



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Knowing & Experiencing God
Topic	Knowing & Experiencing the Father-God
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	3 rd April 2016

Message Summary

Knowing & Experiencing God

As followers of Christ, we must continually strive to develop a close and intimate relationship with God. This involves knowing Him in a personal way, through the reading of the Bible and listening intently to what He is saying to us individually. Importantly, we must also understand His character and attributes – His lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness, so we may receive and experience His great love.

Father-God is the Ancient of Days, our eternal everlasting God

Our Father is the Ancient of Days as He existed before time began. In the book of Daniel, our God is described as one who determines times and seasons, and sets up prime ministers and presidents. Our God is a God who removes kings, but also raises up kings with whom He finds favour, and directs the hearts of these kings and rulers. He is the Mighty one, whose plans can never be thwarted as He sits enthroned.

Three main streams of His Character and Attributes

(1) Loving and Kind

In the Bible, Exodus 34:6-7 reminds us of the lovingkindness God has shown us – He is gracious, longsuffering, and abounds in goodness. He is also a forgiving God, but only if and when we ask for forgiveness from Him. Forgiveness is never granted without repentance.

(2) Just

Our God is one who loves justice and delights in the truth. As men who are fallen, we often find ourselves faced with iniquity (possessing the propensity to lie), transgression (crossing the boundaries), or sin (missing the mark). God reminds that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. He will bring every work into judgment, including those done in secret, because nothing can be hidden from Him. As we do good, let us be reminded that we are sowing onto the Lord. God is not unjust to forget our good work, but we must never do things for the eyes of men.

(3) Righteous

Our God is a righteous God, and so are His laws. He will not break His covenant, as He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He promises to come through for us, as He honours His word. God does not lie: Whatever He has said, He will do.



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God is always loving, just and righteous simultaneously. His righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

(1) The Justice and Righteousness of God

In God's sovereignty, amongst other things, He has given to man a free will, as well as laws and principles of life. God's omniscience does not preclude us from acting on our free will; we are still given the liberty of making our own choices. However, we must know that things will happen in accordance with these laws and principles of life. When we obey them, we reap positive outcomes. Conversely, negative outcomes are the result of disobeying His laws and principles.

In heaven, there sits courts that decide the verdict of our individual lives and nations, based on our choices and actions. Our just and righteous God always wants to love and bless His people, yet our outstanding sins are blocking His grace from reaching us. In a similar way, sins of our fathers which are not under the blood will bear consequences for our children.

We must therefore call on the name of the Lord, as God will give us justice when we come humbly to ask Him. We must be aware of the devil's constant accusation against us, and overcome it by bringing our sins under the blood of the Lamb, which will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As Christians, we know that our destiny is already written in a book in the Court of Heaven. It is this destiny that the devil seeks to steal, kill and destroy.

(2) The Loving-Kindness of God

He is our Heavenly Father who wants us to relate to Him as His children, from the moment we are born again. His wish is for us to live as His sons and daughters, continuing on our discipleship journey so we may transit from having an orphan spirit to a spirit of sonship.

Some differences between having an orphan spirit and the spirit of sonship:

- The orphan spirit sees God as a taskmaster, while the spirit of sonship sees God as a loving Father.
- The orphan spirit is insecure and strives for approval, while the spirit of sonship is secure in the grace of God knowing he is totally accepted.
- The orphan spirit is competitive and jealous, while the spirit of sonship honours and rejoices with others, helping others to succeed whilst accepting his own portion.

Conclusion – Come to the Father

Our Heavenly Father wishes for us to return to Him during the window of grace given unto us before our death or His coming. We must never let the evil one rob us of our destiny, or be distracted by the temporal pleasures of the world. We must be transformed from an orphan spirit to the spirit of sonship, so we may truly receive and experience His love for us. To finish well, let us continually strengthen our spirit-man and spiritual capacity and receive the Father's love to heal our hurts, so as to walk and minister in the fullness of God.



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Questions

1. What are the main characteristics and attributes of our Father God?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2. Share an experience that helped you to understand God better. Which aspect of His character / attributes was revealed to you?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3. Which aspects of the Spirit of Sonship are you experiencing now? Conversely, what aspects of having an Orphan Spirit are you struggling with? How can you move to that of Sonship?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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Appendix A: Contrast between the Orphan Spirit and the Spirit of Sonship

1. The orphan spirit sees God as a <u>taskmaster</u> and is motivated by <u>performance</u> to please Him.	1. The spirit of sonship sees God as a <u>loving</u> Father and is motivated by <u>love</u> and <u>gratitude</u> to delight Him.
2. <u>Insecure</u> and strive for approval. Serves to <u>earn</u> Father's love.	2. <u>Rest secured</u> in the grace of God knowing he is <u>totally</u> accepted.
3. <u>Competitive</u> and <u>jealous</u> of the success of his brothers.	3. <u>Honours</u> and <u>rejoices</u> with others, <u>helps</u> others to succeed whilst accepting his own portion.
4. The orphan spirit is driven by the <u>need</u> for success.	4. The Spirit leads the mature son into his <u>calling and mission</u> .
5. The orphan spirit <u>uses</u> people as objects to fulfill goals.	5. Mature sons <u>serve</u> people to bless the kingdom.
6. The orphan spirit has <u>anger</u> and fits of rage.	6. The spirit of sonship <u>rests</u> in the Father's ability to control and guide the future.
7. The orphan spirit is always in <u>competition</u> with others.	7. The spirit of sonship is always <u>blessing</u> others.
8. The orphan spirit lacks <u>self-esteem</u> .	8. The spirit of sonship walks in the <u>love and acceptance</u> of Father-God.
9. The orphan spirit receives its primary identity through <u>material possessions</u> , <u>physical appearance</u> and <u>activities</u> .	9. The spirit of sonship is grounded in <u>sonship</u> and the Father's <u>affirmation</u> .