

**Word Notes Sunday 08/01/17**  
**Roy Wheeler – Past, Present and Pathway**

**Summary** (*read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>*)

**Key Texts: Exodus 33:1-18; Joshua 1:1-9**

What's the most important thing in moving ahead in the purposes of God? That God's presence goes with you. Far more important than any physical thing – be that buildings, structure of meetings, style of worship.

Two more things to be aware of: Firstly that we don't hold on to past blessings beyond their "sell-by date" – in other worlds don't let them become idols. (Numbers 21: vs 2 Kings 18:4). Secondly that we continue to be "people of a different spirit". The fulfilment of God's promises to his people of a new land flowing with milk and honey came to Joshua's congregation not Moses'. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who transcended the change – they had a "different spirit", the opposite to the pessimistic attitude of the age.

**People of a different spirit:**

- See things differently to everyone else.
- Say things differently to everyone else.
- Submit differently to Gods promises rather than being overwhelmed by the problems or challenges or worldly perceptions.
- Support differently. They support their leaders and each other so God can fulfil his purposes.

The key thing we learn from the transition from Moses' leadership to that of Joshua is that God is totally dependable.

**God is totally dependable:**

- In the past
- In the present
- In the way ahead
- In his promises
- In his provision

Trust God for your past, your present and your path ahead. Rely on his promises to you personally and the NCC fellowship corporately. Put God first in your giving he will take care of your needs individually and corporately.

**In summary, as you go forward in this next season:**

Be strong and courageous.

Not neglect Gods word.

Don't be fearful.

Don't become discouraged.

**Application** (*this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points*)

NB – these are all very quick-answer questions, don't get bogged down on them but let them lead you though to an understanding of a forward momentum in the ways of God.

- 1) Lessons from the Moses generation.
  - a) Why was God going to withdraw His presence from Israel in Exodus 33 v 3.
  - b) What do you understand that to mean in a modern context and for you personally?
  - c) What was Moses' response?
  - d) What can you do to avoid the same fate?
- 2) Leaving behind good things. (Numbers 21: vs 2 Kings 18:4).
  - a) How did something that was meant for blessing become a hindrance?

- b) What did Hoshea do to rectify the situation? Do you think this was popular?
  - c) "Hoshea", renamed "Joshua" by Moses, sounds like "Jesus" – what is the meaning of these names and why is that key to understanding Hoshea's action?
  - d) What "blessings from the past" are you reluctant to let go of, which might become idols?
- 3) Lessons from the Joshua generation.

Caleb was a man "of a different Spirit" (Num 14:24):

- a) Different from whom/what?
- b) What made him that way?

Joshua was the only other person from Moses' 12 scouts who inherited the promise.

- c) What preparation for leadership did Joshua have? (Ex 24:13, Num 11:28). How did this shape his "spirit" and his dependence on God?

**Witness** (*this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News*)

Israel – a national called to be distinctive from those around them and draw people to God. The church also is a "called out" people, distinctive from those around to draw people to God. What lessons have you learned from this week's teaching that can be applied to everyday life that will make you "distinctive" and attractive in a pessimistic, wall building generation? Go be that person!!