



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Succession & Continuity

SPEAKER Ps Daniel Foo

THEME Leaders' Dedication

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As BBTC steps into the new year of 2023, the year ushers in the annual dedications of leaders to serve the church. This year's leaders dedication was more special than recent years, as it marked the beginning of a new era of BBTC under the leadership of a new senior pastor. To prepare the church for this change, Ps Daniel Foo outlines the importance of having smooth and effective leadership transitions in BBTC, and the rationale behind it.

SUCCESSION & CONTINUITY IN BBTC

1. Why intentional succession and continuity?

Intentional succession and continuity is important in our current times as we are living in times of increasing lawlessness (Matt 24:12a, 1 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:1-2). Many believers will be corrupted by worldly culture (James 1:27, 2 Peter 1:4), many will disconnect themselves from the love of God (Revelation 2:4, Matthew 24:12b) and many will abandon their faith in God (Luke 18:8). With all these warnings in mind, it is imperative that pastors and leaders of the church intentionally lead the church to the best of their ability, as these outcomes reflect the failure of leaders to pastor-shepherd their flock.

2. Passing the Baton

As illustrated by the analogy of sprinters passing a baton in the relay race, races are not won by individual abilities, rather the ability to pass the baton effectively plays an important role in determining the outcome of the race. Therefore, when it comes to the leadership in BBTC, it must be done in a proper and effective manner that leads to a positive outcome for our church.

3. Biblical examples of succession and continuity

Two biblical examples from the old testament surrounding the importance of intentional succession and continuity would be Moses to Joshua and David to Solomon. The positive example of Moses showed how he learned to distribute leadership effectively, recognise the limitations of his leadership and hear from God that his leadership role was ending. He then properly passed his leadership role to Joshua, who was a faithful servant and mentee who had endured difficult times with Moses, whilst observing and learning from his leadership. With this handing over being done prayerfully, Israel remained faithful under Joshua's leadership as long as he led, showing how much benefit came out of this proper succession of leadership (Joshua 24:31).

However, the transition of leadership from David to Solomon was a poor example compared to the former example mentioned. David did not appoint Solomon as his successor. Rather, he held onto power until he was weak and near death. Those within his own household started to lose respect for his leadership. Eventually, his 4th son, Adonijah, conspired and rebelled against David, jeopardising the lives of those in his household. Eventually, when Solomon did take over David's leadership after his death, he only followed David's instructions initially during the early transition. Subsequently, he became distracted with sins of the flesh, showing the failure of not only Solomon as a leader, but of David in not doing an intentional job of handing over leadership.

4. In BBTC, how do we ensure good succession and continuity?

With the importance of succession and continuity in mind, how do we ensure this be done well?

1. There must be strong spiritual leadership (spiritual leaders, united in the spirit with the Word from the Holy Spirit and the love of God, with a leadership structure that facilitates everything well)
2. With a purpose-driven leadership instead of a personality-driven leadership (referring to the BBTC purpose, vision and mission)
3. Increasing bench strength (for leaders to support their members and each other well, engaging with one another and using personal gifts to keep the body-life of BBTC thriving)
4. The 7 Anointed Pillars as desired outcomes of our Purpose-Mission as an Intentional Disciple-Making Church of effective priests and kings.
5. Core-values that shape our culture (being aligned-committed-engaged with God, one another, with the vision of BBTC and the larger kingdom of God in Singapore and beyond)

CONCLUSION

With all these parameters and considerations in place, BBTC can rest assured that the succession of our new senior pastor was a process done with much intentionality and prayer. We must do our best as members and leaders to support the success and growth of our church, all for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Recall a time when you experienced a significant change of leadership in any area of your life. How were you affected?

2. Reflect on the changes happening in BBTC this year. Share your thanksgiving and/or concerns.

3. As members of BBTC, how can we better support our leaders? What can we do to make BBTC feel like home?