

Date: 1 Sept 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Philip Lyn | **Topic:** The Power of Gratitude | **Scripture:** Various

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. To reflect about the power of gratitude in our lives
2. To be aware of the resistors and how we can encourage each other to grow.

SERMON SUMMARY

Ps Philip Lyn shares on the power of gratitude.

1. Reasons for Gratitude (**Psalm 103:1-2**)

- We have received much
- God is sovereign
- Gratitude is the basis of all true serving

2. Resistors of Gratitude

- Pride
- Comparison
- Consumerism

3. Results of Gratitude

- Draws God's special attention (**Luke 17:11-19**)
- Draws God's special blessings (**Luke 17:19**)
- Draws God's power and purpose (**Acts 16:25-31**)

Let's raise a hallelujah in the presence of our enemies and learn to sing in the middle of the storm!

SERMON RECAP

Ps Philip Lyn shared that God has created us to be strength bearers and strength givers. The power of gratitude unlocks what God has for us and allows us to rise up in the midst of transitions. Gratitude is a posture of thankfulness arising from a realisation of our indebtedness to God for His goodness. Gratitude is central in our lives (**1 Thess 5:16**) and must come from the heart. As we continue to seek God's will in our lives, we need to recognize that God's short term and immediate will is for us to give thanks in all circumstances.

1. Reasons for Gratitude (**Psalm 103:1-2**)

- i) We have received much – Remembering what we have received and being grateful allows us to remember God's goodness to us. Without it, we would be living a life of entitlement.
- ii) God is sovereign – Ps Philip shared about his own personal experience in learning how to give thanks in every circumstance. (**Eph 5:20**) We need to learn and believe that God is good to us all the time, even when circumstances tell us the opposite
- iii) Gratitude is the basis of all true serving – When we are grateful, we serve out of a heart of worship (**Hebrews 12:28**)

2. Resistors of Gratitude

- i) Pride comes from an unyielded life where we think that we can do it better and only recognizing our own efforts where we thinking we deserve it and have a "I did it myself" mentality.
- ii) Comparison comes from an unrooted life – we must be rooted in the Unchangeable – **Philippians 4:12-14**
- iii) Consumerism comes from the unfilled life.

3. Results of Gratitude

- i) Draws God's special attention ([Luke 17:11-19](#))
 - Only one leper of ten who were healed come back to thank Jesus. The one who came back was the one who moved Jesus the most. This was because the one who returned was a Samaritan who came back at great personal cost to himself. He prioritised gratitude to Jesus above Himself.

- ii) Draws God's special blessings ([Luke 17:19](#))
 - Jesus told the leper that his faith has made him whole. Ps Philip also suggested that aside from the physical healing on his skin and ulcers due to leprosy, it could also represent spiritual wholeness (salvation) as well as physical wholeness – the growing back of his limbs.
 - Gratitude must come from the heart. Jesus desires to bless us inside and outside.

- iii) Draws God's power and purpose ([Acts 16:25-31](#))
 - Gratitude is powerful because it is a weapon of spiritual violence ([Psalm 22:3](#)) – God is enthroned on the praises of Israel even in the midst of the darkness. Ps Philip shared about how the prison doors were opened while Paul and Silas were praising God. Gratitude is powerful because it is a mark of great faith and are the wings on which faith sits.

Let's raise a Hallelujah in the presence of our enemies and learn to sing in the middle of the storm!

Discussion Questions

- 1. There is power in gratitude. Share a time where God saw you through and provided for you and how that experience of gratitude shaped you in your faith journey.**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to share a time where being grateful to God strengthened their faith journey.

Transition

Having a posture of gratitude strengthens our faith.

- 2. Ps Philip Lyn shared about some resistors of gratitude. How does it appear in our everyday life and how can we be mindful to guard against these things?**

Leader's Notes

The question aims for members to reflect on the resistors of gratitude and how having these affects our views of God, ourselves and others. The cell can also identify other resistors (eg., anger, disappointment, disillusionment, anxiety). The cell can also take time to reflect on how we could be watchful and guard against these things. Leaders can also invite members to share on which resistors they identify with, to share and pray for one another in smaller groups.

Transition

Recognising the resistors of our faith allows us to be mindful of what robs us of a grateful heart.

- 3. What are some ways we can be strength bearers and strength givers to one another in the difficult circumstances and transitions?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to consider what are ways we can encourage one another to learn how to give thanks to God in all circumstances. Members can also share about how the cell can provide a listening ear for each other in the difficulties while encouraging each other to remember God's goodness to us all the time.

Closing

May we continue to remember God's goodness to us even as we continue to grow as a Church!

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

1. Sermon Application

- Thank God for His goodness in our lives
- Pray that God will reveal to us any resistors of gratitude and work in our lives

2. RiverLife

Let us continue to pray for God's hand to be upon our church, its leaders and that all its members will grow in maturity.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas – For any retaliation from Hamas and Iran as a result of the killing of Hamas' leader
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
 - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
 - d. Bangladesh – Flooding
 - e. Japan – Typhoon Ampil
 - f. Hong Kong – Heatwave
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the resurgence of the mpox virus in Africa.
 - b. Pray for Bangladesh as the country recovers after the ousting of its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
 - c. Pray for the tourist lost to the sinkhole in Malaysia

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.

1. Current Sermon Series: Encouragement for The Journey Ahead. 1, 8 & 15 Sep. Our hearts can grow weary and be filled with questions in times of change. When parts of our lives get shaken, how can we make sense of what is happening and respond in a way that honours God? While we wait upon the Lord for answers and clarity, we find rest in knowing that He is unchanging, in control and remains faithful. As we hear what the Lord has placed on the hearts of three good friends of RiverLife, may we be encouraged for the journey ahead.

- 1 Sep: Dr Philip Lyn (Senior Pastor of Skyline SIB in Sabah, Malaysia)
- 8 Sep: Pastor Vincent Lun (Senior Pastor of Kingdom Community Church)
- 15 Sep: Pastor William Lee (Former Senior Pastor of Bartley Christian Church)

Missions Emphasis Weeks 22 & 29 Sep

2. SuperLife Missions Carnival. This annual Missions Carnival organised by our Children's Ministry is in support of and in partnership with RiverLife Missions. Sun, 8 Sep | 11am-12pm Atrium & Grace Canopy (Level 1) This year, our children's efforts will go towards raising \$15,000 for a school that provides education for Myanmar refugees.

3. Bible Equipping Sessions – Numbers: Wandering in Light of the Gospel, Refining Our Faith through the Test of Life While its title refers to the two censuses taken in the wilderness, the Book of Numbers is really about the people of Israel being caught between the wonderful promises of God and the harsh realities of life as they wandered through the wilderness for thirty-eight years. In the book, the complex story of Israel's unfaithfulness and rebellion is set against the backdrop of God's faithfulness and patience. How will the people react to the challenging circumstances right before their eyes? And how will they respond to God's discipline? Behind all the hardships and grumblings lie God's ultimate intent to "humble and test" the people, and through this, to refine their faith in Him (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). **This series comprises 4 sessions:**

- Fri, 6 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Sun, 8 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)
- Fri, 13 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Sun, 15 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)

Pre-order your lunch for Sunday sessions by Mon, 2 Sep: rlc.sg/num-lunch

4. Volunteering with RCS.

a. Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct

Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.

b. BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.

Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: rlc.sg/rcs-serve24

5. Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov. Forest City Marina Hotel. Cost: \$600 per couple. A meaningful weekend retreat for married couples to spend unhurried and uninterrupted time with each other to learn together, and evaluate and strengthen their marriage. Registration: rlc.sg/mr (Capacity: 40 couples. Closing Date: 30 September)



Announcements

6. **SPYCES (Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples).** 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Sep 2pm-5pm. Online via Zoom Fees: \$10 per participant. SPYCES is a series of five workshop sessions where participants will connect with fellow parents in the same season, and learn Biblical and practical ways of relating to their children and grandchildren.

For more info: rlc.sg/spyces-info

7. **RiverLife Missions.** Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions

- 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 interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc_sg_ya).

Gathering Dates: 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov, 14 Dec (Christmas Outreach)

- Caleb Ministry (For Seniors).** Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years. The Caleb Ministry gathers on a bi-monthly frequency.

Gathering Dates: 15 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec

- RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

- Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYCs • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Numbers • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach • 21, 22, 28 & 29 Sep - RTF Activation 	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3 • 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles • 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Nov – YA Gathering • 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s • 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3 • 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering • 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference • 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This 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. 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.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

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: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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