

## The Hope for Introverts (and Extroverts)

Over the past few months I've had many conversations with people thinking about how they can grow their relationships with the people around them in church. The conversations have taken a fairly usual path after asking why they find it hard to talk to people: "Oh, I find it very hard... because I'm an introvert."

But is this all there is to it?

It seems to me that introversion is often pointed to in order to excuse us from building relationships with others. Now I don't want to say that introverts alone have a weakness. For those who don't know there is an equal temptation for extroverts which also hinders relationship building: our tendency to enjoy the energy people give us but to never go deeper than shallow conversations.

Yet even these weaknesses in our personalities are part of the 'all things' that are from Him and to Him (Romans 11:36) in subjection under his feet (cf 1 Corinthians 15:27). So, whether you're an ISTJ or an ENFP, a 'Challenger' or a 'Helper' (Enneagram types), your personality has been crafted by God for you and falls under the lordship of Jesus. Yes, even our personality—shy or outgoing, thinker or feeler—is to be submitted to Jesus and used for His glory.

So where to from here?

First, be encouraged—how you feel and who you are is a wonderful reflection of who God has created you to be.

Next, be encouraged, again—the worst of how you feel about yourself is not the final word, and you are not enslaved to any personality weakness you see in yourself. Prayerfully seek to submit our weaknesses to God's shaping. By the empowerment of the Spirit we can change.

Don't be discouraged if you don't see change quickly enough. Keep asking God for opportunities—and the willingness to take up those opportunities—to further your relationships at church in order to love and build each other up.

Remember, the goal of our gathering is to build each other up towards maturity in Christ (cf Ephesians 4:13) and we do this by speaking God's Word to each other (cf Ephesians 4:15). Words of encouragement, sharing, prayer, and testimony as we share with each other about how God is working in our lives through His Word.

It's this goal—mutual encouragement and growth—that makes the effort in submitting our personalities to God worth it!



12 January 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:00am

## Welcome, we're glad you're here!

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. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### This Week: Firm Foundations — Trusting in God

We are made alive in Christ through God's grace alone. Keep trusting in Jesus and receive this gift of new life in Christ.



Next Week: Firm Foundations—Living God's Way

## Today's Service

### Welcome and Singing

You Alone Can Rescue  
Amazing Grace (My Chains  
Are Gone)  
See the Man

### Holy Communion

### Offering

### Community News

**Bible Reading** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Sermon** By Pastor Iggy Wong

**Song of Response** O How Good It Is

## Stay Connected

-  [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)
-  [www.sle.church](http://www.sle.church)
-  +61 490 760 152
-  [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au)
-  83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [sle.church/groups](http://sle.church/groups) to find a group that you can join.

# Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

## Our Pastors

**SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO**  
**Mobile:** +61 433 581 335  
**Email:** ben.ho@slechurch.org.au

**PASTOR STEVEN TRAN**  
**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159  
**Email:** steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

## Financial Update

Last Week	\$14,823.30*
Weekly Required	\$6,280.00
Shortfall 2020	\$0.00

*\* Graduates donation \$10,000 received.*

### Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

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

## Prayer Points

**PRAISE GOD THAT WE ARE SAVED BY JESUS' WORK ON THE CROSS** in the past, which continues to save us here in the present, and will save those who trust him in the future! Praise God that we have true assurance that faith in Jesus alone will save us.

**PRAISE GOD THAT WE ARE ALSO SAVED BY GRACE**— nothing of our work, effort, or addition. Thank God that in our hopelessness and deadness in sin He graciously gave us new life. Pray that we would not be shy about boasting in Christ's work alone for our lives.

**PRAY FOR THE IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE** and the 23 delegates attending from our church. Pray that the delegates from across Brisbane (and inter-state) will be faithfully equipped to understand and teach God's word. Pray that the leaders will lead well. Pray for Gary Millar, presenting the evening talks, to speak faithfully and clearly from the Prophets.

**CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE ONGOING BUSHFIRES IMPACTING OUR NATION.** Pray for God to graciously send relief in rain to quench the fires and our parched lands. Pray that God would sustain our volunteer fire fighters in their ongoing service.

**PRAY FOR OURSELVES** as many of us begin to head back to work and school. Pray that our bodies and minds have been refreshed from our holidays and ask God to sustain us for faithful work in the year ahead.

## Community News

### IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE NIGHT TALKS 13-16 JANUARY 7:30PM

This year's Ignite Training Conference night talks will be at BST—1 Cross Street, Toowong.

Workers and others are warmly invited to come. This year, night visitors are encouraged to RSVP your anticipated attendance. Please keep an eye out on Facebook for details released leading up to the conference.

### CHURCH WIDE PRAYER MEETING

Our next church wide prayer meeting will be on **Saturday 25 January at North Hall.**

Please come along at 8am for a BYO breakfast, and stay for the prayer meeting from 8:30am to 10am.

## Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Merv	Randy
Prayer	Dan <i>Dan</i>	Ps Steven <i>Ps Steven</i>
Preach	Ps Iggy	Merv
Bible Read	Alice <i>Marilyn</i>	Boon Cheng <i>Ps Steven</i>
M.Tea	YFers	Winnie Tao, Daniel
Wash Up	SOS Randy	SOS Randy
Welcome	Meng Yin Amy Dan	Meng Yin Amy Dan
Stewards	Jeffrey Alvin Graham <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>DT</i>	Jeffrey Alvin Graham <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>DT</i>
Piano	Liesl	Joanna
Guitar	Shaun	Andrew
Bass	Kevin	Ivan
Drums	Ivan	Jordan
Vocal	Amanda/ Swee Vien	Shaun
PA	William <i>Stanley</i>	Matt T. <i>Daniel</i>

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# Trusting in God [Ephesians 2:8-9 ]

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1. We are all dead

2. We can be alive

3. This is a gift