

Topic : Delighting the Father – Luke 3:21-23 : Baptism of Jesus  
Speaker : SP Daniel Foo  
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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

### **BBTC – Making a Difference as God’s people**

Today is BBTC’s 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. BBTC is all about people and our Lord Jesus Christ. It is about bonding and building the church together. Building is opposite of tearing things down, polarizing camps, having schisms and sectional groups. We often say in BBTC:

*“The Church of Singapore is larger than any local denominations, the Kingdom of God larger than any local church and BBTC is larger than any cell group or ministry”*

More importantly, we must be the church, that as we are blessed and touched by the Lord, we in turn bless others. It gratifies SP to see BBTCians worshipping the Lord in one accord, comforting those who need comfort, praying and ministering to those in need, serving one another and the community. **This is what the church is all about – The presence of God and the presence of the people of God making a difference in the life of others.**

### **Delighting the Father**

As we celebrate our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and His faithfulness, we look at how we in turn can delight the Father. This is a story told by John Bever:

During a family dinner, a couple tells his 4 sons that they love them with all their hearts because they are their children - There is nothing the children can do to make them love their children more or less. However, how much the children please or delight them is dependent on their obedience, their attitudes, and their desire to please their parents.

In the same way, our God loves all of us, regardless of who we are or what we do. There is nothing we can do to earn the love of God or merit the grace of God. Every aspect of the grace of God is available to all. **But how we please our God is dependent on how we live our lives – our words, attitudes, behavior and our motivations.**

In Luke 3:21-22, when Jesus was baptized, 3 things happened:

1. The heaven was opened.
2. The Holy Spirit came upon the Lord Jesus.
3. Jesus pleased i.e. brought delight to Father-God.

### **Application 1 - Our lives must continually be under Open Heavens**

In this we can draw 3 applications for ourselves and BBTC as a church. The first application is that our lives must continually be under Open Heavens. What does it mean to be under open heavens? In Deut 28, we learn there is an open heaven when we heed the Word of God – There will be life and blessings of abundant provision, peace and mercy. Conversely when we disobey and rebel against God, when we worship idols, the blessings are removed and a doorway is opened for the devil to come in to steal, kill and destroy. This result in what we call curses and ultimately death.

SP shares an account of a lady friend whose domestic helper’s father, uncle and husband died at an early age and whose grandfather died tragically in a fatal accident. Now, the domestic helper’s sons are experiencing some difficulties. The lady recognized that there is a curse running in her domestic helper’s

family line from the grandparents to her sons. She shared the gospel with her domestic helper and prayed to break the curse affecting the domestic helper's family.

Curses come when we rebel and disobey, hence allowing a doorway for Satan to come in to skill, kill and destroy. However, every curse upon our lives can be broken in the name of Jesus. In the NT, when a person is reconciled with God (born again - Romans 10:9-10), the heavens over his life is opened. The bible tells us:

*“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”*  
- Galatians 3:13-14

How then can we live under open heavens? **Firstly, in order to experience the blessings and favor of open heavens, we must have knowledge and understanding with regard to the glorious riches of the Grace of God made available to every believer**

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**,. His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the **knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious **promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* - 2 Peter 1:2-4

Open heavens comes from knowing God through His Promises in His Word

**Secondly to have open heavens, we need to believe God, appropriate (apply and obey) the Word in order to receive the grace that we need.** Our prayer will always be answered when it is in the will of God and this is found in the Word of God. This is because when we stand upon the Word of God in prayer, God will always act upon His Word to answer our prayers (Jer 1:12, Isa 55:11) This means we need to declare what the Word of God declares! This is a spiritual principle where there is a connect between our hearts (which is our spirit) and our mouths.

*“that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes** unto righteousness and **with the mouth confession is made** unto salvation”.* - Romans 10:9-10

Examples of what we can declare include:

1. *I am deeply loved by God*
2. *I am always protected in Christ*
3. *The peace of God calm all my worries*
4. *I walk in divine favour and divine wisdom*
5. *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength*

**Thirdly, in order to experience the blessings and favor of open heavens, we must guard against a bitter root that will block the grace of God.**

*“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled ...”* - Hebrews 12:15

Anger, offences, resentment, unforgiveness, are fruits that arise out of bitterness. Ephesians tells us not to remain in anger as this will give the devil a foothold, a doorway.

*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. “  
- Eph 4:26-27*

We need to learn to be forgiving as God has forgiven us and forgiveness run against the character of God. Hence, let us not let unforgiveness block the grace of God in our lives.

**Lastly for open heavens, we need to build an altar to the Lord where we live and work.** This is not a physical altar but rather in our hearts through prayer. In our homes, our workplace and in our schools, pray and declare Jesus as Lord and invite His presence. A good example is the SHOP (School House of Prayer), an initiative by the youths. Wherever you are, build an altar to the Lord and allow to Holy Spirit to work through you to bring change and transformation.

### **Application 2 -We need the anointing upon for life and ministry.**

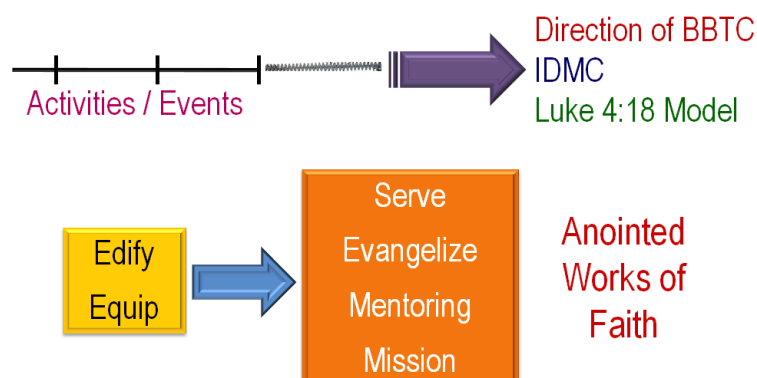
The second application is that we need the anointing upon for life and ministry. The anointing upon is also known as being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) or to be baptised with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). **To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to intentionally invite the Holy Spirit into all areas of our lives.** This means total dependency on God in everything that we do.

*“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh ...” - Philippians 3:3*

**The evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is the enabling and empowerment to live a victorious life.** If you were previously struggling with anger, lust or unforgiveness, the Holy Spirit will empower you to overcome and conquer the area of struggle. Secondly, the Holy Spirit comes upon us to empower us to be witnesses of God. We are to be witnesses of God wherever we live, study or work and this requires wisdom and courage. This comes as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us. Thirdly we are to heal the sick. Throughout the gospels, the Bible instructs us to do what Jesus has commanded us to do. In Acts 10:38, God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the enemy.

SP shared about the Elijah Challenge Healing Rally where out of 10 who came, perhaps there were 5 that were not instantaneously healed. His encouragement for those 5 is not to be discouraged but to continue seeking the Lord for healing. However if we did nothing, all 10 would have remained in their sicknesses and infirmities. As hands and feet of God, we are to do the ministry of the full gospel. This is the direction of BBTC to be an intentional disciple making church, adopting the model in Luke 4:18.

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free – Luke 4:18*



As we are edified and equipped, we need to continue to serve God, communicate the gospel, mentor and disciple one another and do missionary work as we go to the nations. There should be input into our lives and there should be output through what we call anointed works of faith.

### **Application 3 - We must intentionally live our lives to please or bring delight to Father-God.**

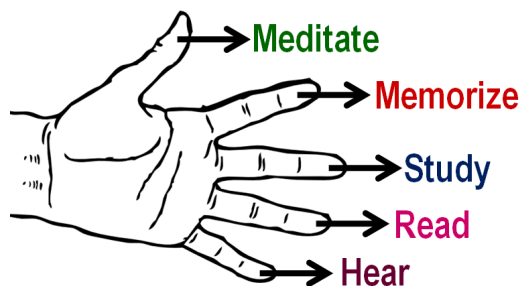
The third application is that we must intentionally live our lives to please or bring delight to Father-God.

**Firstly, we must live a life of obedience to the Word of God.** The Word of God is the final authority in our lives. We must seek God above our own beliefs, looking the totality of the Word of God. We cannot pick and choose the Scriptures we want to believe and disregard the other portions

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”. – 2 Tim 3:16*

**Secondly, to delight the Father we need to be an intentional true worshipper.** In John 4:23, the Father is seeking true worshippers. He is look at our hearts – Are we loving God, bringing our thanksgiving, giving Him praise and surrendering our lives in worship?

**Thirdly, we also want to please the Father by being diligent to know the Word of God.** From the pulpit, we want to teach the full counsel of God to present men and women wholly after the heart of God. Personally, we need to meditate, memorize, study, read and hear the Word of God. This will help us through this life victorious.



**Fourthly, we must desire to know the will of God.** Colossians 1:9-10 tells us that when we do so, we will walk worthy of the Lord, we will please God in every way, we will be fruitful in every good work and we will increase in the knowledge of God.

**Lastly to please God, we need to live by faith, not by sight.** God knows our need and struggles but He desires that we respond to Him by faith.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” - Hebrews 11:6*

### **Conclusion**

As we celebrate our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we must individually and corporately delight our Father God. There are 3 things we must do:

We must continually live under Open Heavens.

We must be in total dependency on the Holy Spirit.

We must purpose to bringing delight to the Father-God.

