

NEW YEAR TALK 'Build up the walls': (Ps 51, Ro 12:1-2)

TALK 1 – LOOKING BACK

New Year time for reflection: good things, not-so-good things, things we want to change – did I really eat that many mince pies in December? Did I really wear that jumper to church?

Time to look back and to look forward – talk in 2 parts – in first part, think about looking back

David Psalm 51 – looking back on a difficult time (self-inflicted), and his journey with God. I've been looking back as well this week on my first 3+ years here, where we are as a church and where we're going. Two fit together – why chosen this Psalm today. Start with David:

3 key insights to fruitful Christian life (journey): **(S)**

- Begins with **deep awareness of God** – v1-6 painful, but David's deep conviction of God written all over – v1 have mercy, v4 'you' v6 'you'
- Leads to **deep hunger for God** – not just cleansing (v7) but rad. chg v10f
- Produces **deep thankfulness to God** – famous v15

How fit our own journey and my reflections on ministry here – time of putting in foundations (what I felt God call me to do) – similar journey:

- Deep awareness – bible teaching / recognition of reality of our situation
- Deep hunger – Alpha, School of freedom, focus on prayer – WoGP, Daily Prayer, [Prayer Chain](#), [JiP](#)
- Deep gratitude – testimonies (work in progress), more joyful/spontaneous praise – v15

Looking back – foundations being built. How are your foundations doing?

TALK 2: LOOKING FORWARD

Extra point: Generates deep consequences (S) - other lives get changed

- Mission – v13
- ‘Build up the walls’ (v18) (S) – word for this year. What mean?
 - Not arrogance –make us great
 - Or hiding – building high walls

MEANS: Visible signs of church to the community – emphasis on service (Romans 12 – takes idea of sacrifices from Ps 51 and turns that into us)

We’ve laid foundations – now we need to start building the walls, being more visible.

Key challenge – how are we going to do that?

Individuals:

- more open about faith
- decide once and for all whether you really believe this stuff or not
- MK50/50 challenge – FLIER/EXPAND (S)

Church

- By end of year at least one or two new ministries
- Pub nights

RESPONSE: GIVE YOU BRICK TO TAKE AWAY AS REMINDER – HOW WILL YOU HELP TO BUILD THE WALL? (S) – **HAND OUT**
