

DATE: 10 SEP 2023 | SPEAKER: PASTOR JOACHIM TAN
TOPIC: A REVITALISED CHURCH | SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS PASSAGES IN ACTS

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Recognise the marks of a Revitalised Church
2. Commit to seeing the Great Commission fulfilled

SERMON SUMMARY

The Early Church was deeply revitalised by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It gave the Church a renewed purpose, boldness and courage, and a relentless desire to see the Great Commission fulfilled.

Ps Joachim gives 4 marks of a revitalised Church

- #1: A revitalised Church is bold and courageous ([Acts 4:23-31](#), [7:57 – 8:4](#))
- #2: A revitalised Church is generous ([Acts 2:45](#), [Acts 4:32-35](#))
- #3: A revitalised Church is empowered
- #4: A revitalised Church is relentless in fulfilling the Great Commission

As we are revitalised, may we also choose to be outward looking and see how we can be his channels of blessing to those who have yet to know Him.

SERMON RECAP

Following the death of Jesus, the early Church was on the verge of collapse. Jesus, their leader, was crucified and killed. The disciples (the church) were fearful and lost their mission, vision, heart and faith ([John 20:19](#)).

However, God had a plan. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully and revitalised the Church. The disciples were bold, generous and courageous and in complete unity. It moved in great authority and power, and in step with the Holy Spirit. It was strong in prayer, intercession and worship. The Church was given a renewed purpose and a relentless desire to see the Great Commission fulfilled.

Ps Joachim covers 4 marks of a revitalised Church:

#1: A revitalised Church is bold and courageous ([Acts 4:23-31](#), [7:57 – 8:4](#))

- The disciples moved from being fearful to people who proclaimed the gospel bravely. They lived as those placing great priority on the Gospel instead of their own lives, persevering in spite of the persecution they knew they would encounter.
- In Acts 4, the Church praised God for His goodness after Peter and John were released from prison ([vv.23-24](#)) and prayed for boldness to speak His word ([vv.29-31](#))
- Though the disciples were scattered following the martyrdom of Stephen and by Saul's persecution, they continued preaching the word where they went ([Acts 7:57 – 8:4](#))

#2: A revitalised Church is generous (Acts 2:45, Acts 4:32-35)

- *“Zacchaeus spent an hour with Jesus and spent the rest of his life giving.” – Reinhard Bonnke*
- The early church’s view of earthly possessions and wealth shifted following their encounter with Jesus
- Ps Joachim shared about the generosity of the Chinese congregation to help the people of the Chin state in Myanmar when they heard that the people were in need, as well as RiverLife’s giving to the Kayah state of Myanmar through the ongoing rice and food distributions.
- God sees our generosity and it is a privilege to partner with Him in this.

#3: A revitalised Church is empowered

- As we pursue God and live surrendered lives, He will empower us with His grace and anointing.
- He will enable us to thrive where we are placed, for His glory.

#4: A revitalised Church is relentless in fulfilling the Great Commission

- The disciples were relentless in bringing the Gospel as far as they could.
- They understood that the Church was made for God; and that the Church was sent to the world.
- They recognised the cost that Jesus paid and the importance of letting everyone hear the Gospel and be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
- Will we choose to take up the mantle and to obey God in fulfilling this Great Commission?

The revitalised Church brings life and the Good News wherever it goes. May we keep our hearts sensitive to God’s leading and heart for the Church and the lost.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share a moment where you experienced being revitalised by God. How did it happen and how did it transform you and the areas of your life (e.g., being bold and courageous, generous, empowered in your relationships, work, school, service, etc.)?**
2. **We have been blessed by God through the 21 days of prayer and fasting. How can we remain in the posture of a revitalised Church? How can we keep our fire burning and what are some hindrances that may cause us to lose sight or distract us from what He has called us to be?**
3. **Share with the cell where God has challenged you to be relentless in answering the Great Commission this season. What are the challenges and small victories you have experienced?**

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for us to seek revitalisation in our spiritual walk and to have a renewed hunger for God.
- Pray for us that we will be sensitive to God’s leading where He has placed us to be witnesses and to obey joyfully and partner with Him as we follow His leading.
- Pray for spiritual protection as we live out His mandate of the Great Commission.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that as we have concluded the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will determine to live in a new normal – one that follows after the example of Christ.
- Pray for our mission teams that are heading to the nations in this season.

3. World

- Pray for Morocco that just experienced a devastating earthquake with more than 2000+ fatalities and many more affected.
- Pray for our new President – that the Lord will bestow upon him wisdom to lead the country in alignment with the ways of God.
- Pray for Hong Kong and Southern China as they battle Super Typhoon Saola, Black Rain and flooding.
- Pray for the wild fires and haze situations in Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sumatra areas.
- Pray for the Presidential election in Taiwan – that a Godly leader will be elected.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. RiverLife Mission Trips. Come serve with us at the *Arise and Shine* Conference in Pangasinan!

- Pangasinan, North Philippines
- Wed-Mon, 1-6 Nov | \$750 | 30 pax
- Team members will support the evangelistic conference by:
 - Assisting as facilitators
 - Getting involved in the planning and preparation of the conference
 - Ministering at the altar
 - *Recommended for Youths, Young Adults, English Adults.*
- Sign up by Wed, 20 Sep at rlc.sg/missions-go.

2. RCS: Urgent Help Needed for Maths Tutor (Now till end Oct)

- We're in need of 6 tutors who can teach Primary 1 to 6 mathematics to serve from now until end Oct to help our children prepare for their year-end exams.
- One hour per week, online. Day & time to be arranged with parent, usually a weekday night or weekend morning/afternoon.
- If you're available and would like to serve, please sign up here: bit.ly/rcs-volunteer-signup

3. The Parents Gathering. The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become the parents that God intended us to be. Our time together will comprise:

- A short 30-min video teaching segment
- Group connection time
- Personal / couple processing time
- Light refreshments

Our first gathering: Sat, 28 Oct. 2-6pm. Venue: TBC

Register by Sun, 22 Oct to join us at our first meetup: rlc.sg/pg

Workbooks can be purchased at \$16 each. Details to be released at a later date.

About the Curriculum Used

'The Art of Parenting' is designed to help parents make faith the core of their parenting with intentional, Biblical teaching and Christ-centered plans. Parents will gain renewed confidence, fresh insights on raising children at different ages, and a parenting plan unique to each child's personality and gifting. Inspired by Psalm 127:4, this eight-session study is video based and covers the following topics:

The Goal of Parenting • Forming Character • Applying Discipline • Building Relationships • Understanding Identity • Nurturing Identity • Preparing for Mission • The Power of Family

Preview the Curriculum here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7ZJ31DbGag>

4. **RiverLife's "Make Us One" T-Shirt**

- Cost: \$5 each (subsidised)
- Visit our booth in the Atrium to view sample sizes.
- Order and pay online: rlc.sg/32tee
- Order period: 26 Aug to 17 Sep 2023
- Collection period: 14 to 29 Oct 2023

5. **Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts (4 Sessions).** The twentieth century has been called the "Century of the Holy Spirit" as the world witnessed successive revitalisations of the Church through the enablement of the Spirit. This empowerment by the Spirit continues to open up new possibilities for the Church; but also presents old temptations. Join us for this equipping series as we pursue an in-depth study on 1 Corinthians 12-14 so we can heed Apostle Paul's advice not *"to be uninformed about the gifts of the Spirit"* (1 Corinthians 12:1). Details:

- a. Fri, 15 & 22 Sep, 8-10 pm, Sun, 17 & 24 Sep, 11am-3pm
Venue: Worship Centre
- b. If you require lunch (\$7 each) for the Sunday sessions, please pre-order online by Mon, 11 Sep: rlc.sg/sg-lunch

6. **Restoring the Foundations: Hope, Healing & Freedom (6 Hours). Sat, 30 Sep. 9am to 4pm Grace Chapel. \$40 for RiverLifers only (inclusive of lunch and materials).** This seminar will teach about the biblical basis of RTF. You will learn to identify Hinderances and Beliefs that are holding you back. Begin to receive the Freedom to fulfil God's plans, purposes and calling for you. This Integrated Approach to Healing will enable you to receive Personal Restoration. Register by Mon, 25 Sep: rlc.sg/riverlifertf. Enquiries: mosessho@riverlife.org.sg.

7. **Joining The Family. Sat, 30 Sep. 10am - 1pm. Faith Chapel.** Joining The Family is a two-hour session that will help you understand what it means to be a son and daughter of this house. Learn about God's heart for the Church and His call for us to identify with a local body of believers. If you have been baptised, and you are a regular worshipper of RiverLife and belong to a cell group, we invite you to take the next step towards becoming a RiverLife family member.

Registration at rlc.sg/jointhefam (Closing Date: 24 Sep). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

8. **Water Baptism Class. Sat, 7 Oct. 9am – 3.30pm. Room 205 (Level 2).** Water baptism is a public declaration of a believer's union and new identity in Christ and an outward expression of our

commitment in receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.

Registration: rlc.sg/baptism-class (Closing Date: 1 Oct). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

Note:

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
- Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 12 Nov at 2pm.

9. **Call for a Suitable Liver Donor.** Father of RiverLifer Beverly Lim is calling for suitable donors for his son, Ryan, who is in need of a liver transplant. Ryan was diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) that affected his liver and bile duct. On 22 May 2023, Ryan was brought in to see the doctor due to his bloated stomach and the doctor concluded that a liver transplant was needed for Ryan as his liver was failing. The donor needs to be of blood type A+ or O+, with no prior illness and someone with a healthy diet. Read more about their story in this salt and light article here. Should anyone wish to enquire or volunteer, do contact Ryan's dad, Lim Cheng Kwan, directly at +65 9768 4748.
10. **Marriage Retreat.** We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.
- For more information, download the eBrochure here: rlc.sg/mrBrochure
 - Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
 - Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 3*
 - Bible Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Joining the Family – 30 Sep
 - RTF HHF Seminar – 30 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Baptism Class – 7 Oct
 - Parents Gatherings – 28 Oct
 - Leaders Huddle – 5 Nov
 - Baptism Service – 12 Nov
 - Equipping Series - Leviticus: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Marriage Retreat – 24 to 26 Nov

2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RiverLife Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
- *RiverLife Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
2. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
3. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
4. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>.
5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DTNO.

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DSCB.

Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

