



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Culture of Excitement	SPEAKER	DSP Edric Sng
THEME	Building the Right Culture	DATE	26 & 27 Oct 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our series of Building the Right Culture for our church, DSP Edric focused on the Culture of Excitement by sharing key learnings from the early church. A role model for us to emulate and an opportunity to "capture the spirit of excitement" of the early church and not to lose our zeal in serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).

CULTURE OF EXCITEMENT

The key learnings to help us build a Culture of Excitement in Church are:

1) A Church Excited to Study God's Word

Studying the word helps us come to faith: The Berean Jews received the word with eagerness, but they also examined the Scriptures to ensure that they were true (Acts 17:11-12).

Studying the word helps to strengthen our faith: We were reminded that all scriptures are God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction etc. (1 Timothy 3:16). For those of us who struggle with reading the scriptures, a few suggestions were offered:

- Reframe our minds to allow us to encounter and experience the Author through the Word.
- Use different formats to get into the word such as: physical, digital or audio bible
- Pick a time to read the bible that works for your schedule and your style. For example, select a time in the morning or evening where concentration is at the highest.
- Leverage existing programs in church that are designed for your specific journey. There are programs that cater to both the young and mature believers so that they can grow in their faith.

Essentially, select a format and a time that help us be excited to get into the Word.

2) A Church Excited to Seek God's Face

Every church has been called to be a house of prayer and believers are called to pray (Acts 2:42). Without prayer, the church is just another godless building. Prayers are important not only in the early church but more so in our current times. Gathering to pray pleases God and as Christ followers, we should be excited to please our awesome God.

3) A Church Excited to See God Move

Our God is a God of Signs and Wonders and that such signs will accompany believers (Mark 16-17-18). These signs and wonders testify that our God is real and powerful. Despite some contrarian perspectives, scriptures tell us that He will continue to make himself known to His people through such signs and wonders.

4) A Church Excited to Serve and Give

The early believers served and gave to anyone in need (Acts 2:43). When we serve and give, we get a glimpse of our servant king; we learn and experience to give as Jesus gave. If we truly want to know Christ, we should commit to serving and helping others - Serving is part of maturing in Christ. Each of us have been blessed with gifts that we can use to serve as part of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

5) A Church Excited to Share Life

The early church gathered with glad and sincere hearts (Acts 2:46). Similarly, as a church, we should be excited to share life. The expression, "Share Life", has its biblical roots (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8) to mean how as a church, we are to be a family to one another, caring for each other. In this respect in BBTC, the cell groups were set up to be a community where believers get to journey with one another in their struggles, to encourage and pray for each other and to build up the Body Life.

6) A Church Excited to Sing God's Praise

The scriptures tell us to sing psalms, spiritual songs and hymns to God (Colossians 3:16), (Ephesians 5:19) and that it is good to come into His Presence with singing (Psalms 100:1-2). As a church, the worship is an opportunity for us to encounter God meaningfully through the songs that we sing. We should capture the excitement of expressing and offering our hearts to God in our worship.

7) A Church Excited to Share Christ: Acts 2:47

We must learn to be excited to share Christ wherever we go; to "capture the fervour" of the early church which was to share Christ so that many can be saved. As a church, we have different programs and initiatives that allow us to do just that. We should be excited to participate in those because it means that more and more people will be saved. Creating an environment where people will be happy to visit, settle and eventually serve in a church fulfilling God's commission that none should perish.

CONCLUSION

As a church, we are encouraged to be excited to:

- 1) Study God's Word and don't be a slothful Christian
- 2) Seek God's Face and don't be a sleeping Christian
- 3) See God Move and don't be a sceptical Christian
- 4) Serve and Give and don't be a Selfish Christian
- 5) Share Life and don't be a Solitary Christian
- 6) Sing God's Praise and don't be a silent Christian
- 7) Share Christ don't be a Static Christian

We are here because God has loved us, and the heart of the church is to remember that we serve a good and wonderful God. It is time for us to get fired up and excited about God. God has placed us as the Body of Christ to share Christ and His Love for the World. #thisislove.

QUESTIONS

1. As we seek to build a Christlike church, can you share instances where you have personally experienced the excitement of God's presence? Has this excitement continued for you and if so, how have you been able to sustain it?

2. As we consider the key learnings from the early church, which of those have proven to be challenging for you to do? Focus on one of those areas and discuss ways in which you could overcome it.

3. What is one practical thing that you could do to help you either sustain or recapture the excitement in your walk with God?