



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Part 1 – Establish Your Prayer Altar	SPEAKER	SP Daniel Foo
THEME	Experiencing Revival – 2 Peter 1:2-4	DATE	2 & 3 July 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This is the first sermon in a new series about Experiencing Revival, led by SP Daniel Foo. To put things in context, SP opened with a review of Revelations 2 and 3, highlighting the repeated exhortations to the 7 Churches and how these are applicable to the churches today. As the end-time church, we need to heed the 7 warnings given to these 7 churches to be different and be an overcomer-believer church. There is a need for revival in the church to be prepared and one of the most important things we can do is to build our own prayer altars.

ESTABLISH YOUR PRAYER ALTAR

1) What is your Prayer Altar?

Your personal prayer altar consists of your heart towards God, your personal relationship with God, your prayer life, your altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship, and your spiritual fellowship with your spiritual community. Our prayer altar is about connecting with God and bringing all aspects of our life under the blood. It boils down to two simple words – Total Surrender. We have to work towards surrendering everything in our life to God. Everyone is at different stages of surrendering but we should all be moving in the same direction towards total surrender.

Prayer altars occur at different levels – personal, family, body-life (CG, cluster, tribe), BBTC and Singapore. We need to build our prayer altars in the different groups we belong. In summary, our prayer altars include all forms of communication with God in a vibrant, active relationship with Him. It is not a particular methodology.

2) Why build your Prayer Altar?

Connecting to God in prayer protects you from losing your heart and faith (Luke 18:1,8). We are at risk of losing our hearts to unbelief, hardening from sins and disappointments (e.g. from unanswered prayers, trials etc.). Proverbs 4:23 and Jude 3 tells us we must guard our hearts for the issues of life flow from it. Today's global situation is perilous and there is a lot of fear in the world. As we get bombarded by seemingly bad news every day, we need to remind ourselves that God has said that when we dwell in the secret places of the Most High, we can overcome troubles and the peace of God will guard our hearts and our minds.

3) Know and Understand the Ways of God.

There are 3 main streams of God's character and attributes – lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness. God is all these 3 at the same time – He will not do something that contradicts any aspect of His character. Secondly, in God's sovereignty, He has given to Man a free will and Laws and Principles of Life. As such, we know that things will happen according to the Laws and Principles of Life. For every choice we make, there will be corresponding consequences. We reap what we sow – even “bad” people sometimes reap good because of what they sow (Matthew 5:45). Next, the state of affairs of a nation depends on legal grounds given either to the evil one or to God (Jeremiah 18:7). There are courts in heaven that decide the verdicts of nations based on how the nation has been running.

The atmosphere over a home, church, community or nation depends on the kind of prayer altars that are prevailing. This depends on whether people build prayer altars or evil altars; whether legal ground is given for God or demonic spirits to act accordingly.

4) Repair and Build Your Prayer Altar.

God is looking for His people to build prayer altars to Him. We can refer to examples in the bible to see how God responded to the prayer altars of His people, who intervened on behalf of their people, community or nation – Abraham (Genesis 12:4-8, 13:7-8, 10-18) built an altar and called on the Name of the LORD to reclaim the land; Isaac (Genesis 26:23-25) was sustaining the claim over the land from the gods of the Canaanites by building and maintaining altars to God; Jacob (Genesis 33:18-20, 35:6-7) continued to build altars to the Lord.

So, what next?

1. God is looking for His people to build prayer-altars to Him – let's continue to pray for Singapore
2. The prevailing altar controls the atmosphere of the home, church, community and nation. Examples from Elijah (1 Kings 18), King Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:12-13, 15-16) and Israel (Isaiah 25:7, Exodus 14:19-20, 24, 40:38; Exodus 17:8-15) show how prayer altars and intercession can change the course of history in lives and nations.
 - A. Prevailing altar is not dependent on physical numbers of altars.
 - B. It depends on the quality of the altar.
 - C. We, the church, are the prevailing priesthood.

Take stock of the quality of the prayer altars in your life and take steps to establish prayer altars that will bring you back to God and closer to Him.

CONCLUSION

As we establish our prayer altars to the Lord, we need to humble ourselves to be honest and acknowledge that we need God to help us. We cannot sustain our prayer altars by our efforts alone but by consistently reconnecting with God to repair and strengthen our altars.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your prayer altar like? Share how your heart is connecting with God in this season, or any challenges that you are facing in connecting with Him.

2. Share about a time when you faced disappointments or challenges. How did you build your Prayer Altar in that situation? How did knowing and understanding God's ways help?

3. As a cell group, have an open discussion about the state of the prayer altar of your group. Is there an area that you would like to grow in as a cell? Take turns to share and then pray.