

Phrases

After experiencing years of broken promises and seeing the same old habits resurfacing, I find it hard to trust him.

After all, can a leopard really change its spots?

Can A Leopard Change Its Spots?



In Jeremiah 13:23, the prophet was rebuking the people of Judah for their continuous sinning and inability to change. Just as it is impossible for a leopard to change his spots, we cannot change our sinful nature by our own effort. We need God to change us. We need Him to direct us on the right path,



starting with salvation.

Paul the Apostle is a good example of someone who was changed by God. Previously he was actively going after Christians of the early Christian Church, putting them in jail and also delighting in seeing them being put to death. But after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became completely different. His hatred of Christians, pride in his accomplishments and cruel deeds were replaced with love for those he once persecuted, humility and selfless service of Christ. While we cannot change ourselves, our God can change us – if we are willing. We only need to humble ourselves, ask Him to change us, and then step by step, obey His word and the guiding of the Holy Spirit



*Can the
Ethiopian
change his skin,
or the leopard
his spots?*

Jeremiah 13:23a

by Stephen Ling Wen Zhuo

I am Allan Foo.
In 1991, fearful
about an
u p c o m i n g
surgery, I
visited a temple
to offer incense
and pray for



blessings. The medium told me
that my soul had left my body.
He could help temporarily,
but I had to return
for a ritual after
the surgery to
make it
p e r m a n e n t .



That night, I
could not sleep and kept
wondering, “If my soul is gone,
is this the end for me?
Why do idols offer only
temporary peace and not
salvation?” The next day, my
wife’s sister (Sis Mary Ho),
and Mdm Lim visited. Aunty Lim
knew the temple and shared
her testimony. She told me that
only the true God, Jesus Christ,

can save the soul. Anyone
who confesses, repents of their
sins and accepts the Lord
Jesus Christ as their Lord
and personal Saviour
has eternal life in heaven.
Moved by the Holy Spirit, I
prayed that day, confessed
my sins, and accepted the Lord
as my personal Lord
and Saviour.
Glory to God!
God has
preserved me
through the spiritual
trials I faced later.

Psalm 23 and Proverbs
3:5-6 have comforted and
anchored my faith in Him.



**Trust in the Lord with all thine
heart; and lean not unto thine
own understanding. In all thy
ways acknowledge him, and he
shall direct thy paths.**

Proverbs 3:5–6:



Lessons from Wang Ming Dao

Walking the Hard Road

Reviewed by Mr Tan Jin Koon

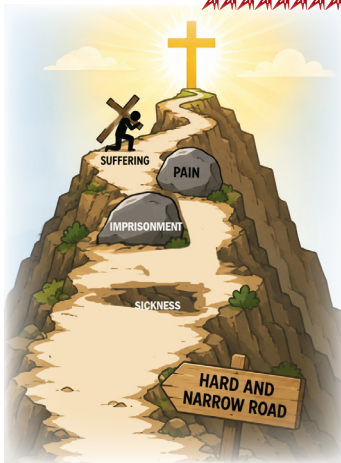
Wang Ming Dao (1900-1991) was a key figure in Chinese Christianity, during the Japanese occupation and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement. Although pressured to join a government-controlled Christian group, Wang believed that the church and the government should be separate, and went to jail for his belief. "Walking the Hard Road", by Brother David, an American evangelist and a close friend of Wang and his wife, shows different aspects of Wang's life, - his experiences within and outside of prison, the difficulties he faced within the Church, his message, his song and his victory.

Psalm 66:12 assured him that God would lead him through

tough times to something good. For example, when he almost died in 1961-1962 while battling severe illness, miraculously, God healed him. Wang took comfort in Revelation 2:10, which promises a crown of life for those who endure hardship.

Revelation 2:10b

...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.



His greatest fear was denying God. He urged those who could worship freely, to choose the hard, narrow road. Wang stayed strong in his faith and served God, even when things were tough, knowing that God rewards those who remain faithful. Let us choose the hard and narrow road, remaining faithful to the end.

History Of The Church

AD

1739 >>>>>>> Methodist revival



Around 1730, some students at Oxford University began meeting regularly for methodical study of the Bible. They felt the Church of England was not meeting their spiritual needs. In 1738, John Wesley, one of their leaders, began preaching the gospel, passionately and boldly, everywhere. Thus began the Methodist revival.

IMPACT:

- ★ gospel preached to working class in England
- ★ systematic organisation led to growth and spiritual encouragement
- ★ hymn singing became part of worship
- ★ resolved some problems created by the Industrial Revolution:
 - ✓ laws protecting children, women, prisoners
 - ✓ help for the poor and sick in the crowded cities
- ★ abolition of slavery
- ★ support for missionary work

19th >>>>>>> century: Missions



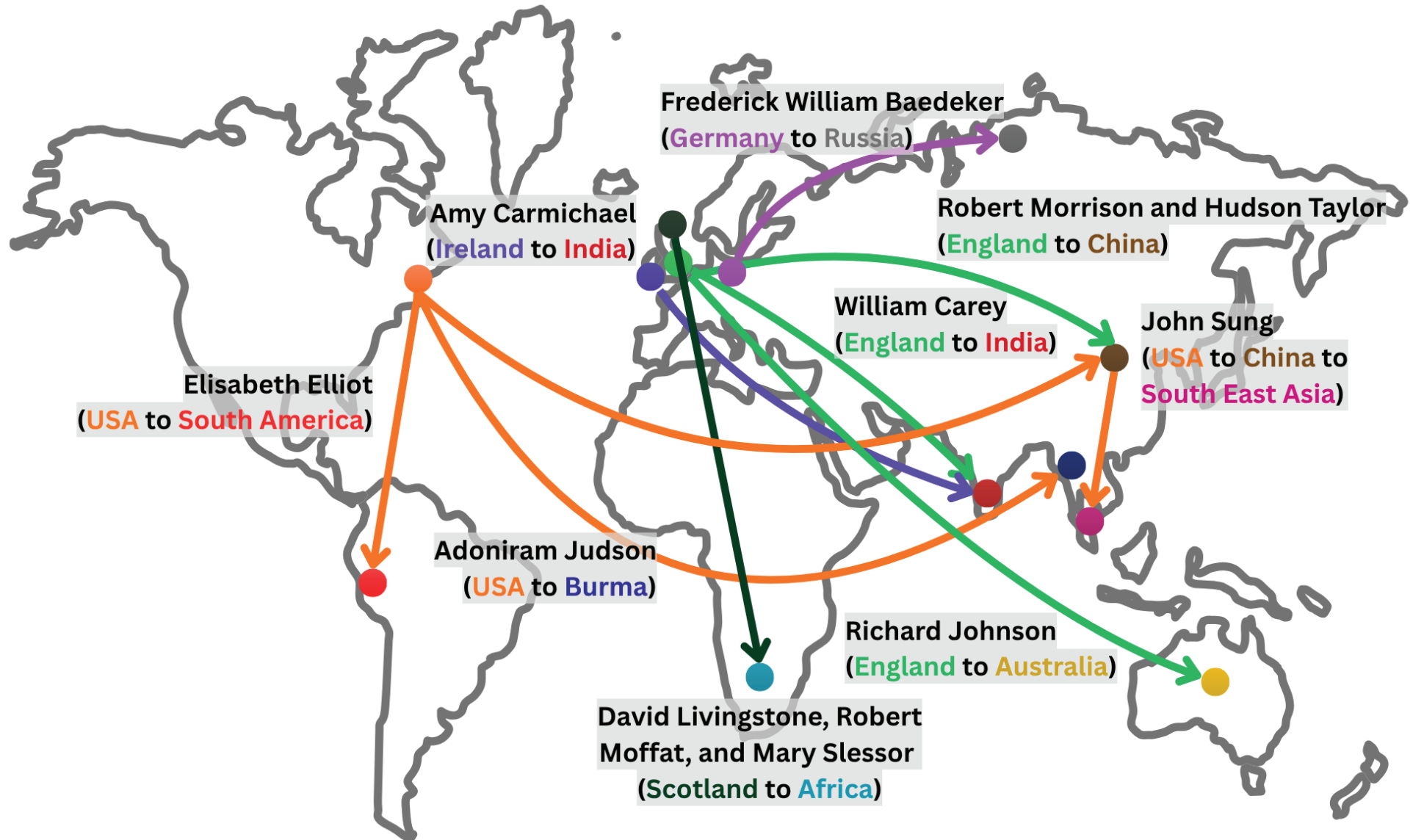
The 18th century revivals convicted many Christians of their responsibility to spread the gospel. Missionary societies sprang up in both England and America. Empire building, especially by the British, brought the gospel to 'conquered' lands. 19th century Protestant missionaries, including many single women, were ordinary church members who volunteered their talents, wealth and lives. These included William Carey, Amy Carmichael (India) Adoniram Judson (Burma) David Livingstone, Robert Moffat, Mary Slessor (Africa) Robert Morrison, Hudson Taylor (China)

IMPACT

- ★ spread of gospel throughout the world
- ★ scripture translated into many languages
- ★ increased knowledge of the geographic conditions of different countries.
- ★ setting up of humanitarian ministries (eg schools, hospitals, & training centres)



A glimpse of Global Missions (from the 18th century)



From the shores of Galilee, the gospel spread across the world by those who obeyed God's call to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15. But many, including our family and friends, still remain unsaved. What is our response?

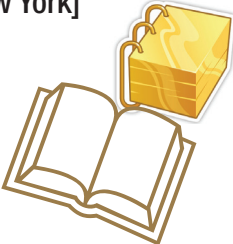
Present Challenges for Christianity

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:1



CULTS = reject core Christian doctrines, add new texts and demand total obedience to their leaders

2 examples of cults and their origins	WRONG BELIEFS
JEHOVAH WITNESS [1870s; Charles Taze Russel, Pennsylvania] 	👉 only God the Father is God, Jesus was created as the archangel Michael, the Holy Spirit is an active, impersonal force 👉 Jesus was raised spiritually, not physically. 👉 hell does not exist - unrepentant sinners are annihilated 👉 faith does not save, only active obedience does
MORMONISM [1820-30; Joseph Smith, New York] 	👉 God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are distinct, God the Father possesses a physical body. 👉 the Bible + the Book of Mormon (supposedly translated by Smith) + The Pearl of Great Price 👉 Smith was a living prophet receiving divine visions 👉 through ‘eternal progression’, humans can eventually become like God.



Philosophical Systems

put their faith in Man rather than God

Materialist Naturalism believe	☺ Only physical matter, energy and natural laws exist ☹ There is no God, no immortal human soul and no such thing as divine revelation
Marxism (Historical Materialism) believe	☺ Society develops based on material conditions and economic class struggles ☹ There is no God and no eternity in heaven
Secular Humanism believe	☺ Ethics, justice and human fulfilment come only from human reason, science and empathy ☹ God’s word is not absolute, morality does not come from divine command or from sacred scripture

Secularism/The Love of the World

faith is not wrong but may be irrelevant

Misplaced priorities/ Indifference	Technology/Social Media	Consumerism
☉ spending time and energy on what the world says are important, not on what pleases God. 	☉ constant online activities that distract and shape our thinking according to the world, not meditating on God’s Word, praying. 	☉ fulfilling wants and desired lifestyle based on what others have, not worshipping and honouring God according to His Word. 

As we enter into the last days, let us not be swayed by the world and false doctrines.
Take heart in God’s word and stay close to Him

Fear thou not; for I am with thee:
 be not dismayed; for I am thy God:
 I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee;
 yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

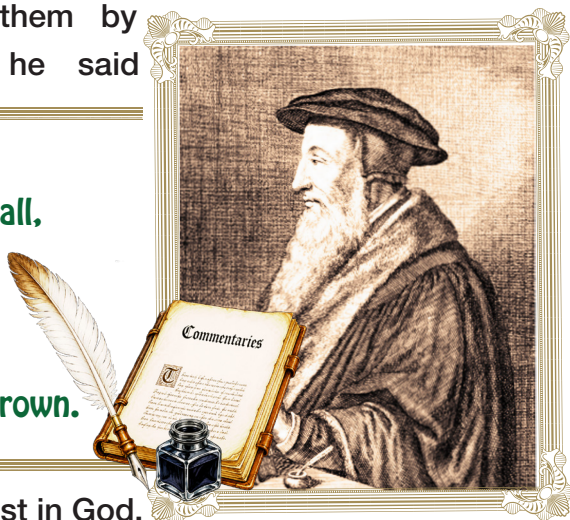
Isaiah 41:10

Faith of our Fathers

John Calvin was born in 1509 into a staunch Roman Catholic family. While studying law in Paris, he began supporting the core beliefs of the reformation. In 1534, during the persecution of Protestants, he fled to Basel, Switzerland. In 1536, he published the first edition of 'The Institutes of the Christian Religion' – a defence of the Christian faith, while also teaching and preaching in Geneva. In 1538, Calvin went to Strasbourg to minister to French refugees there before returning to Geneva in 1541. He remained in Geneva until his death in 1564, lecturing, preaching, and writing commentaries, treatises, and various editions of 'The Institutes'. Calvin's theological ideas, known as Calvinism, spread throughout Europe, influencing Reformed movements in countries, such as the Netherlands, Scotland, England, and parts of Germany. One of his more well-known students was John Knox, who, on returning to Scotland, organized the Reformed Church of Scotland, the origin of the Presbyterian churches of today. Calvin faced many difficulties and oppositions, but he faced them by trusting in God, because he said

We should ask God to
increase our hope when it is small,
awaken it when it is dormant,
confirm it when it is wavering,
strengthen it when it is weak,
and raise it up when it is overthrown.

May we, like Calvin, put our trust in God.



by Ms Gabrielle Ee



Seeing God in nature around us

PHYSICS

Electricity

is a form of energy seen naturally for example, when lightning strikes, or produced artificially using energy from sources such as coal, oil, water and the sun. Electricity lights our houses, powers our air-conditioners, computers and fridges. Magnetism is the force magnets exert when they attract or repel each other. Today we know there is a relationship between electricity and magnetism. Faraday discovered this relationship when he passed an electric current through a magnetic field and produced a force. This phenomenon is known as electromagnetic induction. Faraday's law, the working principle behind many modern-day electric appliances, can be expressed mathematically as where $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ represent the electric and magnetic field respectively. For example, when we switch on the fan, electricity flows through a magnetic field in the fan's motor. The force produced causes the fan blades to rotate. Faraday also discovered that a force applied to move an electric conductor relative to a magnetic field will generate electricity. This is the basis of electric generators that supply electricity to provide light. While we cannot fully comprehend God's wonderful creations, He gives men like Faraday, wisdom to use their scientific knowledge for His glory.



$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

by Mr Nehemiah Leong

**And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding,
and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,**

Exodus 31:3

God be Merciful to Me a Sinner



Search for God's Amazing Mercy!

Find these 7 hidden words in the grid below

**SINNER MERCY JESUS FORGIVE
HUMBLE PUBLICAN PRAY**

J K Y C B Q X A U T P S I N X
A M C J Y S N F T Y X U E U D
Q D R Q Q D K H C P P P S V K
N I E A A R C F O R G I V E F
B H M L E R C E T S A I R B A
F T T N R O V O S S Y X N N P
K M N K M T U P F T Z F K T B
N I W S P G G X H J Z P O J M
S A O Q H H U C J R L C W N V
K E C X Y Q H Y I H G Y E H B
K B X I M I W P A J H W G D M
R Y U E L W F T V R I Q A G H
I U Z S Q B F X A F P O F I Q
C Z V P N F U E L B M U H Z O
X B J T Y Z W P S U S E J S Y

Fill in the blanks with the words you found:

1. The _____ knew he was a sinner.
2. He prayed for God's _____.
3. God sent _____ to save us from our sins.
4. Jesus can _____ our sins.
5. God hears the _____ heart.
6. We should _____ to God.
7. God be merciful to me a _____.



Seek & Solve



Bible Riddles

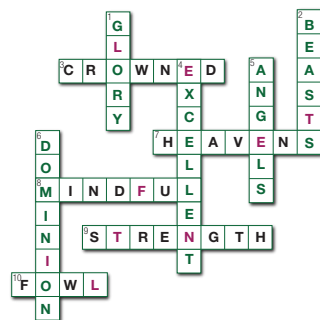
I was a prince,
but I did not want
the throne.
I loved my best friend
and helped him when
he was in danger.
I gave him my robe,
my sword,
and my bow.
I stayed loyal to him
through happy
and sad times.

Who am I and who was
my best friend?



1 Samuel 18:3,4; 23:16

Did You Get It Right?



Jesus stills the storm