



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Experiencing the Seven Pillars

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THEME Pillars of a Healthy Church

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

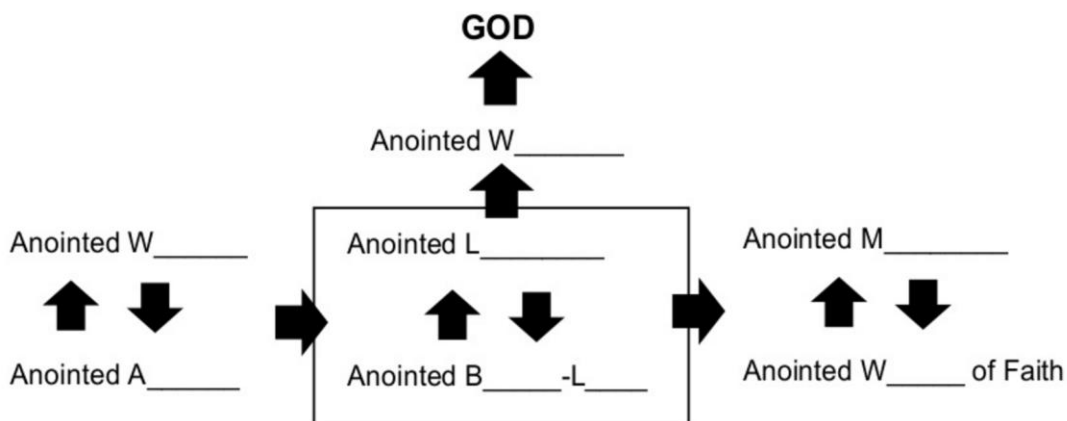
THE STRATEGY FOR AN INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH

What does it mean to be a part of the BBTC family? SP describes BBTC as the “family of God”. There is a place for *everyone* in BBTC. But the first step we need to take is to be “plugged in”.

This week, SP reiterates our church’s mission and vision and lays out the strategy for achieving them in the form of seven pillars – *Anointed Worship, Word, Altar, Leaders, Body-Life, Ministries* and *Works of Faith* [Acts 2:40-47].

THE 7 ANOINTED PILLARS

While we have these pillars, God remains the centre of it all [1 Cor 2:2]. All seven pillars are to be anointed, i.e. spirit-led, empowered, enabled.



⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptised (Altar); and that day about three thousand souls were added (Altar) to them. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ (Leaders) doctrine (Word) and fellowship (Body-Life), in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs (Works of Faith) were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need (Ministries). ⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their good with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God (Worship) and having favour with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. [Acts 2:40-47]

1. ANOINTED WORSHIP

The Lord is seeking true worshippers – those who worship in Spirit and Truth. [Jhn 4:23-24]

More than just singing songs, true worship is when our **spirit (heart) connects with the Holy Spirit** [Phi 3:3]. As He inhabits our thanksgiving and praises, He shows up in a tangible manner. And as we commune with the Holy Spirit through worship, **our relationship with God is strengthened**; we are able to love Him – for He first pours His love into our hearts [Rom 5:5], and He reveals to us the Lord Jesus, the finished works of the Cross, His Glory and Word [Jhn 14:26], guiding us into truth [Jhn 15:26; 16:13].

True Worship involves all three aspects of:

A) Thanksgiving – a grateful heart [Rom 1:21]

To continue receiving wisdom from the Lord, we have to be thankful.

B) Praise – declaring the Names of God [Heb 13:15]

We need to sing beyond the words, to profess the character and nature of God. We are to sing spiritual songs, hymns, and psalms. [Eph 5:19; Col 3:16]

C) Worship – surrender, giving of everything in our lives, including our tithes and offerings [Rom 12:1]

As we worship Him, we are to bring everything of ourselves to Him – commit all worries, anxiety, situations etc. to Him, and declare that He is sovereign over all.

2. ANOINTED WORD

The Word of God, be it delivered in cell groups or at the pulpit, must result in the following [1 Cor 14:3]:

A) **Edification** – building our faith in God

B) **Exhortation** – strengthening our relationship with God

C) **Comfort/Hope** – encouragement to our hearts

It's not about being accumulators of knowledge.

The Word of God has four primary purposes [2 Tim 3:16-17]:

A) **Doctrine** – it serves as truth-principles of life

B) **Rebuke** – it is a basis for rebuke when we sin or live in disobedience

C) **Correction** – it debunks ungodly beliefs and wrong patterns of thinking

D) **Righteousness** – it tells us of our right-standing (which is a gift from God) and trains us in right-believing and right-living

3. ANOINTED ALTAR

As God speaks through His Word, through all medium and people, the only appropriate thing to do is respond. [Heb 3:7-8,15; 4:7]

But to respond to God, we must posture our hearts to hear Him. Our ears should be inclined to Him and our eyes should never depart from His Word. [Pro 4:20-21, 23] This means we need to be wary of things that threaten to quench our faith – **BOMD** (Busyness, Offenses, Materialism, and Disappointment).

To prevent that from happening, we must take time to be still before the Lord. To spend time in silence and solitude with Him, to hear His voice, connect with him and surrender (trust and obey).

4. ANOINTED LEADERS

The kingdom of God is not a democracy, it's a theocracy; i.e. systems are constructed with God-ordained relationships. Leaders aren't just given positional but spiritual authority. [1 Cor 12:27-28; Titus 1:5; Eph 4:11-12]

In order to keep each member accounted for and covered, everyone is encouraged to join a cell group. Through the cell group, we are connected to the church through clusters, tribes, divisions, and right up to the Council of Elders.

5. ANOINTED BODY-LIFE If Christ is the Head of the Church, then we are His Body. [Col 1:18] And when we are connected to the Head, we will receive the Life of God. [Col 2:9]

While we're all part of one body, we have different functions. In the process there will be offences and hurts because we are imperfect – horizontal relationships are naturally more difficult. Therefore, we are to **connect with, accept, love** and **serve** one another. [Col 3:12-14]

6. ANOINTED MINISTRIES

We are not saved by good works. We are saved to **do** good works. [Eph 2:10; Heb 10:24]

It is through mercy and grace by God that we are saved. [Eph 2:8-9] Good works are about value-adding to the needs of the lives in our ministries. [1 Pet 4:10] Conversely, we should steer clear from people who *subtract* from our lives, people who are divisive. And as we grow and mature in the Lord, we are to become increasingly zealous in our service to the Lord. [Titus 2:14] Exploring the various ministries in BBTC could be a good start.

7. ANOINTED WORKS OF FAITH

The call to discipleship includes producing Works of Faith.

We are called to **be with the Lord, preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons** [Mark 3:14-15]. This applies to those who cross our paths so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in God. [Mark 16:15; Acts 26:18] After that, we are to continue to the nations, i.e. people groups the Lord lays on our hearts to serve and reach out to. [Matt 28:18-20] To perform these works, our dependence must be on the Holy Spirit, who enables and empowers us. [Luke 4:18; Mark 16:17-18]

The Word-empowered church comprises of priests and kings who know how to **wield the Sword of the Spirit**.

- As **kings**, we speak to the mountain. We are called by the Lord with His delegated authority to
 - cast out demons
 - rebuke sickness and diseases [Luke 4:39]
 - take authority over the environment of our situations
- As **priests**, we speak directly to God.

CHANGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY

We are called to be transformed from glory to glory, even if that means unlearning our old ways to relearn the ways of God. [1 Cor 2:4-5; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Pet 2:9]

QUESTIONS

In BBTC's context, what does it mean to be a "disciple" of Christ?

In which of the seven areas do you think your cell group can be better aligned with the church?
How can this be achieved?

In which area do you think you, personally, need strengthening in? Share your thoughts.