



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Anointing for Good Works (Acts 10)	SPEAKER	Elder Edric Sng
THEME	Abounding Grace for Good Works	DATE	29 January 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

A SEASON TO CELEBRATE, A SEASON TO CONTEMPLATE

Those among us who celebrate Chinese New Year are caught between two cultures – that of being Chinese, and that of being Christian. It is often difficult to distinguish between superstition and culture, and this is especially so during the lunar new year. How do we blend these two sets of beliefs? What happens when our faith seems to contradict our culture?

For example, many of the Chinese greetings we use during the New Year are tied closely to the ideas of luck, prosperity and fortune, which may clash with what we know about the sovereignty of God and His blessings. Similarly, before Acts 10, the Apostle Peter was caught between what his Jewish culture had taught him, and God’s will for everyone – Jew or Gentile.

ACTS 10: PETER’S STRUGGLE

Jesus came to save the world, His grace extending to all, regardless of race or language. Peter, however, had to be convinced via a vision, when he was told: “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean” (Acts 10:15). Breaking through cultural and societal boundaries, Peter visits the home of Cornelius, an Italian. Through that visit, Peter realised that God’s love transcends racial boundaries, accepting all who fear Him and do what is right (Acts 10:35).

Peter then takes to time to tell Cornelius of how Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to do good and heal those under the power of the devil (Acts 10:38). As disciples of Jesus, we should emulate His behaviour and attitudes. In fact, He said that His disciples would do *greater things* (John 14:12). But Jesus does not expect us to bless others empty-handed.

He has given us two gifts – or, in the spirit of the season, two *angpow* (red packets).

THE TWO “ANGPOW”

The first is the gift of salvation and peace (Acts 10:36). This gift, we receive when we believe in the Jesus and accept Him as Lord. To make things better, this gift does not come alone.

The second gift is the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus, when on Earth, was anointed with these – and He sends us disciples into the world with these, too! (John 14:26, 17:18)

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE ANGPOW?

From Acts 10, we learn two principles about how these gifts are connected.

Principle 1: With the Peace of Salvation Comes the Power of the Holy Spirit

Principle 2: With the Power of the Holy Spirit Comes the Potential to Give the Gift of Salvation

First poured out upon the saints at Pentecost (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit now anoints all who call upon the name of Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit allows us to pass on the first gift of salvation to others. While we do not save the souls of others through our own power, we can point them to the one who can: Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. This is the mission that we have received from Jesus – to do go throughout the world doing good and healing in His name.

With these two gifts in hand we must obey the words of Jesus and go out to bless others – to do good and heal!

This is the month of BBTC's Blessing Campaign, and it is a fantastic time to put this into practice. When you bless others, doors are opened to us. While you may not always receive a favourable response, don't give up! At some point, you'll meet a person of peace (Luke 10:6), someone who will welcome you into their house and life. Everyone has a need – and you could be the person to help meet their need. And who knows, through your conversations and through your compassion, you may some day be able to help them see that Christ is the only real answer to all our needs, and bring them to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

FROM A CAMPAIGN TO A LIFESTYLE ... AND TO A MOVEMENT

This needs to be more than just a month-long campaign. This call to bless others needs to be integrated into our lifestyle. We need to actively seek people to bless. To do good and heal. Break the power of the devil. Bring God into the picture. Announce the message of Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. There are many hurting souls who need the love of God.

Our hands were made so that we can be instruments of blessing. We were saved; found by Christ and brought into salvation. We are blessed; anointed with the Spirit and in power. In our hands hold the potential to lead others to salvation. Our prayer and our posture must be: God, *use these hands* so that I can lead others to You!

QUESTIONS

Choose one word to describe your experience so far in this year's Blessing Campaign.

- i. What are some personal obstacles that you have faced in blessing others?
- ii. How does the sermon help you understand how to overcome these obstacles?

Beyond the Blessing Campaign: How can you keep your hands active agents of God's blessing for the rest of this year (and even beyond 2017)?