

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Every Praise, Worthy is Your Name, When I Think About the Lord, Because of Who You Are

## WELCOME

**Quit or Not.** When is quitting good, when is it bad?

## WORD

### HEBREWS 10:32–35

*<sup>22</sup>But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured (“hupomeno”) a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.<sup>35</sup> Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance (“hupomeno”), so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.*

### ENDURE, DON'T QUIT

“Quititis” is a spiritual disease of giving up quickly, avoiding difficult situation and taking the path of least resistance.

The antidote to giving up too soon is *endurance*. In the Bible, the Greek word used for it is “hupomeno”. It is a military term that describes soldiers who does not give up their position and remains steady under pressure.

Biblical endurance is more than just simply waiting. It is endurance combined with assurance and certainty that what we are waiting for is going to happen. First century Christians themselves endured suffering in Jesus’ name. Sadly today, many who call themselves Christians easily give-up and don’t really follow Jesus as the early Christians did. As the first three types of people illustrated in the Parable of the Soil didn’t endure suffering (**Luke 11:8–15**), counterfeit Christians won’t either.

The key to endurance is theology, knowing from our heart not only the Promise but also the Person who made and gave the Promise.

### WHY WAIT ON THE LORD

If we know and understand the greater reward of holding on to God’s promises, we will be able to endure anything (**Matthew 24:12–13**). In fact, we will let pass whatever problems we encounter along the way, because we have God and His promises in view.

Endurance is continuing to keep doing the will of God—to pray, be faithful, to forgive, to love, etc. As an example, we should not give up whenever God

does not seem to be answering our prayers. We should never stop praying even though we know not when God will give His answers (**Matthew 7:7–8**). We need to endure in our prayers so that when we have done the will of God, we may receive His promise.

### THE PERSON WHO GAVE THE PROMISE

The reason why we can endure is because we live by faith; the righteous shall live by faith. But our faith is only as good as the *object* of our faith – it is not people, or ourselves or anything else. Faith is not dependent on feelings or circumstances, but it is centered on God and His promises for us. It is not about us, but all about God. We can trust that God does not give up on His children. He who promised is faithful and He is coming soon as He promised (**Hebrews 10:27–28**).

True believers do not give up on God because salvation is guaranteed to them (**Matthew 7:7–8**). But some professing Christians apparently do not endure. Perhaps, it is because they have not truly experienced saving faith (**1 John 2:19; Jude 24:21**). Endurance is a by-product of faith, an evidence of genuine salvation. He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ (**Philippians 1:6**).

### PEOPLE WHO ENDURED

In the Bible, we can learn about endurance from the story of John Mark and Job.

**John Mark (2 Timothy 4:11)**- He was a young missionary who deserted the ministry early on. So, Paul did not want to take him to another missionary

## WORD (cont'd)

journey. He may have wanted John Mark to be disciplined and he did learn the lesson. At the end of Paul's life, he called back John Mark because he proved himself helpful to the ministry (**2 Timothy 4:11**). God restored John Mark and later on even used him to write one of the gospel accounts of the Bible. From his life we can see that while we can turn away from God, God will not give up on us, and He will bring us back.

**Job (James 5:10–11)**– We remember Job for his suffering. But there is more to Job than his suffering which God wants us to learn. Job was blameless, upright, and a God-fearing man (**Job 1:1**), not only in times of prosperity but also in poverty and affliction. For a purpose, God allowed Job's suffering, letting him

practice endurance. When he lost all his possessions, including his children, even when he was tormented with disease, tortured by his friends, and distressed by his wife, even through all of that, Job did not sin nor did he blame God. He had the right theology, "God gives, God takes away" (**Job 1:21; 2:10**). Amidst all the suffering, he trusted that God is above all and He knows what He was doing (**Job 42:1–2; 5–6**). Job did not quit and at the proper time, God blessed him more than what he had lost (**Job 42:12–16**).

When we have an intimate relationship with God, we will endure suffering for He will give us the grace to be steadfast. Blessed is he who endures, he will receive the promised crown of life (**James 1:12**).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

- 1. Enduring.** How did the early Christians endure suffering according to Hebrews 10:32-35? What can we learn from them?
- 2. Cost of Quitting.** What is the cost of quitting on God? What are the challenges you face as a Christian?
- 3. Belief Precedes Behavior.** What do you believe about God? How do God's promises and Personhood affect your endurance as a follower of Christ?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE

*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. – Galatians 6:9*

Who have you been praying for, for salvation? List down their names and renew your Pray-Care-Share plan of action for them. If you do not have a list yet, start with your list today. See example below:

Name of Person Praying For	Been praying since...	My Enduring Pray-Care-Share
1. My father	Year 2000	<i>As a doctor, I will keep attending to his medical needs in his old age, read him Psalms everyday, and let him see, feel and know that I love him...</i>
2. My sister (name)		
3. etc...		

### 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