



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Maturing in the Lord	SPEAKER	Pastor Daniel Foo
THEME	Prepare for the Harvest	DATE	11 & 12 November 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Titanic sank when the captain saw the part of the iceberg that was above the waterline and missed out the big bulk that was submerged. Taking heed from this illustration, pastor Daniel Foo exhorts us to pay attention to and spend more than half of our time intentionally building up our inner lives so that we can respond and grow in maturity in our walk with God

HOW CAN WE MATURE IN THE LORD?

(1) Die to Self always (Philippians 1:22, Galatians 2:20)

95% of the problems in our lives and the church has nothing to do with God or the devil. Rather, they are due to us living our carnal self-lives instead of living out the Christ-life in us.

Deny our self-life

As we apply the word of God to our lives, we will see our lives being changed. There are two aspects of the flesh in our lives that we should be aware – sins that we commit that are wrong (Galatians 5:19-20) and sins that we fail to do that are wrong (James 4:17).

In addition, we have to distinguish the zeal of the flesh - our own natural goodness, abilities, zeal, wisdom, strength, and power – and the zeal of the Spirit when we totally rely on God. We need to understand the reasons why we cultivate spiritual disciplines, our motive to serve and minister.

Take up our own cross daily

The cross means crucifixion and death to self. It is a unique and personal one. The instruments of our cross are the people that cross our paths, the circumstances that we are in that invokes, and the sinful nature in us which must be crucified. We must take care to avoid being easily manipulated by the criticisms of others.

Follow Jesus

Following Jesus is a journey of devotion to Christ. This means bringing every aspect of our life under the authority of the word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

(2) Deal with personal baggage completely

In Hebrews 12:1, everything that hinders refers to personal baggage and the sin that so easily entangles refers to the self-life. Personal baggage includes unhealed hurts and wounds, unmet needs, unresolved issues, certain relationships, certain activities, worries, and wrongs. Pastor Daniel encourages us to look at our baggage and sin through the lens of scripture. The same wickedness and sin that we see today was there in the Scripture. Unless we look through Scripture, we will be stumbled and life will not make sense to us.

As we receive love, joy and peace from our relationship with God, it should give us the zeal, hope and reason to keep going in our walk with Him.

(3) Develop a wholesome personality (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Our spirit, soul, and body ought to be whole and well. It is only when we are growing spiritually that we will be transformed. Our minds must keep being renewed (Romans 12:1-2). As Christians, we are adopted into the family of God and must therefore have a spirit of sonship. Our maturity is measured by our whole person and not just by our spiritual life.

(4) Dedicate all areas of our lives to God

There are 7 areas of personal consecration – our minds, eyes, ears, mouths, hearts, hands and feet. We must ask God to cleanse any area that is impure and unclean, and surrender ALL areas to God.

(5) Decide to follow the LORD wholeheartedly

We do so when we pursue godliness, holiness and righteousness. We separate from everything that hinders the fulfilment of God's purpose so that we can lean towards everything that adds value to the fulfilling of God's call and our godliness.

By building our lives on the word to anchor us through difficult times, we will not fall when the strong winds come. We choose to walk with people who walk with God. When we face any issues, we act as mature men and women of God and resolve any conflicts. We can also look for wisdom from the church.

CONCLUSION

Maturing in the Lord requires us to focus on our inner lives. We need to die to ourselves always, deal with personal baggage completely, develop a wholesome personality, dedicate all areas of our lives to God, and decide to follow the LORD wholeheartedly.

QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on the ways a believer can mature in the Lord. Which area stood out to you? Why?

2. Pastor Daniel said that our maturity is measured by our whole person and not just by our spiritual life. On a scale of 1 (least wholesome) to 10 (very wholesome), how wholesome is your personality? How can you be more conscious about living for God's glory in every aspect of your life?

3. Regarding the decision to follow the LORD wholeheartedly, how do you discern godly influences in your life, especially when it comes to friendships and relationships? Can you share an experience where walking with people who walk with God positively impacted your spiritual journey and how you can carry that forward?