



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Jesus - The Light of the World

SPEAKER Pastor Daniel Foo

THEME Prepare for the Harvest

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

When it is dark, we must turn on the light. Darkness cannot exist when there is light. Hence, in this world, where increasing (spiritual) darkness exists, we need Jesus all the more for He is the Light of the World. However, to turn on the Light of the World is not automatic; it requires us to make a choice.

TURN ON THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD TO OVERCOME DARKNESS

1) Jesus: The Light of the World – Light of Life

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of life.” (Jn 8:12). The Light provides:

- a) Answers to many of life’s difficult questions such as:
 - i) Why is there so much pain and suffering, grief and sorrow in the world?

Ps Daniel explains that the sources of pain and suffering in the world are three-fold:

 - What is common to man – due to sin, conflicts exist at every level (eg. personal quarrels, family disagreements, nation-wide incursions, such as Ukraine-Russia, Gaza-Israel war)
 - Due to the evil one – the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy (Jn 10:10)
 - Due to our own ‘faults’ – we need to repent and ask God to forgive and restore (1 Jn 1:9)
 - ii) Is life all that is here and now?

Of course not! God has formed us and has written all the days of our lives (Ps 139:16); He has given us a future and hope (Jer 29:11); He has given us abundant life (Jn 10:10); and He has saved us and called us to His own purpose and grace (2 Tim 1:9).
 - iii) Why does God not do anything about the evil and wickedness happening in this world?

The answer is ‘He did’! (Rom 6:23) However, this will be at His timing, not ours.
- b) Fulfilment of His promises in our lives such as Hope (Rom 15:33), Help (2 Tim 1:7), Peace (Jn 16:33, 14:27), Joy (Ps 16:11), Eternal Life (Jn 3:16, 8:12), Abundant Life (Jn 10:10, 1:4-5)

We need to believe and take hold of these promises in our lives. Through momentarily we may be shaken by the storms of life, we need to pray until the worries of life are overshadowed by His goodness, grace and mercy; until the peace of God envelopes us and the darkness leaves us. Although the situation remains the same, our minds are renewed, and our spirits are strengthened, filled with hope.

2) Overcoming Darkness

Ps Daniel explains that darkness in the world is like the pain, suffering, grief and sorrow that exist in the world. It is a spiritual blindness (2 Cor 4:3-4, 10:4-5) that is like a 'stronghold' that ties many to the lies and deception of the evil one, and causes people to embrace the culture of the world which is contrary to the Word of God. These are known as 'ungodly beliefs' (UGBs) and it opens the doors to demonic spirits which will entrench, sink the UGB into our lives and block us from fully experiencing the goodness of God (2 Cor 10:4-5).

How can we dismantle these strongholds and overcome the darkness? It is only through Jesus: The Light of the World. It is not about 'head' knowledge. Instead, we need to experience, apply and obey the Truth of the Word of God in our lives. Pulling down strongholds requires us to:

- a) Identify the UGBs
- b) Ask God to show you the truth in His Word
- c) Repent and pray (Priestly role)
- d) Rebuke and reject the UGBs (Kingly role)

We experience the benefits of overcoming darkness – by receiving firstly, God's forgiveness (ie. cleansing from our sins), and secondly, His inheritance (ie. blessings of abundant and eternal life) (Acts 26:18)

FOLLOW JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD TO HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE

1) What does it mean to follow Jesus?

It begins with believing wholeheartedly in the Lord Jesus, His Word and His Promises. Thereafter, a decision is required from us, to receive His truths to nullify UGBs. Finally, our actions are required to obey and apply His Word and His Promises, to continually look to Him as the Light that dispels all darkness, deepen our relationship with Him, be plugged into His body, the Church, submit to the authority of His Word, be led by the Holy Spirit and follow the Light of Life.

2) What happens when we follow Jesus?

We will have access to the Presence, Grace, Mercy and Peace of God. We will be cleansed from our sins and covered by the Blood of Jesus. Though we are not spared from troubles, we can overcome them by the power of Jesus. We will be blessed with every blessing in Christ Jesus and will have no more fears (Rom 8:15, 2 Tim 1:7, Heb 2:14-15), no more condemnation (Rom 8:1, Col 2:14-15), and no more curses (Gal 3:13-14).

CONCLUSION

We have victory when we follow Jesus, the Light of the World! However, this is not automatic – we must make a choice to seek Him continually, to know and experience God in increasing measure, to apply and obey the Truth of the Word of God in our lives. Ps Daniel ends with a warning to guard our hearts and minds from spiritual blindness (Luke 11:35), and shares that the roots of spiritual blindness are unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, unresolved conflict (1 Jn 2:9,11). The world is getting darker, but we must let the Light in us arise and shine brightly so that His glory will be seen by everyone in the whole earth (Is 60:1-30).

QUESTIONS

1. Ps Daniel Foo shares that Jesus, as the Light of the World, provides answers to many of life's darkness and difficult questions. What is one example of spiritual darkness that you have witnessed or experienced in the world?

2. Overcoming darkness requires us to pull down strongholds. The four steps to pulling down strongholds are a) identify the UGBs, b) show God's truth in His Word, c) repent and pray, d) rebuke and reject the UGB. Share one UGB that you would like to pull down. Pray for each other.

3. The world is becoming darker, hence the need for all believers to arise and shine the Light of Jesus to all those around us. Think of someone with whom you are trying to share the Light of Jesus. What and how can we testify of His goodness, grace, mercy, or peace in our lives? Pray for one another's oikos.