

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Still Standing, Turn to You, I Stand in Awe

## WELCOME

**Changing Times.** Share some significant things about yourself which have changed through time.

## WORD

### MALACHI 3:6

*<sup>6</sup>For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*

### CHANGING TIMES

Change is inevitable. However, many people today are not taught what should change and what should not. One of the most alarming changes we see today are among the young people. 69% of the Gen Z (born from 2000 to date), agree that it is acceptable to be born one gender but eventually feel like another.

In changing times like this, our greatest comfort is an unchanging God. People change but God does not. Because He is already perfect, He cannot change for better or for worse. Theologians call this as the 'immutability' of God. Because He knows what we will or will not do, He is never caught by surprise. He knew us from beginning to end and chose to love us with an everlasting love.

### LIVE WISELY

A wise person hears the Word of the unchanging God and acts on it (**Matthew 7:24**). It is not enough for us to know God's Word, we all should live it out. To live wisely means to build our life aligned with the Word of God. It's not just simply to listen to the Word but to also act upon it in obedience.

A wise person is like a man who builds his house on strong foundation not only survives the storms but thrives in life (**Matthew 7:27**). Depending on the kind of foundation we have, we can either collapse or survive when the storms of life come. While the Bible does not guarantee a storm-free life, God tells us we can have a storm-proof life. No one is exempt from trials and pains, but by living wisely we can have a storm-proof life.

God does not change, and His will is perfect. The best thing that a wise person will do is to align his will

with what the perfect God wants him to do. (**Ephesians 5:15**).

Once we understand that God is unchanging and that we are living wisely by listening to His Word, obeying it, and aligning our life with His will, we will then begin to find "comfort" in God, develop a firm "conviction," and have the "courage" to act out of that conviction.

### Comfort

If we live wisely, we will find comfort in our unchanging God whatever happens. Knowing that He is the same yesterday, today and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**), we can rest upon His character, His plans, and His unchanging promises.

People change, even the person closest to us will disappoint us, sooner or later. But our great comfort comes from God whose love for us never changes. Because He is perfect, He loves us with a perfect love.

### Conviction

Conviction that is firm comes when we know the Lord, when what He wants and does not want is clear to us. Even though storms of life come, we can stand on God's promises which will keep us from compromising or doing something against His will. We can confidently claim that God is our Helper (**Hebrews 13:6**). This happens when our conviction is anchored on knowing God and His Word and obeying Him. But if we do not know His Word, it will be hard to have conviction.

### Courage

Our conviction to stick and align with God will give us the courage to face the storms of life. No matter what the circumstances are, we will not be afraid because we know that God's promises will prevail.

# WORD (cont'd)

## UNCHANGING GOD

The best example for us to find comfort in the unchanging God is the nation of Israel. God could have destroyed the Israelites completely for their sins. But because God had chosen them and had a purpose for them, they were not consumed. God had declared to Israel that He will not change as He promised (**Malachi 3:6**) and He gave them comfort through the coming of the Messiah (**Malachi 3:1**).

The nation of Israel is a picture of God's unchanging character and His power to fulfill His promises. If we look at history, despite the twists and turns of events and the humps and bumps along the way concerning the people of Israel, God has fulfilled what He has promised them.

The Israelites were dispersed in diaspora for 2,000 years with no land of their own. No country. No flag. But as God has promised, He will gather His people to their homeland before the end of time, and Israel will become a nation again. The people of Israel returned to their homeland in 1917 and Israel became a nation again in 1948.

This just shows us that indeed heaven and earth will pass away but God's Word will remain (**Matthew 5:18**). The Lord's promises will stand forever from generation to generation (**Psalms 33:11**).

We will not find our greatest comfort, conviction and courage in anything but only in our unchanging God and His unchanging character, unchanging Word, unchanging plans, and unchanging love. God is unchanging; therefore, we must live wisely with Him in changing times.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Forever Unchanging.** What is the promise of God to Israel according to **Malachi 3:6**?
2. **Convicted.** What are the convictions by which you stand for as you live wisely according to God's Word?
3. **Live Wisely.** What are you willing to change and not to change to live wisely based on the discussion today?

# WORKS

## PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

In these changing times, a true Christian who finds comfort, conviction and courage in the unchanging God, is known by his fruit, his behavior matches his declaration (**Matthew 7:21-23**). We are saved by grace through faith, not by our good works (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). But good works are byproducts of our faith.

Use the above passages in your Pray-Care-Share in action this week using your own life testimony, how God has changed you to bear much fruit by His grace.

## 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