



TBM Newsletter –  
Q4/2024

Inspire, Influence  
and Impact Lives  
for Christ

By Brandon PEK

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## Year 5785 / 2025

*The Jewish calendar begins on Rosh Hashanah, and all holidays begin at sundown on the start date listed and end at sundown on the end date listed. The current year of 5785 began at sunset on October 2, 2024.*

While there are already writings about the Hebrew year 5785 and what it holds, this article does not pretend to have a prophetic message but just a glimpse of the symbolic references of these numbers.

This is not endorsing numerology – the belief in the divine or mystical relationship between a number and one or more coinciding events – which is prohibited (Deuteronomy 18:10-11, Leviticus 19:26).

### Number Symbolism in the Bible

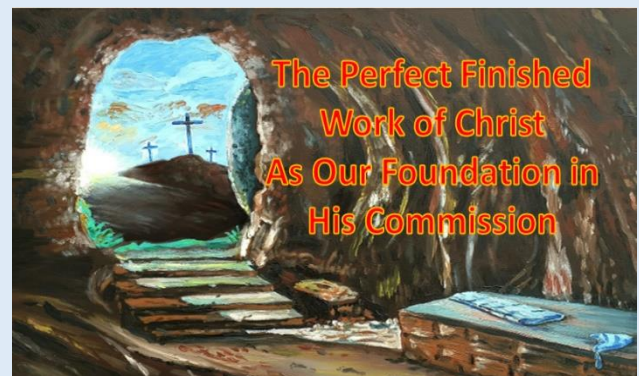
The Holy Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God written to communicate His messages to His people. Numbers don't define or dictate, and there isn't any power in them which is superstition, but they are used in the bible to convey meaning beyond the number's numerical value.

The number 5 symbolizes God's grace, goodness and favour toward humans. Since five represents grace, when its multiplied by itself, it produces 25 which may mean "grace upon grace." There are two 5s in the Year 5785 – that's double grace and when they are multiplied, there's grace upon grace.

The number 7 is the foundation of God's word. It derives much of its meaning from being tied directly to creation, symbolizing completeness and perfection (both physical and spiritual). The foundation of our mission remains the perfect finished work of Christ.

The number 8 represents a new beginning, meaning a new order or creation, and man's true "born again" life in eternality with Him. That's the will of God for man, and we are commissioned to go into all the world and preach this gospel to all creation.

### His Perfect Finished Work and Our Commission



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. That is the grace of God toward humanity. And as beneficiaries, freely we have received, freely we proclaim this gift to others (Matthew 10:8).

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, He wants to work in and through us for His will to be done (2 Peter 3:9).

The age of grace that began through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus is continuing into the last days with manifold grace in an increasing wicked world for His gospel to be preached and received.

With due diligence and in His love, let us bring and proclaim the good news and be ready in season and out of season to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Pray therefore that this grace be upon us whom He has commissioned as we go into our assigned mission fields to share the gospel and do His will, so that the grace can be multiplied to the hearers to receive His salvation. Amen.

*The meaning of numbers in this article is taken from [www.biblestudy.org](http://www.biblestudy.org) website.*

## Review Questions for “More Fruit”

*He desires that 2025 be another bountiful year for you, even more than the year that has just passed.*

While giving thanks for the year and preparing for the new one, it is good for God’s fisher of men to take a strategic pause to reflect, re-affirm and review the past twelve months with four questions: “Why?”, “What?”, “How?”, and “What’s Next?”

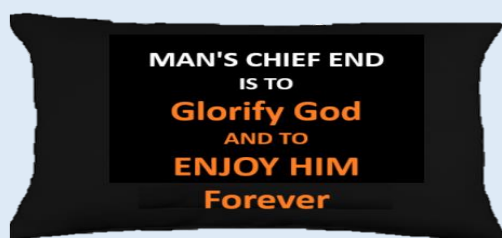
### “Why?” – God’s Purpose & Mission

The first deals with the overarching purpose and mission of our remaining time on earth, upon which we have our ministry and mission.

For mariners, the True North is a guidance, orienting reference, and fixed point on earth’s axis where the planet rotates. For us in our personal walk, God’s purpose and mission is our True North that keeps our ministry on track in a spinning world.

God’s purpose and mission for His children:

- Glorify God and enjoy Him forever
- Seek and save that which was lost



Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, do all to the glory of God. Enjoy without sorrow the blessings that come from Him for it’s our Father’s good pleasure to give us the kingdom (1 Corinthians 10:31, Luke 12:32, Proverbs 10:22).

However, remember His mission. For God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ that through Him all might be saved – this is a sacred mission that was passed down to us (John 3:16-17, Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-21).

Reflect on and re-affirm this purpose and mission in our lives as we refresh and recharge ourselves for His work in this new year.

### “What?” – Mission Statement

Whether it is the mission of the ministry or a personal one, it needs to be aligned to God’s purpose and mission and be integrated to the other parts of God’s commissioned work in the body of Christ.

The “What?” question concerns the ministry/personal mission statement that is either to be re-affirmed or reviewed. Broadly, it should serve in one or more of these areas:

- Seek and save the lost through evangelism, proclamation and sharing the gospel.
- Make disciples through teaching, equipping, counselling, mentoring, and coaching.
- Mission work through active participation and/or support financially, in-kind or through services.
- Connect converts to the local church where they can grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
- Voluntarism or philanthropy through charity or work of mercy, revealing the love of God.

### “How?” – Mission Goals

Upon the mission statement, faith goals may be established following the S.M.A.R.T. rule – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound. This is the first level of the “How?” question to make sure that the derived goals from the mission statement are clearly written and defined.

After the S.M.A.R.T. test, there are three broad decisions to make in reviewing the mission goals:

- 1) Remove previous goals that did not produce the desired outcomes.
- 2) Retain those with results that are in keeping with the mission statement.
- 3) Refine those with small yields but with potential for more fruitfulness.

In prayer, seek God’s wisdom and guidance through the Holy Spirit over which mission goals to take away, maintained or be pruned for more fruit in the new year (John 15:1-2).

There may be replacement, new and/or spin-off mission goals from the review process that need to be crafted using the S.M.A.R.T. rule, taking reference from the “Why?” and the “What?” before they are included in the next phase of action planning.

### “What’s Next?” – Turning Plans into Actions

Finally, the fourth question urges action planning and execution. After determining the plan for each of the mission goals, consider the actionability of these plans to finalise the priorities and supporting actions that may be needed to realise them.

Three key actionability considerations are:

- Current skills and abilities to make progress, and what to do to close the gap.
- Resource needs (money, time and others), to put plans into actions
- Circles of control, influence and concern for each course of actions.

These may generate supporting faith goals in support of the main mission objectives. Perhaps, taking up skills training or a deeper dive into the Word in some specific areas, fund raising or volunteer recruitment.

Or, the Holy Spirit may lead you to pray for partners and collaborators to close the gaps in the required skills and abilities, and resources. Perhaps, through divine intervention, special empowerment to meet the needs and accomplish the goals.

### **Bountiful 2025**

Pray and petition to God, with thanksgiving present our requests to Him as we commit our work to the Lord in submission and trust, and He will help us and establish our plans as we walk in faith and obedience to His voice (Philippians 4:6, Proverbs 16:3).

*Written for Man of Impact / The Significant Woman alumni reviewing their mission goals. See general announcements for preview information for Jan 2025 intake.*

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## **In Season and Out of Season**

*Christmas and New Year's Day have just passed...the Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day are coming. How does preaching of the Word fit in?*

Some questioned the roots of the celebration, others were concerned about secularising Christmas. Surely, the reason for the season still needed to be proclaimed whether for selfish ambition or out of love, so long that the true Christ is preached (Philippians 1:15-18).

### **In Season Proclamations**

Christmas was the “in season” for God’s salvation plan to be proclaimed. While the world called Santa Claus Father Christmas, we proclaimed God our heavenly Father the giver of gifts through His Son Jesus, the ultimate gift of eternal life with Him.

While the decorated Christmas tree took the spotlight in the homes and shopping malls, we could explain the deeper meaning of the various parts of and the ornaments on the tree, pointing our listeners to the Cross – the Tree of His resurrected life.

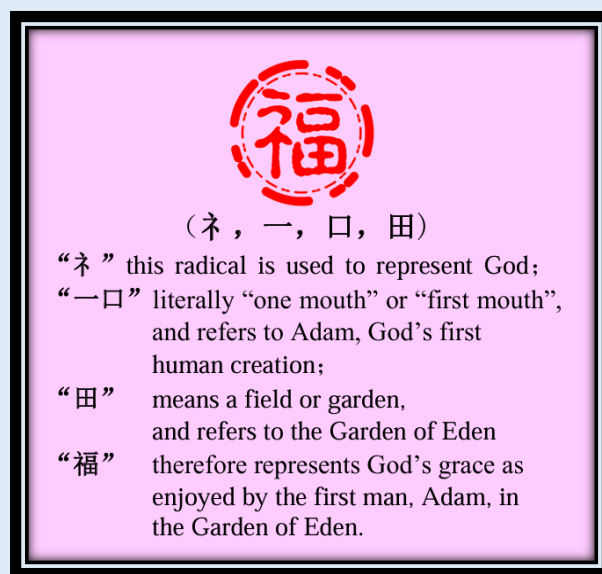
In January, while our friends set resolutions for the new year, we can reflect and give thanks to God for the year that had passed. And perhaps, we can share our hopes for the new year with a expression of faith and extending the Lord’s blessings to them in prayer.

### **Out of Season Sharing**

The Lunar New Year (aka Chinese New Year) is a time of celebration for many cultures in Asia. In Singapore, many races come together to celebrate the spring festival that stretches over 15 days, therefore presenting opportunities to share the good news.

Perhaps, pronounce or return with words of the Lord’s blessing when giving out or receiving the “Ang Pows” (red packets). When gathering for “Lohei” (tossing of special salad), shout praises to the Lord and shower everyone with words of His blessings.

Maybe, when the opportunity arises, explain a sample of Chinese characters in relation to the gospel and open up doors to hear the good news. One common example is the word for blessings “福”.



Valentine’s Day in February is not an event we celebrate but the world loves the idea of celebrating love. So, share about the love of God that surpasses the human kind of love, even that of the celebrated Saint Valentine, and give the glory to God alone.

Many martyrs had sacrificed their lives in the name of our Lord Jesus for the gospel to reach the lost and dying world but these would have been in vain if not for His once for all sacrifice for the way back to God.

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6*

Indeed, let the One who loves us with sacrificial and self-giving love be made known.



## Enduring Afflictions

We are sent out as sheep into the assigned mission fields where Christ may not have been preached or there is hostility against Him. Be wise as serpents, ask for His guidance in evangelism, and be harmless as doves, and in gentleness be an extension of His love to the hearers (Matthew 10:6, 1 Peter 3:14-16).

Afflictions will be there when we do His work, and they come in various forms and levels: physical, mental, emotional, social...all rolled into the spiritual. There will be tribulation but in Him, there will be peace for He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

When persecuted for the gospel, stand up for Christ with grace and dignity, and should it persist, step away so that we can bring the message, which is our priority, to willing hearts in other fields.

When delivered up in persecution, remember we have the Holy Spirit, and hence, don't worry about how or what we should say for it will be given to us the hour what we should speak as it is the Spirit of our Father who speaks in us (John 14:26, Matthew 10:19-20).

## Ready, On the Mark, Get Set...

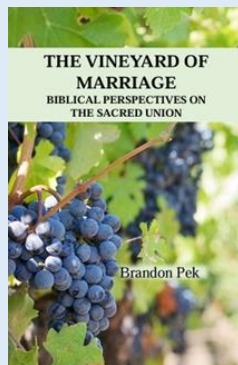
2 Timothy 4:1-2 charges us to preach the word, convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teach. As His sent ones, verse 5 instructs us to be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of evangelists, and fulfil our ministry.

*We are the reason He gave His life, and now He is the reason for the hope we have. Preach it.*

## Praise & Thanksgiving Report

- Release of the book "The Vineyard of Marriage" on Amazon and Lulu online bookstores on 24 September 2024.

Official book launch via zoom on 30 October 2024, Wednesday with supporters of TBM (The Boatman Ministry).



- Served as member of training team for TSP (The Significant Project) Facilitators' Training for MOI (Man of Impact) and TSW (The Significant Woman) courses on 19 October 2024, Saturday.
- "Thankful Together" organized by the TSP team on 14 November 2024, Thursday, to celebrate the completion of Cru Singapore's Jul-Oct TSP courses (MOI & TSW).

- Thanksgiving Tea and Fellowship Meeting by The Boatman Ministry on 24 November 2024, Sunday. Sharing and giving thanks for the year, and exploring "The Five Languages of Love" with friends over tea.
- Remembering and celebrating our Lord Jesus with the Tham Family at Yew Tee's Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) Nursing Home on 19 December 2024, Thursday.



Thankful for the opportunities in 2024 to share Christ with and minister to the residents in the 8-bedder ward for salvation and affirmation of the message of His love.

## General Announcements

### Upcoming Events / Prayer Requests:

- Invitation to "The Vineyard Club", fellowship group for married couples or those seriously dating, with 4 complimentary coaching sessions for relationship building.

Email [brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com) to discuss the above complimentary coaching.

- Subscribe to upcoming TBM's Expedition Series on "Total Fitness Proficiency" for a special enrolment rate to The Positive Intelligence for Mental Fitness (with Christian Perspectives).

Email [brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com) for more info and receive the program details.

- Man of Impact / The Significant Woman course (January to May) preview on 09 January 2025, Thursday, 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Cru Centre. For more information and registration, click the link below:

<https://www.cru.org/sg/en/train-and-grow/the-significance-project.html>

- Email [brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com](mailto:brandon.pek@tbm-bp.com) should you like to support the work of this ministry financially, or work on kingdom project(s) in partnership.

Blessings,  
Brandon PEK  
The Boatman Ministry