



WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

In Jesus Name, Great Things, Mighty Warrior, Indescribable, You are God Alone

WELCOME

Truth Matters. Do you really believe the truth about Jesus can change the world? How is this shown in your life?

WORD

ACTS 5:12–42

²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Every follower of Jesus is given a mission:

Acts 1:8, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

It is not just something to do, it is someone to be — and we have been given the Holy Spirit, through whose power we can become exactly what God has called us to be on this earth. But is it easy to be a witness for Jesus in our everyday life? Distractions, disobedience, discouragement, discredit, disillusionment, delays, and doubts are some of the things that may prevent us from being the witnesses we are called to be. But we must remember that we are witnesses for a God whose plans cannot be stopped (**Isaiah 43:12-13**).

OUR UNSTOPPABLE GOD WILL EMPOWER YOU

As we persevere, we can be sure God will display His power through us. Our simple everyday life lived in His power can impact the people we encounter day by day.

In **Acts 5:12-16**, we learn about how our 1st century brethren persevered in their unity and in their testimony. When we love Jesus and one another, it will certainly point people to Him. And though we cannot compel people to follow Jesus, our good example can open opportunities for us to share our faith to them. As we persevere to be a witness, we will see God’s unstoppable power at work in us through His Holy Spirit (**John 14:12**).

OUR UNSTOPPABLE GOD WILL LIBERATE YOU

Our circumstances or struggles do not need to imprison us. Even if our circumstances do not change, they can still be our platform for being a witness!

In **Acts 5:17-20**, we see that the apostles were put in jail because of the jealousy of the Sadducees. But during the night, an angel of the Lord freed them and instructed them to “go stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life” — Jesus Christ!

2 Corinthians 3:17 says, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

God has set us free from sin and death. Through His Spirit we can be free of fear. We can be victorious over discouragement and doubt. As we see in the example of Paul in **Philippians 1:12-13**, even our low moments can be platforms for witnessing. He saw his imprisonment as an opportunity to advance the gospel. God will continue to set us free not necessarily from our circumstances, but from the things (i.e. emotions, thoughts, etc.) that hold us back from being His witnesses. Don’t give up. God can liberate you to be a witness even in difficult circumstances.

OUR UNSTOPPABLE GOD WILL TRANSFORM YOU

As we persevere, God transforms how we think and how we view and respond to people and circumstances. He gives us wisdom, courage and the right perspective.

When the apostles were brought back to stand before the Council, the high priest questioned them because

WORD (cont'd)

they did not stop teaching about Jesus. But Peter and the apostles answered them saying, “We must obey God rather than men.” (**Acts 5:27-32**)

The leaders now wanted to kill the apostles! But God intervened through Gamaliel, a respected rabbi and Pharisee, to show that God and His plans are unstoppable (**Acts 5:33-39**). The apostles were flogged but released, and they were rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for Jesus’ name. They continued teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ every day, in the temple and from house to house (**Acts 5:40-42**).

Sometimes being a witness means drawing the line — making a stand for Jesus. This is part of how God transforms us — no fear of men, only reverent fear of God. Our unstoppable God truly transforms us from the inside out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. Is there anything standing in the way of being the witness God called you to be? Are there distractions, disobedience, discouragement, discredit, disillusionment, delays, or doubts in your life?
2. We learned that God displayed His power in the early church as they persevered in their unity and in their testimony. How is this true in your own experience? How can you contribute to the unity in the church today?
3. Do you need to make a stand for Jesus? In what ways should you obey God rather than men?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

There are many hurting people in this world who need Jesus and we need to persevere in being His witnesses.

Pray that you will impact the lives of the people around you through your good witness, even those who persecute or malign you. Pray for them and pray for opportunities to show kindness and to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

GOD’S LOVE IS UNSTOPPABLE

As we persevere, let us remember that there is one sure thing about God that is unstoppable — His love.

Romans 8:37-39, “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Whatever our circumstances are, they do not in any way diminish the power of God’s love for us. So let us persevere and be witnesses for God!

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