



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Climb Your Mountain – Part 1

**SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo

**THEME** Kingdom Quest

**DATE** 4 & 5 Jan 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This week's message by SP was the first of a three-part series about "climbing your mountain." He opened with a reminder that BBTCians do not retire but re-tyre, adapting and adjusting according to our age and energy levels in order to keep advancing and moving on to the next level. We are expected to capture the challenges we face and not settle down. In this sermon, SP expounded on what it means to climb your mountain and why there is a need to.

## CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS IN OUR LIVES

### What does it mean to climb your "mountain"?

#### 1. Aim to end/die at the peak or mountain of your life

In the Bible, certain men of God are associated with mountains. For instance, the Lord showed Moses the land the Israelites would inherit before he passed away in Moab (Deut 34:1, 5). Other examples include Abraham at Mount Moriah, King David at Mount Zion, Peter, James and John at the mountain of transfiguration and Jesus at Golgotha where He was crucified.

In our lives, we may encounter other mountains along the way to our final mountain. These mountains could be things like overcoming present difficulties, dealing with issues in finances and learning to fix our eyes on Jesus to perfect our faith. The common thread running through all these is that there is always a price to pay. Climbing our mountains is not automatic. We need to seek God while He may be found. God can be found in moments when we can hear Him clearly.

#### 2. Do not get stuck in your spiritual life and growth

Hebrews 5:11 states that we can develop the bad habit of not listening. This happens when we become too comfortable and familiar with Christianity that it becomes a religion. In addition, pride and persistence in sin can cause us to become hard of hearing God's Word. We need to deal with our baggage issues as well as capture the messages we hear and apply them to our lives. These will help us get past the basics of Christianity and advance steadily towards the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity (Heb 6:1).

### **3. Do not miss the mark of the high calling of God**

Philippians 3:12-14 tells us how Paul, as senior as he was in his ministry, believed that he had not arrived at his goal. We must bring the things in our pasts or anything we cannot deal with under the blood and deny the devil any ground to use against us. Do not let offences and unresolved issues hold us back. Reach forward and press towards the mark of the high calling of God.

### **4. Live our lives to finish well in the sight of God**

2 Timothy 4:7 reminds us to fight the good fight and finish well. Saul ended badly as a fool as he turned to witchcraft. On the other hand, David still finished well as he had a broken and contrite heart when he sinned. As human beings, we all make mistakes and fail. God however looks at our hearts; He wants a heart that is sensitive towards Him. There is a gap between the promises of God and our reality – this gap is our trial of faith. An instance would be getting retrenched which is in contrast to God's promise of providence. How we go through this trial will determine how we climb our mountains. We must pull through our crises by looking to the Lord, the perfecter of our faith.

### **5. The peak-mountain of your life is what God has called you:**

#### **A. To be**

Romans 8:29 calls us to be “conformed to the image of His Son”. Trials reveal whether we are conformed to Christ in a particular area. We need to surrender and be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can be enabled to respond in the way God wants us to.

#### **B. To do**

We must be faithful to our primary calling (e.g. as a parent, employee or cell member). Intertwined with our primary calling is our missional calling. This refers to using the gift that God has given us to be of service to others. God will give us the resources and ability to do what He wants us to do. Our calling is also to share Christ with others.

### **Why climb your “mountain”?**

#### **1. Because it is the path and destiny for the wise**

Proverbs 15:24 tells us the way of life winds upward; it is not a straight road. Generally, we are on an upward trend. Moving upward speaks of progress and growth. Do not get stuck in your spirituality. We also need to spur one another to grow and advance.

#### **2. Because the wise are those who hear and do the Word of God**

Blessed is he who hears and does the word of God (Matthew 7:24-25). In our worship, prayer and reading of the Word, we need to seek a relationship with God. The key is in the details and how we do these things; we must respond to God specifically rather than generally.

#### **3. So that we are not unwise to wander in the wilderness below**

Upward progress requires wisdom from above. The Israelites wasted time wandering in the wilderness (Deut 1:1-3). In order for us to not be like them, we must have the wisdom of God instead of earthly wisdom (James 3:13-17). Are you willing to submit to the authority of scriptures?

#### **4. So that we are not stuck to end up to die in the wilderness**

We must be careful not to become cynical about the Word and the things of God. In the last days, there will be all kinds of teachings so we need to know the whole counsel of God. An example of how we get stuck is when we are unable to release grace and forgiveness. Ecclesiastes 7:17 reminds

us not to be fools. Be careful and take heed about how we live our lives, from what we say to what we think and feel.

## 5. Press on to finish well

### *Lessons from Lot*

- A. Lot was doing well and prosperous when he was connected to Abraham and God. God is our ultimate source of blessing but He usually uses a righteous man/woman to bless us. When we do well and are prosperous, we are blessed to be a blessing to others.
- B. He was however distracted when he saw the physical, fertile plains and so avoided the mountains. He was attracted to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. We are sometimes distracted by the world and disconnected from the body of Christ. Do we trust in the ways of the world or do we trust in the Lord?
- C. He failed to see God's judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah. It was God's mercy to save Lot and his family. Judgement has already been pronounced on the world; things in the world will get worse and darker.
- D. Instead of running towards the mountain as instructed by the angel of God, Lot's wife was still looking at the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah. We must be spiritually rich and look only to the Lord.
- E. Consequences of Lot's choice. Incest produced the Moabites and Amorites which became thorns in Israel's flesh – affecting our generations. The line is drawn, do not falter between two opinions. We need to be separated and set apart. Do not be unequally yoked and do not choose the ways of the world over the ways of God.

## 6. Because there will be a day of accountability as to how we live our lives

We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ and receive our due according to how we lived (2 Cor 5:10). 1 Corinthians 3:11 tells us Jesus Christ is our foundation. However, do not think of salvation as a passport to heaven. Instead, think of maximising our spiritual benefits as God wants us to think in terms of our inheritance. We must trust in God who is loving, just and righteous to give us according to His will.

## 7. So that we will live out the full life, purpose and destiny that God has for us

Do not allow the devil to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). We have life that is more and more abundantly. Are you living this way or are you getting by? To climb our mountains means that we are spiritually rich and walk victoriously in Christ. God has saved us and called us with a purpose (2 Tim 1:9). The purpose and grace of God are two sides of the same coin – when we live out the purpose of God, His grace will always be available.

## CONCLUSION

We are standing at threshold of a new decade, and we may not know what tomorrow holds but we know who holds tomorrow. The steps we need to take in this new year must bring us closer to climbing our mountains – we must come into the presence of God, step out in faith to do what God instructs us to do and keep following it. The promise of God is that when we do these things, we “will know which way to go” (Joshua 3:4).

# QUESTIONS

1. Define what it means to climb one's mountain. Which of these points spoke to you/is relevant in your life?

2. Why is it important to climb your mountain?

3. A. What is the mountain you are continuing to climb or want to climb this year?  
B. What steps can you take to achieve your goal?