

Theme	Life Transformation
Topic	From Carnality to Spirituality
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Message Summary

**Spiritual Objective: To move from carnality to spirituality as the driving force of our lives.**

Introduction

Key definitions:

Carnality - when we behave according to our sinful/fleshly nature

Spirituality - when we have total dependence on the Lord

From Romans 1: 16-17, SP exhorted the need to know the righteousness of God and live righteously by faith. Defining the righteousness of God in 3 aspects of Right Standing, Believing, and Living/Actions, we realize that to capture such aspects require a total dependency on the Lord, and never on our own flesh and carnality.

SP called out for us to ask God for revelation regarding our own flesh and carnality, and then to develop faith to live out righteousness in spirituality.

**Justification - Recognizing the beginning of our spiritual journey with the Lord.**

The spiritual struggle between the self or the ways of the world to that of the ways of the Lord exists because our new life in Christ (spirituality) is opposed to our old life of the flesh (carnality).

It is important to note that Justification means we are accepted by God fully in 'sonship' (Romans 8:15-16) the moment we receive Christ as Lord and Saviour. We are freed from our old life dependent on the flesh to that of new life in the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:17). We then need to live our lives by faith in God (Galatians 2:20) and ask for the Holy Spirit to enable and empower us to do so. Justification does not mean our spirituality is whole and complete however - our old life will constantly be in tension with our new life (Galatians 5:17), and from this struggle we grow in spiritual maturity to become more like Christ Jesus.

Therefore, Justification is merely the very beginning of our spiritual journey with the Lord. SP used the 'Already, but Not Yet' framework to describe our constant struggle to deny the self and follow Christ. For example: we know we are saved, yet we are still being saved as we daily deny the urges of the flesh or lures of the world to focus on living righteously for Christ.

### **Sanctification - Our walking and service unto God.**

As Justification is the beginning of our spiritual journey with the Lord in knowing that we have new life in Him, Sanctification builds on that foundation, recognizing that we need to continually draw closer to the Lord.

Sanctification is solidly based on our Justification, and never the other way around, which would lead to the incorrect performance-treadmill or value-of-works-alone mentalities. It is entirely due to the mercy and grace of God that our Justification and Sanctification is possible.

### **Moving away from carnality, growth through spirituality.**

Understanding Justification and Sanctification, we can now greater appreciate our struggle between carnality and spirituality. While we may have Justification in Christ, we can still be very much 'mere infants in Christ' (carnal); spiritually immature (1 Corinthians 3:1-5). The source of such carnal living is dependency on the self, which results in our sinful nature directing our lives. We are enslaved still to sin (Romans 7:14).

We need to focus our eyes on Jesus, and live as Christ wishes us to in sanctification, yielding and having our lives directed by the Holy Spirit. In walking in the Spirit, we can overcome our old life, as we "will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). Sanctification is a progressive and continuous process in which we need to pursue in our spiritual journey with the Lord.

### **The carnal being vs the spiritual being.**

While we may be believers, if we are still living our old life of carnality, our minds are natural and corrupt. However, the mind of the spiritual believer is renewed and receives revelation. During Jesus' healing ministry of the blind, the people who were being healed were often asked to enact their faith, showing that the mind was indeed "governed by the Spirit" and could be filled with "life and peace" (Romans 8:5-11).

The more we pursue sanctification, the more we move away from the carnality of natural and corrupt emotion to that of Spirit-led emotion, exhibiting such fruit more and more.

The will of the carnal believer is also vastly different from that of the spiritual believer. The former has a will which is neutral and unenlightened, whereas the will of the spiritual believer is aligned with the Father-God (Colossians 1:9-11)

### **Spirit, Soul, Body.. which is dominant?**

The believer is a 3-part being: Spirit, Soul, and Body, each interlinked. The relationship between the 3 is wholesome and Spirit-directed for the spiritual believer: The Spirit is the directing force: aligned to the Lord, thus enabling discernment and perception of His Will in our lives. From there our Soul feeds off the Spirit, which being nourished in alignment with the Lord, gives us renewed minds, emotions, and wills. Our Body can then exist in this world in a way that pleases the Lord, by being a Light to the community, having healthy relationships, etc.

For the carnal believer, the life is Body-directed. Bodily senses affect the mind, emotion, and will. Having a life led in a natural and worldly nature, a disconnection then exists between the Body-directed believer and the Lord, hence leaving the carnal believer bereft

of a Spirit-filled and sanctified life.

### Conclusion

Moving from carnality to spirituality is a journey of faith, one in which the Holy Spirit enables and empowers us. Romans 8:1-2 reminds us that we are "free from the law of sin and death", and as such should continue to grow spiritually and "work out our salvation" as "God works in you to will and to act" (Philippians 2:12-13).

## Questions

1. a) What is the difference between Justification and Sanctification?  
b) What is the relationship between the two?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2. a) What are the sources of carnality and spirituality?  
b) In what ways do the carnal believer and spiritual believer differ?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3. How are we going about our lives and responding to our various trials and struggles? How prominent are Spirit-led responses as compared to carnal responses?

(Fill In Answer Here)

4. Share one struggle/obstacle you would like to commit to the Lord for the following week in which you will stand upon His Truths, and seek to overcome in His name.

(Fill In Answer Here)

# *Gear Up and Go!*

## **1. GDOP (1<sup>st</sup> June 2014)**

Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) will be held in BBTC on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014, from 7:30pm.

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

*"If My people who are called by My name  
will humble themselves and pray and seek My face  
and turn from their evil ways,  
I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins  
and restore their land."*

## **2. GoForth Conference 2014**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (Wednesday – Friday)

Time: 9.00am – 5.30pm (Free rallies in the evenings from 7.30pm)

Venue: Trinity Christian Centre (Paya Lebar)

From megacities to slums, marketplaces to the immense online world – mission fields are around us. Our spheres of influence include our loved ones and greater community, as much as unreached people groups.

GoForth 2014 is calling Christians of all ages, ethnicities and walks of life to gather for 3 days of thought-provoking messages and discussions regarding topics:

- How can I evangelise in an online world?
- Are we prepared to be the church in the world?
- Will we Go Forth to be neighbours in our global village?

Sign up online at <http://ww.bbtc.com.sg/goforth>. Closing date is on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014.