

NOTES:



# Newsletter



## News

- The **Deep2** series continues this week as Pastor Peter Barfoot adds to the theme of what it means to go deeper in your relationship and experience with God. We've had a great start to the series with Pastor Peter Sutcliffe and Pastor Tony Ingram sharing on different aspects of what it means to get deeper in our relationship with God. This series will culminate on week 5 with an encounter meeting where we will spend the morning in God's presence. Expect something great to happen!
- **Lorraine Barfoot** is in Western Australia this week visiting her daughter Cathy and family. Lorraine will be back on the 24th.
- **Wednesday evening meetings** alternate between two venues in Alexandra Hills and Birkdale. Please see Pastors Tony or Desley Ingram for more details.
- The fortnightly **Tuesday evening meeting** at Doug and Margaret Anderson's home in Thornlands continues from 7pm, the next meeting will be Tuesday (the 25th) and all are welcome.
- **Sunday 13th June** we will be having a special presentation on the school chaplaincy program during the morning meeting. This will involve a slide show and discussion on how we can support the program with our prayers! The School Chaplaincy "road show" will be visiting many churches in the Redlands to celebrate 20 years of chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy team are looking forward to meeting all of the wonderful Christian men and women of the Redlands who have supported them in prayer, financially or by volunteering and want to present the vision to the churches to inspire people with stories

### ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

### MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Morning:

Worship & Meeting: 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Mighty Kid's Church: Sunday morning 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Mid-week Bible Study / Fellowship Meetings:

Thornlands - fortnightly Tuesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Alexandra Hills & Birkdale - weekly Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm

**ONLINE GIVING:** Ormiston Christian Faith Church (thanks for your support!)

Westpac Bank | Account No. 160478 | BSB: 034062

Address: 8-12 Thorn Street, Ormiston, Qld. 4160 Australia

Contact: Phone (07) 3286 7358 | Email: [pastor@ormistoncfc.com.au](mailto:pastor@ormistoncfc.com.au)

Web Address: [www.ormistoncfc.com.au](http://www.ormistoncfc.com.au)

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## Religious Thinking

There can be real hazards in always thinking along the lines of religious tradition. I know there's a difference between traditions and traditionalism, and it must be said that there are some benefits to certain traditions. That's the reason people love them. There are many wonderful, legitimate expressions of tradition, and some of them can be very beautiful and symbolic of something great.



Tradition is familiar, comfortable, and predictable. But this is often what makes them dangerous, and sometimes religious traditions can lead us to turn from spontaneity and revelation.

When we turn the spotlight on what most people would call "religious traditions" we see that while they may be comforting and wonderful in some circumstances, they usually tend to push themselves deeper into places where they don't belong. Traditions, like habits, often unconsciously remove from people the awareness of the need to make conscious thoughtful decisions. Making decisions requires mental energy, and life is simpler if we do things by predetermined routine. There's a quote that says: "Tradition can only turn its eyes on the past. If it looks to the future, it ceases to be tradition."

This is where it becomes deadly to Christian living. Religious traditions can cause isolation and separation from God, and cause us to live far below our privilege as the children of God. To use a metaphor, traditionalism causes us to paddle along in canoes when we should be sailing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Traditionalism is about our effort, what we do to adopt a sense of spirituality. Sailing with the Spirit is about being taken on a journey by the Spirit of God, not our own effort.

The real Kingdom message of the Holy Spirit's miracles, signs, and wonders; and the glorious presence of God is desperately needed by the modern church. Religious tradition has stripped many people of their benefit. Those power-enduing parts of Scripture have been emasculated and demoted to nothingness in many modern pulpits. (Mark 16:17-20, Acts 1:8. I Corinthians 12-14.)

Sadly, religious traditionalism is not just found in churches where priests wear robes or where the pastor or priest reads from a script. We Pentecostals take great joy in our freedom and our knowing the Spirit who teaches us of Jesus and the Father. But we are just as susceptible to traditionalism as anyone else. Many churches that once gloried in being Spirit-filled and experiencing the fullness of God's gifts are now just as mired in religious traditionalism as any formal church. They appear modern and "relevant", but are more concerned with entertaining and satisfying the needs of the members. A Kingdom-focused church is looking outwards, looking for encounter with God and knowing Jesus in a real way that brings life.

Be honest. Are you the victim of religious traditionalism? Is there something vital you are missing in your Christian walk? Don't you think it's time to receive all that the Holy Spirit has for you! Don't you want to know what it's like to know God for yourself?

The discovery awaiting you is nothing short of phenomenal!

(Read about traditionalism in Matthew 15:3, Mark 7:3, Colossians 2:8, I Peter 1:18.)

- Pastor Paul

## Why we worship the way we do . . .

The Bible teaches that worship is not a dull ritual, but a joyful and intimate celebration of God's presence. The Bible encourages us to express our love to God in a variety of ways, including: singing, kneeling, standing, lifting up hands, clapping hands, dancing, shouting God's praises, with musical instruments, and through prophecy and prophetic songs.

In addition to these expressions of our love, God also encourages us to exercise the gifts of the Spirit in an orderly way as we meet together. In the course of our worship you may hear a prophetic word given to encourage or build us up; or a brief message in tongues, followed by an interpretation in English.

While all of the above expressions of praise are valid and acceptable, none are required. If you feel uncomfortable expressing your praise in these ways, feel free to just "sing along" or to quietly express your love for God in prayer in a way that you feel comfortable.

Worship in its broadest sense is something we are supposed to be doing in every area of life – everything we do is supposed to be for God's glory. Public worship is when we declare God's goodness, greatness and general awesomeness whenever we gather together in His name. Biblical corporate worship is Christ-centred worship, performed in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). When one gifted person leads us in prayer – we all pray together endorsing their prayer. When we sing – we sing jointly together as one Body. When we hear the Word preached – we listen together and you can even agree audibly with the preacher—they won't mind at all!

The Scripture commends corporate worship in a public service. Worship is not just about individuals each contemplating about Jesus Christ individually in our hearts and minds – but also joint members of a local body that together worship our God and saviour together through music, reading God's Word, prayer and praise. All of us are participating in worship – and we don't all have to be up the front to be involved in corporate worship!

NEW SERIES - MAY 2010

DEEP<sup>2</sup>

DEEP CALLS TO DEEP

**Not satisfied with a surface relationship?  
Not sure what it means to know God deeply and intimately?  
Are you desperate to know God in a way that you never have before?**

**This series is for you!**

**2ND MAY- PETER SUTCLIFFE / 9TH MAY- TONY INGRAM**

**16TH MAY - PETER BARFOOT / 23RD MAY- PAUL BARFOOT**

**30TH MAY - DEEP IMPACT MEETING!**