



UPRM

Chinese Baptist Church
March 2024

Between Two Worlds - Justin Taylor

When the walk becomes a crawl : One of the most helpful reminders I've read about sanctification.

The key to getting a long view of sanctification is to understand *direction*.
What matters most is not the distance you've covered.
It's not the speed you're going.
It's not how long you've been a Christian.
It's the direction you're heading. . . .

Some people, during a season of life, leap like gazelles.

Let's say you've been living in flagrant sexual sins. You turn from sin to Christ, and the open sins disappear.

No more fornication: you stop sleeping with your girlfriend or boyfriend.

No more exhibitionism: you stop wearing that particularly revealing blouse.

No more pornography: you stop surfing the net or reading the latest salacious romances.

No more adultery or homosexual encounters: you break it off once and for all. Never again.

It sometimes happens like that. Not always, of course, but a gazelle season is a joy to all.

For other people (or the same people at another season of life) sanctification is a steady, measured walk.

You learn the truth.

You face your fears and step out toward God and people.

You learn to serve others constructively.

You build new disciplines.

You learn basic life wisdom.

You learn who God is, who you are, how life works.

You learn to worship, to pray, to give time, money, and care.

And you grow steadily—wonder of wonders!

Other people (or the same people in another season) are trudging.

It's hard going.

You limp.

You don't seem to get very far very fast.

Old patterns of desire or fear are stubborn.

But if you trudge in the right direction—high praises to the Lord of glory! One day, you will see him face-to-face. You will be like him.

Some people crawl on their hands and knees for a long or short season.

Progress is painful.

You're barely moving.

But praise God for the glory of his grace, you are inching in the right direction.

And there may be times when you're not even moving—stuck in gridlock, broken down—but you're still *facing* in the right direction.

That's Psalm 88, the "basement" of the Psalms. The writer feels dark despair—but it's despair oriented in the Lord's direction. In other words, it's still faith, even when faith feels so discouraged you can only say, "You are my only hope. Help. Where are You?" That kind of prayer counts—it made it into the Bible.

There are times you might fall *asleep* in the blizzard and lie down, comatose and forgetful—but grace wakes you up, reminds you, and gets you moving again.

There are times you slowly *wander* off in the wrong direction, beguiled by some false promise, or disappointed by a true promise that you falsely understood.

But he who began a good work in you awakens you from your sleepwalk, sooner or later, and puts you back on the path.

And then there are times you revolt and do a *face-plant* in the muck, a swan dive into the abyss—but grace picks you up and washes you off again, and turns you back.

Slowly you get the point. Perhaps then you leap and bound, or walk steadily, or trudge, or crawl, or face with greater hope in the right direction.

We love gazelles. Graceful leaps make for great stories about God's wonder-working power.

And we like to be steady and predictable. It seems to vindicate our efforts at making the Christian life work in a businesslike manner.

But, in fact, there's no formula, no secret, no technique, no program, no schedule, and no truth that guarantees the speed, distance, or time frame. On the day you die, you'll still be somewhere in the middle. But you will be further along.

When we lengthen the battle, we realize that our business is the direction.

Source: Justin Taylor 2017 book, *Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken*.

CBC LEADERSHIP AND OVERALL MINISTRY

1. **Preaching & Teaching Ministry:** for God's Word to be clearly declared, His voice heard, and His will realized in CBC church body.
2. **Ministerial Leadership:** To have a heart of Christ's humility and urgency, as we move into a new church year, work with new committee members, under the servant leadership of Pastor Gardner and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Church Council:** August Lau, Gene Woo, Jerome Yen, Nancy Lo, Hailong Yong, Ron Choi, Bob Ngao, and the four pastoral staff.
4. **Deacon Body:** Larry Joe, Davy Chin, Sherman Yeang, Johnson Leo, Gene Yee, Wayne Gor, William Gaw, Paul Lau, Gary Sham, Lawrence Fan and David Lee - as they focus on joyfully serving together with the pastors. Also pray for several prospective deacons to have a clear calling, a burden to be used by the Lord, and to willingly respond to the invitation to serve on the Deacon Body.

ENGLISH MINISTRY

1. **Preaching Theme:** May the Holy Spirit lead us to draw closer to Him as we focus on the Passion week, understanding the connection to the OT prophecies and to our present fruit-bearing lives.
2. **Discipleship:** As the 7 Stages group shares their testimonies on Thur night basketball, ask Him to prepare the listeners hearts and for our people to be bold in lifestyle evangelism. May God bring new students to the next round of 7 Stages training starting at the end of March for 3 months.

CANTONESE MINISTRY

1. 8 Fellowships meet via Zoom or in-person - pray for growth in the faith to maturity.
2. 4 Sunday School classes - Seniors, Genesis, Gospel of John, and Real-Life Discipleship Classes
3. Pray for the spiritual, physical, and emotional wellbeing of the elderly and senior shut-ins, in that they will have peace and comfort through God's Word and through care from fellow brothers and sisters.
4. Pray for patience for parents to maintain a balanced home life and spiritual life of young families with school-aged children.

MANDARIN MINISTRY

Shepherding & Relationships: For God to help the Mandarin Ministry to build up relationships in Christ through small groups, to grow as disciples to maturity, to serve, to reach out to those in need, and to evangelize the lost.

Mandarin Youth: Pray for the teen-aged Mandarin congregants to draw closer to God in their times of Bible study and fellowship together.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Pray for Jesus to continue to work in the lives of youth, youth leaders, parents and families, that they would continue to grow to maturity in their walks with Christ through faithful discipleship and community. Pray for wisdom for leaders and parents to meet students where they are at and to not be afraid to teach and admonish (Eph. 6:4) with patience and wisdom (2 Tim. 4:2). Pray for students to desire spiritual growth and more of Jesus. Pray for parents to be equipped to be intentional with their students in discipleship. Pray also for the admin/hospitality team and DG leaders to continue in their own spiritual disciplines and be rejuvenated in their own walks with God as they serve diligently.

KIDS MINISTRY

Pray for parents and grandparents - Pray that parents and grandparents seize precious opportunities with kids to influence their faith and shape their worldview according to the Scriptures. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Uplift kids' workers and ministers - Pray for new workers to step in and help minister to kids through weekly Sunday school, administrative help or caring ministry, and summer VBC.

Pray for kids to be curious in learning about God through His people and creations, to deepen their knowledge and relationship with God, to grow in grace and not neglect to gather with God's people regularly. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Cambodia Mission Trip, July 1-7, 2024

Attendees: Catherine Yen, Liz Yee, Kristen Eng, Charlize Cheung, Michelle Chen, Laura and Catherine Mey, Molly Nipper. May the Lord equip them, prepare them, and provide for all of their travel needs.

Arizona Mission Trip June 3-7, 2024

Attendees: Ius, Los, Tim & Maggie Eng, Carol & Rebecca Gaw, Gene Yee, Oleg & Asa Xu

Taiwan Mission Trip June 29-July 5, 2024

Attendees: Xus, Jackson Yen, four more considering.

BEYOND OUR WALLS: The City, Our Country, Our World

Pray for suffering beyond our walls to point people to Christ. Ask for mercy for the vulnerable and weak in war, famine, religious persecution, and more. Pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Pray for comfort for those hurting and for Christians to bring glory to God through their love for the oppressed and their faith and obedience to Him.

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Ask that people on both sides would come to Jesus for true peace. To download SBC's prayer guide to pray for the Middle East, click <http://tinyurl.com/SBC-Prayer-guide>

Russia-Ukraine War: Pray for the people who are hurting and looking for relief in a longer than expected war.

C. SUPPORTED MISSIONS & MISSIONARIES

Asia

1. Pastor John and Jenny with Mobilization Ministries.
2. Karen/Mitsu Nakamura (Campus Crusade/Cru) in Japan.
3. Darren/Lynn Ma (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) in Indonesia.

Europe

1. Kelly and Donna Hargan as they plan and recruit new team members.
2. Logins in Latvia as they continue to reach young adults and singles of the Baltics.

South America

1. Bill and Valeria Hamilton(Reformed Evangelism Fellowship) as he pastors a local church and campus preaching in Sao Lourenco, northeast of Sao Paulo.

Africa

1. Mwembo (National Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Democratic Republic of Congo) as he grieves the passing of his wife Adriennefor Christ's peace.

Greater Houston and neighborhoods

1. College ministries - Jonathan Tran and Theo Leu (InterVarsity).
2. Baptist Student Ministries and Bridges of UH, Xuehua Dong and Daka, as they plan spring break trips for Internationals to New Orleans and New Mexico.
3. Will and Tara McCord, and their five children, Lisette, Emmett, Rinnah, Ellis, and Akedah for Mon. night Bible study group with interested persons of 8181 Med Center complex.
4. Bill and Tabitha Scott of Ratio Christi HBU, their Mon night gatherings, Tue gospel sharing, and his spring break trip to Cuba to train believers and bring literature.
5. North Houston's Independence Heights neighborhood as CBC members plan to conduct an Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after church lunch.