

# JCC RETREAT 2017

*PULAI SPRINGS, JOHOR, MALAYSIA*

*(105 participants – including 3 babies)*

When asked to write my reflections on the recent Church Retreat, my first instinct of course was to shy away from the request and my mind was already thinking of a million ways to turn down that request. However, a nagging feeling inside of me went: Rev Phillip Huan said, if you have a gifting in that area, you need to learn to hone it till 100% and not be satisfied with the 10-20% that you are using now. Well, that woke my idea up.

To give some context on what the people who didn't go missed out on – Rev Phillip Huan (our guest speaker) spoke about spiritual giftings and how we should use them to help advance the kingdom of God. He focused not so much on the former, but the latter. Of course, I cried after every single session (I vaguely remembered telling one of my youths, I am so tired of crying), though for good reason! I think the part that broke my heart the most was seeing how much God has blessed us with, and yet we have not lived up to the fullest potential that God wants us to be. Many a time, we choose to squander away our time and energies on things that have no eternal value, and being content just being a pew warmer.

In short, let me share just 2 things that I learnt:

1. God is not going to hold you accountable for the Gifts that He did not give you.

For those who have been on my team for games, one would have observed that I am a very competitive person. And therefore, in my spiritual life, I perpetually covet the Gifts that others have, and secretly compare them with myself. Like, if only I had the gift of faith like so and so, or if only I could play the piano better like X and Y, but I have come to realise that we are only called to be accountable for our own giftings, and to make sure that we have honed them to 100% and be not satisfied with less. And the only way to do so? To regularly find a way to use the gifts that God has given us.

2. You discover more of God's will in your life when you discover the purposes of your Gift.

As Rev Huan so aptly pointed out, many of us wonder about God's will for us in our lives. However, discovering the purposes of our Gifts can help us streamline what ministries God may want us to be in. Let me urge the people who aren't sure where God wants them to be to attend Sam Tay's upcoming session on Spiritual giftings, and prayerfully ask God which ministries they can best activate these giftings at. There is definitely a place for everyone at JCC as long as we are willing to be used.

I would love to talk more, but according to Google, an article should be kept at approximately 500 words. Hence, as a concluding thought, I urge everyone in JCC to have a good think of our lives, and where are we investing our giftings at or if we are even utilising them. As for those who are already serving, press on and let love be the motivation as to why you serve!

In His Love,  
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