

7TH MONTH

It always seems to me that devotees of other beliefs are more fervent than us. As the Chinese 7th Month (or Hungry Ghost Festival) comes along, you will see all the devotees in various public places performing their rites without any embarrassment or fear.

A Christian in a hawker center will probably be very shy to say Grace before meals but these devotees even kneel before their makeshift altars in front of everyone in the hawker center.



Asking a Christian to do street evangelism is like asking for his life but again these devotees will kneel or stand and burn joss paper all along the public streets.



What gives these people the courage to do what they do? Is it because they are like the Pharisees who like to make a show of everything they do? Most likely not but I think it is because there is strength in numbers. Since many people are doing it, then there is no embarrassment for them to join in. It is similar to a National Day celebration, a shy person may even stand up and dance because everyone is doing it and sitting down will make you the odd one out.

One Friday night when our CG met at church, I saw a group of green t-shirted people from our tenant church going out to the neighbouring blocks. There is strength in unity. If we just ask one or two CGs to go out, they may feel quite embarrassed to do so but if the entire church goes out in their maroon t-shirts, maybe we will go out with joy.

For those of us who want an excuse, here it is:

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." Matthew 6:5

We are all praying in our closets.

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