

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

All Creatures of Our God and King, How Great Is Your Love, Good Good Father

WELCOME

What was the best compliment you've received from someone in recent times, and from whom? How did it impact you?

WORD

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

EPHESIANS 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

We have been discussing M.O.T.I.V.A.T.E., the 8 secrets to influencing the hearts of others for lasting impact. For **AFFIRMATION**, the principle we want to take to heart is simply this: **“Positive words impact us positively and negative words impact us negatively.”** Affirmation is about encouraging, uplifting, or inspiring somebody. It confirms something about that person is true and it declares something positive about them. It's not about flattery, but the ability to see the potential of something good in someone's life. The ability to speak life to somebody—the core of building up, is what we need to learn. Affirming somebody helps that person see his or her potential.

In **Mark 1:11**, we see God affirming Jesus of His relationship with Him, His intimacy with Him, and His approval of Him. If God the Father would affirm Jesus this way, how much more should we learn to do this with others! **Proverbs 18:21** tells us of the tremendous power in our words. How do we affirm others with our words?

1. AFFIRM WITH POSITIVE WORDS

Ephesians 4:29 tells us not to use any **“unwholesome word”** in our speech. These are useless, hurtful, and destructive words that are said without consideration of the devastating effect they have on others. This is a contrast to **“a word (that) is good for edification”** which are able to **ENCOURAGE and BUILD UP**.

Positive words are forms of affirmation. They give grace, encourage, strengthen, and motivate a person. Words are very powerful. Jesus warns us in **Matthew 12:36-37** that God will hold us accountable for the words that we say. Thus, we have to be careful with our words. Many times, when you are angry or reactive, you say words that destroy rather than build up, discourage rather than encourage. Affirmation is really expecting the best of another. We should make sure that we don't limit the potential of our children, disciples, or

friends with negative words. This takes discipline and practice to always remind yourself that **“words are important, I must be careful with what I say, I must be careful with what I don't say, I must always be affirming.”**

2. AFFIRM CHARACTER WITH “DETECTIVE'S EYES”

Intentionally look for **character traits** we want to amplify about a person. We have to develop keen eyes so we could see their strengths and weaknesses. We all have a propensity to be more critical and it may come from our desire to help the person improve. The key is to **not miss affirming when they do something good** and when they get something wrong we need to **practice gentle correction**.

Remember that giving affirmation is a command for each one of us. We are to be encouragers—it can be as simple as saying “good job!”, giving quick a hug, a pat on the back, or even just a smile. We affirm character, attitude, effort—small achievements. We encourage a person to keep doing what was done excellently.

3. AFFIRM PROGRESS AT THE RIGHT TIMING

Proverbs 12:18 gives us the idea of “timing” in our words. Because words can be painful, we have to think of our timing on when to say them. We usually **REACT** to certain events and **reacting doesn't give us much time to think about the effects**. When you are angry, it is best to keep quiet for a while and pray about your response. Emotions have a way of distorting our thinking. When we reprimand or correct someone as a reaction, although well-meaning, it may come across differently to the listener. We also have to remember to affirm progress and not wait for perfection. If we affirm progress, the person will keep on doing that which was highlighted, and therefore our words are not wasted.

The **SANDWICH APPROACH** is part of affirming at the right timing. There will be times when we will need to correct our

WORD (cont'd)

children, disciples, or even raise up a point of improvement to our parents. It is essential to “sandwich” our corrections with encouraging, positive statements. This allows the person to feel that we are building them up and we want them to improve—motivating them to positive change!

4. AFFIRM THROUGH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE & POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS

God is the best example in affirmation. In **Jeremiah 1:4-6**, God called upon a discouraged Jeremiah who has seen his country face tensions and everything seemed to be falling apart. When God gave him his calling, Jeremiah realized the many things he lacked to fulfill such calling. This caused him to fear and look down on himself. Did you notice how GOD affirmed Jeremiah? God told him that he was special; he was formed for a purpose. In **vv. 7-8**, the Lord even assured Jeremiah of His presence. To hear God say, **“I am with you”** is such an honor and a privilege and it shows God’s affirming love. Even up to **vv.18-19**, the Lord affirmed Jeremiah even more, telling him that he will be strengthened and protected. God was very affirming, and it was coming from a place of LOVE. The same pattern appears in the New Testament, with Paul encouraging his disciple, Timothy. In **1 Timothy 4:12**, he affirmed Timothy despite his young age. That affirmation plus a reminder of what’s expected of him meant loads of “boosting” for Timothy who was being groomed

for leadership. Later on, in **2 Timothy 1:7**, Paul reminds Timothy that he can do everything he needed to do if he remains in Christ because God provides a spirit of power, love, and discipline. He continuously pointed Timothy to the right source of power while also giving him clear expectations of what needs to be done.

These are just some ways to affirm. There are many others that we can do in order to **“build up”** rather than **“tear down”**. **Hebrews 3:13** is a reminder for us to **keep encouraging one another** as long as it is called **“TODAY”**. The Apostle John gives us a good reminder of God’s compassionate heart to affirm us. In **1 John 3:1-3**, the apostle assures us of the love of GOD for us believers, as children of God. This love gives us HOPE; when the Bible uses the word HOPE, it means CERTAINTY. **Affirmation is declaring the truth, so that we can see it with our eyes and believe it with our hearts.** Affirmation will enable you to live an amazing life, a holy life, a life that is pleasing to GOD. We have a choice. Do we step up and take our role to be **C.E.O.s (Chief Encouraging Officers)** in our family, friends, and small groups? Or do we keep on being **C.D.O.s (Chief Discouraging Officers)** and pull other people down with our words? May we all learn to submit our hearts to God and allow Him to take control of our words!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Self-Check.** Are you affirming other people’s great qualities and characteristics? How can you be more intentional in doing this?
2. **Setting It Right.** Do you remember being careless with your words? Recall those whom you’ve hurt and rebuild stronger ties!
3. **Living It Out.** Which of the four ways of affirmation do you need to work on the most? How will you improve on it for His glory?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God gives us the right heart, right words, and right time to show affirmation to others. Use God’s words to build up others around you—even through social media. Share life-giving words through the good news of salvation to those who do not know Jesus yet as Savior and Lord.

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