

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, Great in Power, Thank You Lord, Hear Us from Heaven

WELCOME

Intercede. What were your top 3 prayer items last week? Briefly share how the Lord has responded to them.

WORD

COLOSSIANS 1:9–12

⁹For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYING FOR OTHERS

The discipline of praying for one another is vital for followers of Christ. Through intercessory prayer, we are able to love others. God uses prayer as a means for us to have the privilege of partnering with Him in all aspects of our lives. And by praying for other people, we open ourselves to the opportunity of personally witnessing God's amazing power at work.

Praying for others should not be a one time event but instead a lifelong practice that will help our prayer life grow. So, we shouldn't give up praying for one another.

No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me. – Charles Spurgeon

How can we pray for others and help transform this world?

PRAY TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

The most important prayer we can do for others is for them to know God's will. Pray for them to be filled with the knowledge of God's will to control them.

Life is short. We can still move on even when we lose everything else in our lives; but when we run out of time, that's it for us. Our limited time on earth is the result of our choices. Knowing the will of God will impact those choices, our behavior, and ultimately the direction of our lives.

In life, we need to know certain rules. For example, the rule of health is to: sleep well, eat proper diet, drink lots of water, exercise, and avoid unnecessary stress. Violate the rule and you will most likely be unhealthy.

The same is true when it comes to following God's will. Being our Designer, God knows what is best for us. He sets the rules of life. If we violate them, we will suffer the consequences. Therefore, be careful in making choices (**Ephesians 5:15–16**).

People make choices because they want to be happy. God wants us to be happy so it only makes sense to choose to follow His will in our lives. Apart from His will, there can be no true and lasting happiness.

We need to know what the 'general' will of God is. Once we know His general will, we will also be able to discern His 'specific' will for us. So, what is the general will of God for His children?

1. **Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3)**. After salvation comes sanctification. God wants us to be set apart and to set the boundaries right at the beginning to keep us away from temptation.
2. **Service (1 Peter 4:10)**. We are saved to serve. God has given us gifts and skills. He will also equip us with necessary training and experiences that we can use to serve Him and others.
3. **Submission (1 Peter 2:13, 18)**. Submit to authorities as it will lead us to know God's best will for us.
4. **Suffering (1 Peter 2:18–20)**. The cost of doing God's will involve suffering. Following Jesus means being ready to be persecuted or even to die (2 Timothy 3:12). We need to be strengthened in suffering for doing what is right. It finds favor with God.
5. **Singing (1 Thessalonians 5:18)**. God's will involves joyful thanksgiving (**Colossians 1:11–**

WORD (cont'd)

12). It is God's will that we focus on the blessings, so count your blessings and thank Him.

PRAY TO DO GOD'S WILL

True prayer is delighting to do God's will. David prayed to God to teach him to do His will (**Psalm 143:10**). The prayer of Apostle Paul is not just for us to know God's will but to do it as well (**Colossians 1:10**).

Our problem is not about 'knowing' God's will but 'doing' it. This is because we want to do things our way. We transfer small groups, change counselors or move to another church to look for those who will agree with our will.

We should pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding (**v.9b**). We need to see things from

God's perspective and put everything together for application. God will not reveal to us the next steps of the way until we obey the first steps.

There are things we will never know if we do not obey God. We will never know that God answers prayers if we do not pray. We will never know that God provides for our needs if we do not generously give. Moses will never learn that God can divide the Red Sea if he did not obey to cross the sea with the Israelites.

The Bible tells us stories about men who learned to know more of the amazing God whose will they chose to obey. As a true follower of Jesus our highest goal is to know God's will and do it for His glory. And the best gift we can give to others is to pray that they too will know and do the will of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Ceaseless Prayer.** Why should we pray for others unceasingly, according to **Colossians 1:8-12**?
- 2. General Will.** Share your learnings about the "general will" of God. Which among them is the easiest and hardest to do for you?
- 3. Obey His Will.** What is the Lord teaching you now regarding obedience? How are you responding to it?

WORKS

GIFT OF PRAYER

List down the names of three people you would like to give a Gift of Prayer this week.

From your heart, write down specific prayers customized for each person in your list. Write the prayers in cards then surprise these people by giving them your gift of prayer when you meet them this week.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends