



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Find The Bigger Fire

**SPEAKER**

SP Chua Seng Lee

**THEME** Hebrews Series Revisited

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

SP used the metaphor of finding the bigger fire in our lives to illustrate the point of getting close to God (the bigger fire) to help keep our fire (passion) burning and faith strong for Jesus. To do that, we need to pursue the right relationships with the right things in our lives. In Hebrews 12:4-17, we will see 4 very important relationships that will help us finish the race well (Hebrews 12:1) and keep our faith firing for God.

## 4 Key Relationships to Help Us Finish the Race:

### (1) Our Relationship with God (Hebrews 12:4-11)

God disciplines us because He loves us (Hebrews 12:6, Proverbs 3:11-12). Discipline from God is not punishment, but correction so that we can experience life more abundantly. If we stay the way we have been, we are missing out on the blessings of God.

The reason for discipline (Hebrews 12:7-11) is to train, educate and develop us so that we can grow in the Lord and share in His Holiness. When we allow ourselves to be trained, we will yield the fruits of righteousness. Hence our response should be to embrace the discipline of God.

The Sovereignty of God has given Man free will and concurrently, laws and principles for life in the form of His Word. When we obey His Word, we will be blessed by God. Conversely, when we disobey His Word, God will discipline us. When we embrace God's discipline and repent, we will experience His blessings and restoration.

### (2) Our Relationship with Self (Hebrews 12:12-13)

When we embrace discipline, we will develop the following fruits of righteousness:

- i. Refines our character: Remove the carnal nature within us
- ii. Reality of life: Realise and accept that life is not always fine/fair
- iii. Rely on God: we are not in control
- iv. Reconcile others to the fact that God is always good
- v. Bring others Relief: When we never give up on God while going through discipline
- vi. Realise the will of God: To become more like Jesus
- vii. Recognise that we are blessed even in times of discipline/trial: God is always with us

In light of the above, we need to strengthen ourselves through our prayer life, word life and altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship, so that we will not be influenced by or succumb to the ways of the world and lose our holiness. Spending time with God will help us walk a straight path.

### **(3) Our Relationship with People (Hebrews 12:14-15)**

We are called to be at peace with all men (Romans 12:17-19) even though the other party might be irritable to us. This is because people are important to God. We do not ignore what is wrong. Instead, we need to speak the truth with grace i.e. we seek peace with sanctification. We must also make peace quickly so that we give no room for bitter roots to defile us (Hebrews 12:15).

The bible tells us that we must die to self to pursue peace with people and sanctification (Hebrews 12:14). We can do this through self-reflection, self-repentance, asking God for help and leaving the judgment to God.

### **(4) Our Relationship with Things (Hebrews 12:16-17)**

In Hebrews 12:16-17, the scripture mentioned that Esau sold his birthright for a single meal and was unable to get it back. The things of the world were more valuable to Esau than the spiritual things of God. He lost his birthright due to the lack of faith in God and was deemed godless in God's eyes.

In the same way, how we relate to and value the spiritual things of God reflect our worship of God. Our calling is our birthright and we should not exchange it (sell our birthrights) for a fake sense of security and peace of mind with a nice job or the busyness of life. While we may have different spiritual callings, God has called every one of us to make disciples. We should not make excuses and deny our calling. Instead, we need to prioritise the spiritual things of God in our lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

We need to have the right relationship with God by embracing His discipline, right relationship with ourselves by strengthening ourselves in the Lord, right relationship with people by pursuing peace with people and sanctification, and right relationship with things in our lives by guarding the spiritual things of God. When we cultivate these 4 relationships rightly, it will help keep our faith burning.

Our relationship with God is not dependent on works but faith in Jesus. Through the innocent blood of Jesus, our sins were fully paid and forgiven so that by grace, we can enter boldly into the presence of God. Finally, our relationship with God should also be marked with thankfulness for the unshakeable kingdom we belong to and reverence and awe towards God, the consuming fire.

# QUESTIONS

1. How have you personally experienced the discipline of God and how did it help you grow?

2. Is there anyone in your life that you feel hostility towards, or you suspect feels hostility towards you? How will Christ's sacrifice for you shape your prayer for them? (Pray for them now)

3. What are some things in our lives that have been quenching our fire for God? What do you need to change in order to prioritise God in your life?