



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	Understanding Pestilences (Being Overcomers)	<b>SPEAKER</b>	SP Daniel Foo
<b>THEME</b>	Kingdom Quest	<b>DATE</b>	15 & 16 Feb 2020

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The fight against COVID-19 is still ongoing. Fear is heightened mostly due to the dissemination of news via social media. With news that not one but two churches have been classified as COVID-19 clusters, the Church of Singapore needs to stand strong in the face of fear by exercising our faith as righteous upstanding believers, trusting that God will protect us against the pestilence of COVID-19.

### Understanding Pestilences – Being Overcomers

#### I. Understand a significant aspect of the Sovereignty of God

Everything that happens by the free will of man and the laws/principles of life, God has already permitted. When we obey God's laws, we reap blessings from Him. Conversely, when we violate His laws, curses befall upon us as a result (Deuteronomy 30:19, Galatians 6:7)

#### II. Interpreting the Bible

The Bible is written in three languages: namely Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The Hebraic way of writing adopts a high view of God and attributes every activity and action back to God as if God did the specific action.

In order to accurately interpret and understand the Bible, we must first understand the underlying law and principle at work. For example, Saul's jealousy of David consumed him (1 Samuel 16:14), which gave a foothold to the devil (Ephesians 4:27), which then led him to be troubled by a tormenting spirit.

#### III. Understanding pestilence-plague-disaster-famine

Pestilence-plague is a major consequence (judgement) of sins accumulated at a national level and is a sign of the end-times. There are two bowls: the bowl of iniquity and the bowl of incense (prayer of the saints). When the bowl of iniquity is filled, judgement will come in the form of pestilence.

SP gave some reasons for why pestilence may happen:

- A. When we reject God (Deut 32:21, Amos 4:10)

- B. When we outrightly disobey God (1 Chronicles 21, 2 Samuel 24:10, 2 Samuel 24: 13-14).
- C. When we outrightly rebel against God (Numbers 16).
- D. When we commit sexual immorality or idolatry (Numbers 25)
- E. A sign of the end-times (Mathew 24:7, Luke 21:11).

#### IV. The remedy

- A. Do not be spiritually dry (Mathew 12:43, Eph 5:26, John 7:38).
- B. Do not give the evil one any ground to defeat you (2 Cor 2:11).
- C. Do not be defiled by sins (2 Cor 7:1, Romans 6:13,19)

#### V. Being Overcomers

There are six characteristics of overcomers (2 Chronicles 7:14). We must be ...

1. a **saved** people (Romans 10:9-10)  
We are born again when we believe in our hearts and receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.
2. a **separated** people (2 Chronicles 6:17)  
We are separated from the world by our attitudes, values and behaviours.
3. a **surrendered** people (James 4:6)  
We humble ourselves and constantly surrender ourselves to God.
4. a **supplicating** people (Psalm 91:2,9)  
We supplicate to connect with God so as to receive His protection.
5. a **seeking** people (Hebrews 11:6)  
We need to seek God constantly as God rewards those who diligently seek Him.
6. a **sin-forsaking** people (Galatians 5:19-21)  
We should not tolerate sin by loving righteousness and hating wickedness (Philippians 4:8)

#### VI. Blessings that overcomers experience

1. We have fellowship with God (1 John 1:7)  
When we fellowship with one another, we also fellowship with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. We receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9)  
When we confess our sins, He forgives and heals us (Psalm 103:3).
3. We receive fruitfulness (Hebrews 4:16, Joel 2:25, Psalm 91:3,5-6,10, Exodus 15:26, John 16:33)  
We will receive every grace that we need to overcome.

### CONCLUSION

The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16). We may be distracted at times by the evil things in the world in our journey/process to being righteous in God. We need to constantly declare that we have the righteousness of God in Christ, establish ourselves and be rooted in Him (Isaiah 54:14). With faith, there is confidence, boldness and courage to step out and share with the world God's promise of hope and deliverance in overcoming pestilences.

# QUESTIONS

- 1. As a believer, how are you walking out your faith and applying the Word of God (Matthew 7:24-25) in response to CoVID-19?**

*Leaders' notes: A significant aspect of the sovereignty of God shows that God has already allowed/sanctioned/approved/permitted of everything that has happened so far with CoVID-19 in accordance to the events of the end times. This question is to help members recount practical handles on how to respond during this time of crisis. Encourage members to relate key verses/stories from the Bible and discuss the kind of attitude/actions that they can adopt.*

- 2. How can we as Christians prevent ourselves from giving the devil a foothold in our lives through the information that we are constantly bombarded with from all directions, especially from social media, where information is often unfiltered?**

*Leaders' notes: In this day and age where information is readily available, sometimes the information and news that we absorb can shock and distress us, and might cause us to stumble. This question reminds us to filter our sources of information properly, fact-check and consult the Word of God to steer us into the right direction.*

- 3. Is there someone in your life that has become fearful of the CoVID-19 situation in Singapore? How can you, as a believer, encourage him or her of God's protection and righteousness in a time like this?**

*Leaders' notes: SP mentioned that this CoVID-19 season is an exciting time as we are presented with an opportunity to share Christ with pre-believers. Get members to identify one or two people that they can reach out to in light of this situation and what they intend to do.*