



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Experiencing God

SPEAKER Ps Daniel Foo

THEME Hebrews Revisited

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Experiencing God is Knowing God. It is about an intimate knowledge of who God is. In this week's sermon, Pastor Daniel Foo explored the ways we can experience God through His word, prayer, building an altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship as well as abiding in the Holy Spirit, letting it guide and lead us in every aspect of our lives. We must build our lives, our prayer and worship on the foundation of His word, guided by the Holy Spirit.

EXPERIENCING GOD

In the world today that is increasingly corrupt, anti-God, anti-church, anti-Jews, filled with lawlessness, we should hold everything loosely except the word of God and our relationship with the Holy Spirit. The more we know God, the more we know the blueprint of our lives. There's a purpose. As we experience God the Father as our creator, and Jesus our Lord and Saviour, divine power from the Holy Spirit, we will experience grace and peace. We will develop the confidence and boldness to share about God to others.

How do we experience God then? The Word and the Holy Spirit direct our connection with God through prayer (John 15:7). The basis of our prayer must be based on the Word and it directs our altar of praise and thanksgiving.

1) Word

According to Ephesians 6:17, God's word is the sword of the Spirit and it's a double-edged sword (Psalm 149:6). We need to build our word foundation for it establishes our faith (Romans 10:17). When we build our knowledge in the Word and we hear with faith, as God reveals to us his thoughts, it will comfort and give us hope that leads us to look to God for strength, encouragement and grace. We must partake, meditate and ponder over the word of God.

There are three illustrations of the word of God. The word of God is milk (1 Peter 2:2-3). Through 'drinking' it, we experience the grace of God. The word of God is bread (Matthew 4:4). As we 'eat' it, we will hear what God has to say to us. The word of God is meat (Hebrews 5:14). As we 'chew' on it, God will give us the wisdom to discern good from evil, what is from God, from man and from the evil one. That is how we are edified and strengthened in our walk with God.

We need to know the principles of the word, weigh each principle, receive insights from it and act upon what is given to us by the Lord. As we stand on the word of God, we experience His character which builds our faith.

2) Prayer

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:17, let's pray the word of God continually, confidently connecting with God, confessing our sins and declaring the righteousness of God in Christ. We pray by faith through the word. We overcome stress, anxieties and fears (SAF) by praying continually until the peace of God comes into our hearts, until it rules in our hearts and help keep captive of our thoughts. When we pray the word over our lives, we secure our entire being (spirit, soul and body) to the Lord. Through that, we will experience victory over SAF .

3) Altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship

We build our altar of thanksgiving by thanking God for what He has done and what He has given to us. We thank God for his bodily life and the blood shed for us.

We praise God by professing His name. It is going one step beyond thanksgiving. Through praise, we engage with, enlarge and enrich our praises to God. This takes intentionality, time and effort.

Worship is our surrender and separation. It is about setting our lives and our hearts apart for God. We bind our wills to the will of God, bind our minds to the mind of Christ and yield our emotions to the Holy spirit. We present our lives as living sacrifices to God, submitting to Jesus as our Lord and Master, surrendering ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

4) Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit allows us to experience the grace of God. As we work out our salvation and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will develop patience, kindness and gentleness (Galatians 5:22-2). As we dwell and abide by the spirit, it gives us increasing revelation (1 Corinthians 2:9) on what to do and how to lead our lives. It gives us strength, power and ability (Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 4:10). Most importantly, it pours out the Father's love into our hearts (Romans 5:5), allowing us to experience the height, the depth and the length of His love that casts out every fear in our lives.

CONCLUSION

Our relationship with God is simple (Jeremiah 2:2, 13). Let us keep our eyes and focus on the Lord. Do not let any disappointment, the world or social media distort, corrupt and dilute our relationship with God. The devil is out to steal, kill and destroy our relationship with the Father. It is difficult to love God through our own strength because our natural love is corrupt. We can only love God from the love that comes from the Father poured out into our hearts from the Holy Spirit. The only way we can love God is to receive His love and pour it back to Him. This requires intentionality - to continually make decisions to come back to Him, to get a fresh hunger and desire for God. Let us guard our devotion to the Lord as we run the race of life for and with Him, experiencing Him every step of the way!

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to experience God in our lives? Share your most recent encounter with the Lord.

2. In times of doubt, disappointments or spiritual dryness, how do you seek to reconnect with God? What practices or habits have helped you experience His presence again?

3. Pastor Daniel Foo shared the four key aspects of how we can experience God in our daily lives. Which area/s would you want to grow deeper in and how will you begin to do so?