

Gratitude
Philippians 1:3-8

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH
SERMON, 11 JUNE 2023

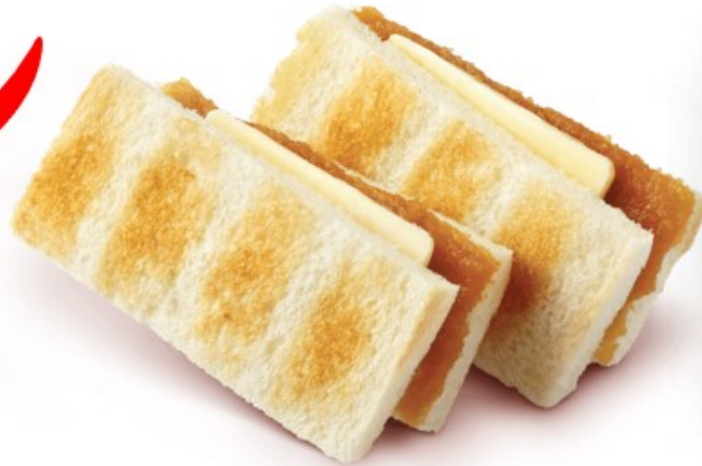
GRATITUDE

*Learning
from Paul*

JORY LEONG

Good morning,

SSMC





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"If you wake up one morning & you cannot think of a reason to bring God some kind of offering of thanks or praise, then you can be sure there's something wrong at your end of the pipeline, and not his. We live beneath an unceasing flow of goodness, kindness, greatness & holiness. Every day, we're given reason after reason why Jesus is so completely & utterly worthy of our highest & best devotion."

GRATITUDE

Learning from Paul

GRATITUDE

looks at life through God's lens

*Every time I think of you,
I give thanks to my God.*

Philippians 1:3 NLT

I THANK MY GOD

Rom 1:8

Rom 6:17

Rom 7:25

1 Cor 1:4

1 Cor 15:57

2 Cor 2:14

2 Cor 8:16

2 Cor 9:11

2 Cor 9:12

2 Cor 9:15

Eph 5:20

Phil 1:3

Col 1:3

Col 3:17

1 Thess 1:2

1 Thess 2:13

2 Thess 1:3

2 Thess 2:13

1 Tim 1:12

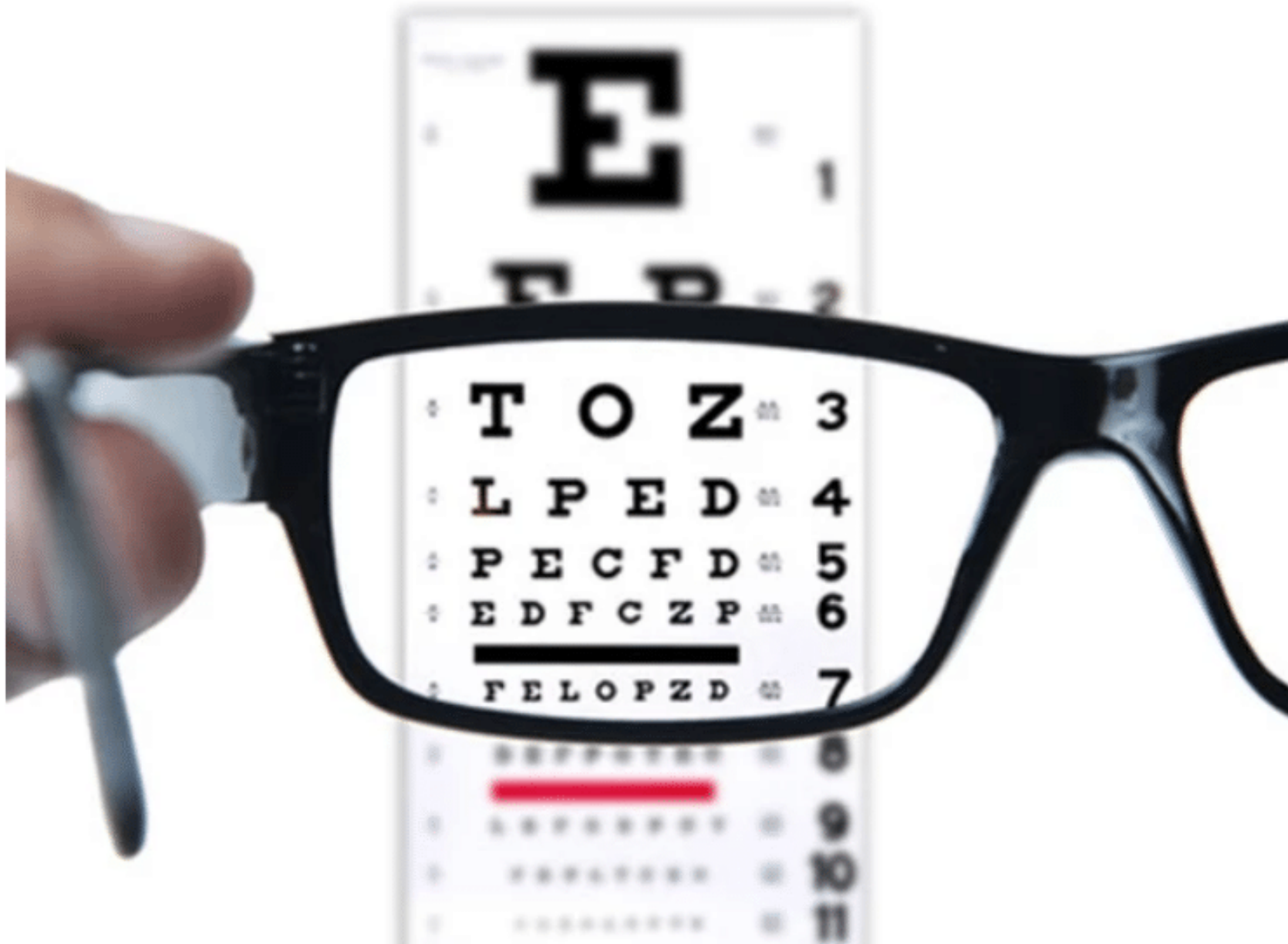
2 Tim 1:3

Philemon 1:4



EVERY TIME I THINK OF YOU,
I GIVE THANKS TO MY GOD.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3 NLT



**"To be grateful is to
recognize the love of God
in everything."**

Thomas Merton

(1915-1968)



GRATITUDE

looks at life through God's lens

is expressed and communicated

³ **Every time I think of you**, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ **Whenever I pray**, I make my requests for all of you with **joy**, ⁵ for you have been my **partners** in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that **God, who began the good work within you**, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:3-6 NLT

Paul was **consistent**
in expressing & communicating
his gratitude

Romans 1:8

Ephesians 1:16

Colossians 1:3

2 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Corinthians 1:4

Philippians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 1:2



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GOD PRAISED....

- Noah as righteous ([Genesis 7:1](#))
- Solomon as highly exalted ([1Chron 29:25](#))
- Canaanite woman for her great faith ([Matt 15:28](#))
- The centurion for his faith ([Luke 7:9](#))
- Nathaniel for not being a hypocrite ([John 1:47](#))



**THANK
YOU!**

GRATITUDE

looks at life through God's lens

is expressed and communicated

warms and guards the soul

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since ***I have you in my heart*** and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify ***how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.***

Philippians 1:7-8 NLT



Gratitude warms the soul



*Gratitude
guards the soul*

CRITICAL

MIND

vs

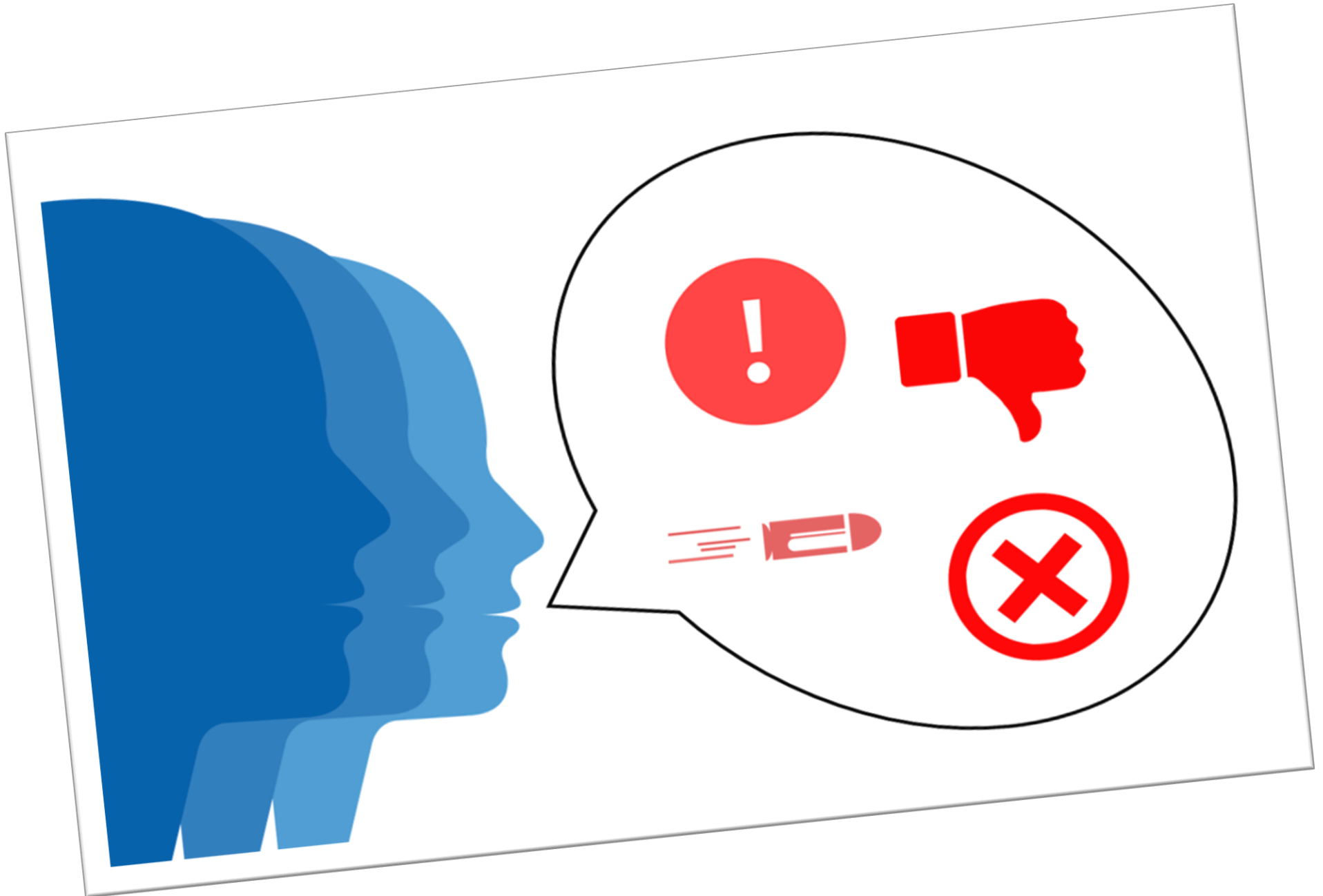
CRITICAL

SPIRIT

The church is imperfect, but
woe to the man who **takes**
pleasure in pointing out her
imperfections!

Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)





*... neither filthiness, nor foolish talking,
nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting,*

but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:4 NKJV

**A THANKFUL SPIRIT
OVERCOMES
A CRITICAL SPIRIT**

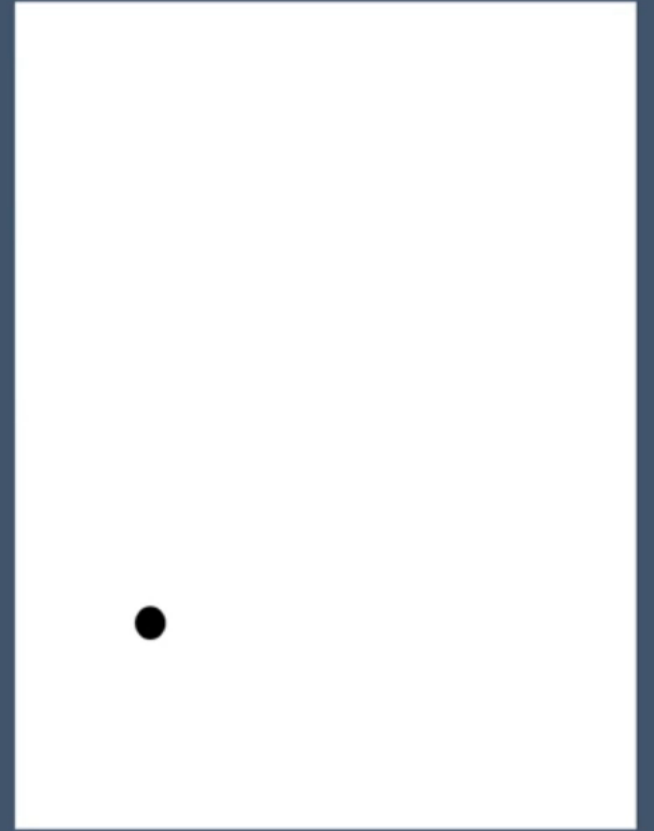
GRATITUDE

looks at life through God's lens

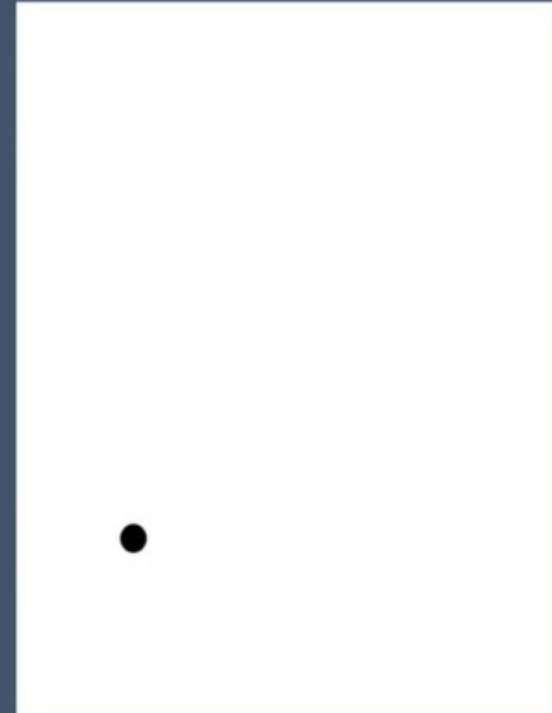
is expressed and communicated

warms and guards the soul

A Short Inspirational
Story On
GRATITUDE



Our life is a special gift of
God, and we always have
reasons to celebrate.
And yet we focus on the
dark spots in our life.



The Black Dot | Inspirational Short Story

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor walked around the class and handed the question papers with the text facing downwards.

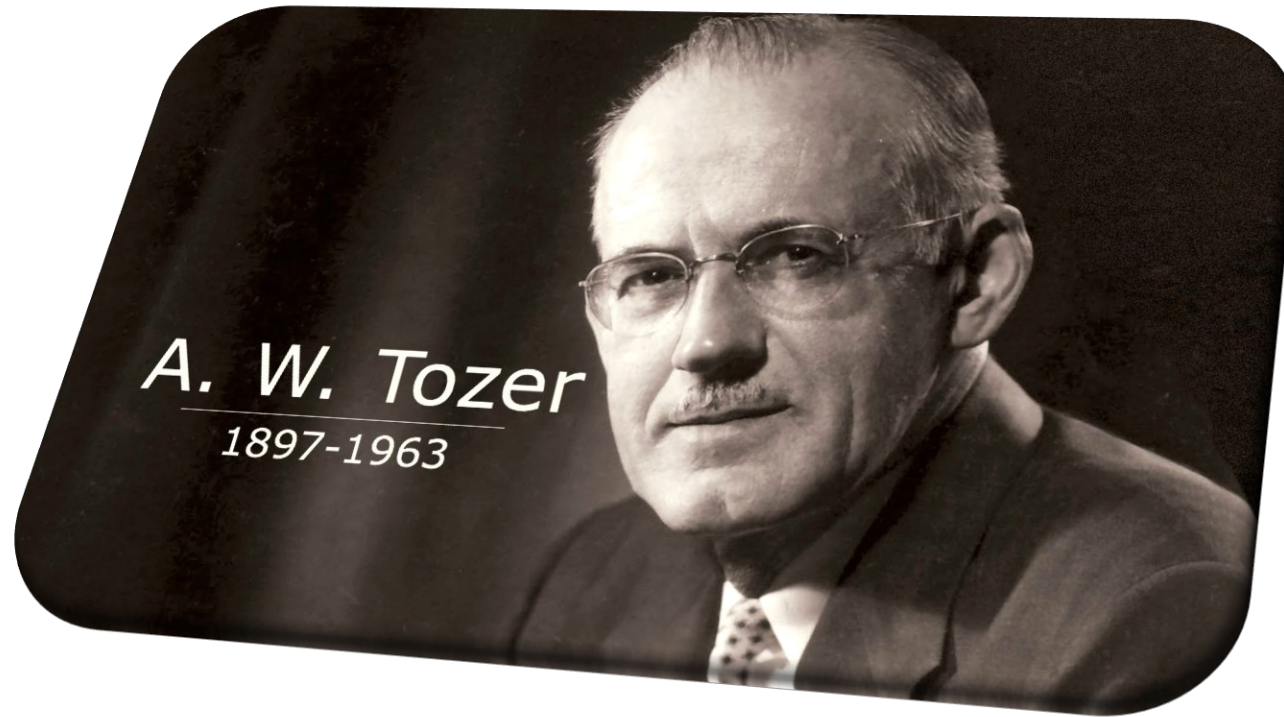
Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions, but just a black dot in the center of the page. The professor thoroughly read through everyone's bewildered expressions and said- "I want you to write what you see there."

The perplexed students began to do what they had been asked to do.

The Black Dot | Inspirational Short Story

At the end of the class, the professor took all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them with no exceptions described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet, etc. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor began to explain:

“I am not going to grade you on this test; I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives. This is exactly what we end to do with our lives. We have a white paper to hold onto and enjoy ,but we are so busy contemplating about the dark spots that’s in there. Life is a special gift and we will always have reasons to celebrate. And yet we insist on focusing only on the dark spots.



“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”