

PREFACE

*“On Thursday night when we gathered together in 17:4, presiding pastor came in and he chided us and encouraged us that we should open our mouth! He said that if we want to be preachers then we should open our mouth and say things clearly. He also gave us the three instructions which he gave to brother Israel before he left for the UK. We must learn to hear properly, think properly and speak properly. He challenged us to be good preachers. But yesterday after I heard this message, it was really humbling. It caused me to see my inability in proclaiming the messages of presiding pastor. In the first place, when I listen, it is not easy to convey presiding pastor’s messages. I thank God for missionary Zephaniah Soh (our pastor) to help us to remember yesterday’s message and take us through the sermon of presiding pastor. Most of the aspects were very new and the Spirit of God ministered to me in a very fresh way. I really felt how unable I am to proclaim and preach the Gospel of presiding pastor. I must first of all request one of the stronger elder brothers to explain the message properly to me. Otherwise I will surely mess up messages and not deliver the Spirit of God. **As presiding pastor asked: What is preaching? It is Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.** It is giving life to the souls of man. So it is very humbling and caused me to fear. The problem of the Corinthian believers is that all of them heard the messages of Paul, but some received them as babes. I do not even think I have received it like a babe. So I really need the grace of God to receive and understand presiding pastor’s message. Pastor referred us to Psalm 119:33-40 – we must really seek God to understand the Word of God! He also said, ‘Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.’ (Luke 11:9) We know the principles of prayer, yet we receive no answers to our prayers. Firstly, we ask amiss, asking wrongly. I don’t even know how to cry to God properly. So how can I receive the Spirit? This message, as Zephaniah said, was not long, but it was very deep. Pastor gave us the example of a broken cistern. We fill up full here, but by the time we reach the other place, we are already empty. I feel like a broken cistern, unable to fill up full. I hardly retain 25% or 50% by the time I come back to the room. Most of the time, I forget this. It’s a very great and challenging message. Also, as presiding pastor directed this message to the children and we laughed, it is also true of us. Pastor said the children know how to delete things from computers. They are quick to pick up the things of the world. They never ask the uncles or aunts to teach them about the things of God. But when it comes to the things of the world, we want to go on and on. We do not even plead to our elder brethren to explain to us. So I have all these lacking in me including the desire for the Word of God. When I come to this conference (for the spirit of this conference has already begun), may God grant me the desire to hear the Word and be able to receive and capture the spirit of the messages and catch the Spirit of God.”* Ranjit Singh’s response to pastor’s exegesis of I Corinthians 2, Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia; 15 December AD 2012