

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

How Great Thou Art, Only A God Like You, We Believe, Christ is Enough

## WELCOME

Do you ever need help in your day-to-day life for tasks that you have a hard time doing? What kind of help do you usually need (computer/tech stuff, cooking, commuting to work, babysitting, etc.)? Who is usually the first person that you call for help, when you feel like you want to give up? Why that person?

## WORD

### ACTS 21:3-14

<sup>3</sup> When we came in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left, we kept sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload its cargo. <sup>4</sup> After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another. <sup>6</sup> Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

<sup>7</sup> When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and after greeting the brethren, we stayed with them for a day. <sup>8</sup> On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. <sup>9</sup> Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. <sup>10</sup> As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" <sup>12</sup> When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." <sup>14</sup> And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

We find that these verses are so detailed in the places and people Paul and his team visited on their way back to Jerusalem, where he was to deliver a financial gift to the church there. Here we see how Dr. Luke, the author of Acts, recorded the intentionality of Paul in his ministry.

Now, Paul and the rest of the team had to be intentional in searching for the believers in Tyre (v.4) because Paul wanted to encourage them to "max out" and not "tap out" in their faith in Christ. In our ministries, there are times that we might want to give up because we don't seem to see the fruits of our labor.

Remember the CCF Vision, which is "to see a movement of millions of committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ meeting in small groups and transforming lives, families, communities and nations, for the glory of God"? To see this fulfilled, we all need to be committed followers or Jesus ourselves, giving our lives to Him and His service without any reservations. Each of us must learn to "max out, not tap out" our lives for the glory of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. God has given us a ringside VIP seat to witness the transformation of His people. We have the privilege to witness the work of God in their lives as we cooperate with the Spirit in

making Christ-committed followers at home, and all around the world. We see how Paul was intentional in following the Holy Spirit (vv. 6-7) in his own ministry. In Acts 20:22-23, Paul called himself a "bond slave" of Jesus Christ. Why? Because he was bound to follow and obey the Holy Spirit every day of his life.

Notice that in Acts 21:5, even the wives and children were there to meet Paul. Men, we are called to disciple our family. As parents, we need to teach our children to be loving not just the ministry of the Lord but also the one who ministers (e.g. the apostle Paul). We need to love our family members and extend that love to the family of God.

Observe too how Paul maximized every day of his voyage, he only had one day in Ptolemais. Why stay there for just a day? Maybe they just wanted to rest? Whatever Paul's reason was, one thing is for sure, it was all worth it! He must have felt love and appreciated by the believers there and being able to see their transformed lives encouraged him greatly.

Acts 21:8 shows a very vital point is Paul's life because it was here where he met Phillip, several years after the persecution he instigated scattered the believers across the Roman Empire. That must have been a

## WORD (cont'd)

heartwarming meeting, perhaps Paul asked for Phillip's forgiveness for the death of Stephen, Phillip's fellow deacon in Jerusalem. There was sweet fellowship between brothers, for sure as we see another example of how God is in the business of changing lives. Phillip was another example of someone who did not tap out of the Christian life because of difficulties, instead he maxed out his life and one proof of this was his young daughters who ministered with their spiritual gifts alongside their father.

**Acts 21:10-14** demonstrates to us that "to max out and not tap out" means we keep on keeping on in the face of sure opposition. Paul knew that he was indestructible for as long as God had something for him to do on earth.

Paul's disciples recognized how "he would not be persuaded" and so they "fell silent, remarking, 'The will of the Lord be done!'" On the cross, Jesus also surrendered to the Father's will (**Luke 22:41-42**). When Jesus said, "Thy will be done", it did not mean that He surrendered the fight, it meant that He submitted everything to God. Paul, like Jesus, never tapped out, but instead, maxed out his life for Him knowing that it was all going to be worth it. Today, if you are feeling lonely, hopeless and wondering if following Jesus is still worth it, be encouraged by the thousands of transformed lives around you, keep on going, do not surrender but surrender all to God. Do not tap out, max out because Jesus is all worth it!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. Do you have any burdens that you carry today? What are those? How will it look like for you to surrender everything to God?
2. Parents, how do you intentionally disciple your family to love God and love serving Him, and to encourage God's servants not to tap out, but max out? Singles, how can you max out your life in God's service, and encouraging others to not tap out but max out?
3. How are you maxing out your life in helping see "millions of committed followers of Christ meeting in small groups, transforming lives, families, communities and nations"?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that you will seek every opportunity this week to share the gospel to your family, co-workers and bosses, and friends. Ask God for wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit on how to reach out to these individuals with the intention of sharing Christ with them.

### 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
- 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