

Hi all,

For myself, Christmas has always been a time to enjoy and it is also an opportunity to indulge in all the festivities. At the same time, as I celebrate my birthday during the Christmas season as well, I tend to get reflective on the whole year. This year is no different and as I look back, I can see how much God's grace has been with me this year. This year has been a particularly challenging year as I went through a few different situations.

I believe that God has placed within me a burden to see many youth of this country to come to know God. As a growing church, I have been praying that our church would be able to have a vibrant and alive youth group as well. In the beginning of this year, I experienced a series of car accidents. As a result of these accidents, I've had to attend many medical check-ups and appointments. These medical check-ups and appointments caused a great deal of inconvenience for me and also financially was very draining on myself.

However, through it all as I reflect back, there were many times when I felt discouraged. It was during those times when I learnt that my strength is not enough and I needed to rely on God's strength. Through the many church activities that I attended, prayer meetings, care group fellowships, and Sunday services, they all helped me to draw strength from God. As I look back, I thank God for his grace in sustaining me.

Then in August this year, we were able to start a small but vibrant youth group in our church. It has been going on for the past 4 months now and I'm sure all the youth in our church has been blessed and benefited much from it. That has been one of the highlights of the year for me.

One of the verse that has always encouraged me this year is found in Isaiah 55 :8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Many times during this year, I was encouraged by God and my leaders to do things according to God's way and not by my own way. I have truly been blessed as I make the decisions to follow God's ways rather than my own ways.

I hope that in the coming new year, all of us would continue to grow and trust in God more!

Cheers.

Gary