William
	William	Chris

current sermons

Last Week: God is Our Fortress [Psalm 46]

This Week: [Psalm 55]

Next Week: In God We Trust [Psalm 56]

prayer points

1. Praise God that he is our refuge and strength, our very present helper in troubled times. Praise God that we can live fearlessly in the face of the chaos of this world and the persecution of God's people—for we know that God will one day return to judge all things and put things right.

2. Pray that we would be still—that we would stop fighting against God and asserting our will. Pray that we would know God better through his Word, and through his Son, Jesus Christ. Pray that our eyes would be opened to seeing Jesus exalted, and that this would cause within us great joy and awe.

3. Praise God for the many graduations that have happened in this past week. Praise God that a number of years of schooling has come to an end, and pray that our students who are returning home would have safe travels and good rest before the beginning of work. Pray that what they have learned about Jesus, and our identity in Him, would ground our graduates for the remainder of their lives as they work and serve within their local churches.

community news

Christmas Day Service—25 Dec | 9am and 11am | SLE Hall

Please take this opportunity to invite your friends and family to attend.

If you are able, please bring a plate of morning tea to share!

Ignite Training Conference—Dust to Glory | 15 Jan-19 Jan, 2018 | 1 Cross Street, Toowong

Registration: by 11:30pm, Sunday 31 December, 2017

For more information head to

<https://ignitetrainingconference.com/>

date claimers

1. Christmas Day Service—25 December
2. Impact 2018—10 January, 2018
3. Ignite Training Conference—15-19 January, 2018

church contacts

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Finding Comfort in Betrayal (Psalm 55)

1. Introduction

2. Cry Out in Prayer

A. Pleading

B. Pouring our heart out

C. Praying for judgement

D. Praying for salvation

3. Implications

A. Get real with God

B. Get rest in God

4. Conclusion