

Unleash God's Power: Persevere in Prayer

CCF CHRONICLE

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LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

We tend to give up when our prayers are not answered. But persevere, keep praying! Ask God to uphold you even when you don't feel like doing it anymore. To persevere in prayer, we need:

PERSPECTIVE

Our perspective determines how we think, affecting our emotions, which then impacts our actions. Jesus taught His disciples to have the right perspective on prayer through a parable about a man asking for help from a friend (Luke 11:5-8). Jesus is saying that God is more than a friend, He is our Father. Unlike the friend in the parable, when we keep asking, God is never bothered! Jesus tells of another parable about an unjust judge and a widow (Luke 18:1-8). Out of annoyance, the unjust judge helped the widow out who kept on asking for help. God is not like the judge who is annoyed at our cries for help; He is more than willing to answer our prayers in our helplessness.

Jesus encourages us to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking (Luke 11:9-10). Perseverance in prayer makes us grow spiritually and allows us to hear the Holy Spirit. Persistent prayer is not forcing God to listen to us; it makes us listen more to God.

PLAN

Many of us think prayer is just asking for things, but there is something greater than material or earthly blessings. The greatest blessing of prayer is God Himself! David's pursuit in life was to dwell in the house of the Lord, to be in God's presence continually, and to behold the beauty of the Lord while seeking Him in His temple. His desire was a close and intimate relationship with God and making Him the central focus and priority of his life. (Psalm 27:4). Even amid danger, David did not ask God to kill his enemy or to fulfill His promise to make him king. David had opportunities to kill King Saul but chose not to (1 Samuel 26:9-11). He did not compromise and waited upon the Lord to fulfill His plans at the right time. God had a wonderful reason - God's plan was to mature David to be king. When our prayers are not answered, we must understand that delays are God's instrument to mold our character.

PROMISE

God promises to give us the best. The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift God gives us. When we have God's Spirit, we have power and eternal life!

God promises to answer our prayers when we're aligned to His will (1 John 5:14). Understanding God's will gives us confidence to claim His promises. Elijah serves as an example of this (James 1:17), showcasing the effectiveness of prayer when aligned to God's will (James 5:16-18). While it may seem superficial that Elijah had control over the weather, a closer look at the Old Testament reveals that he wasn't credited for withholding rain; rather, it was God's promise linked to the call for King Ahab's repentance from wickedness.

After three and a half years of drought, God instructs Elijah to inform King Ahab about the impending rainfall (1 Kings 18:1). God could have sent rain without Elijah, yet He chose to involve him in fulfilling His purpose (1 Kings 18:41-45). God invites us to be prayerful not because of our inherent power, but as a privileged opportunity to partner with Him.

PRAISE

Persistent prayer says "I will continue to pray until God answers my prayer or tells me to stop praying. Whatever His answer, I will praise and thank Him."

There are instances where God communicates where our prayers should stop. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:7-8, received such guidance. Despite repeatedly asking God to alleviate a physical ailment, described as a "thorn in the flesh," God instructed Paul to cease his petitions. Paul learned a profound lesson - God values character development over momentary physical relief. God's desire is more for our eternal well-being than our immediate comfort. God allows us to go through challenges to develop humility, a blessing far greater than mere physical comfort in God's eyes.

Life is too short to miss out on God's best. Seek God and prioritize Him; He will bless us. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul was given something better. In exchange for physical pain, God gave him grace and power. What God has in store for us in light of eternity is much better than what the world gives!

Last Week's Memory Verse

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

LUKE 11:9

Discuss This Message

Why do we need to persevere in prayer?

Does God always answer our prayers?
How do you respond when God does not give you what you want?

How will you show your trust in the Lord even as you persevere in prayer?

DOWNLOAD THIS
CHRONICLE ONLINE!

ccf.org.ph/chronicle/

DOWNLOAD THIS SUNDAY'S
4WS EVERY MONDAY!

ccf.org.ph/4ws/

Jesus makes all things new!

Let's talk about it at the **Welcome Center!**

Step into the Community

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

WOW Thursdays is on break and will resume February 15.

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

-  ccfwomen2women
-  CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

B1G Ministry is on break and will resume on February 16!

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

-   B1GMinistry
-  beonewithgod

NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Love Builders

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM
G/F North Wing

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

-   ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12
-  for ages 4-12, message us on Facebook to sign-up

WOMEN LIVING FREE COUNSELING AND SUPPORT GROUPS FOR WOMEN SEEKING ANSWERS ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY

God's Design for Women

March 6, Wednesday, 7:00 PM on Zoom
contact (0917) 545 9219 or (0921) 547 9381
for details



Services at the CCF Center

**SATURDAY
NIGHT SERVICE**
5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES
ENGLISH FILIPINO
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS
 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Visit ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/ for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.

Learn More About Our Faith

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

Know more about and everything GLC!

Join us on February 11, 1PM, Room 2A
for the **GLC PREMIERE: Trainees' Orientation**

GLC Training Cycle 2024

F2F and Zoom classes

coming this February

Register here: bit.ly/GLCTraining2024

Continue your GLC Training
also available in the following platforms!

GLC Online [OPEN TO ALL]

- A self-paced learning format tailored to your unique schedule. Be equipped at your own time, own place and own pace. Register here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online/

GLC in Dgroups [OPEN TO ALL]

- Facilitate GLC materials in your DGroup meetings. Learn how you can be part of GLC in DGroups! Register here: bit.ly/GLCRegistrationForm

To know more about other
GLC trainings and available resources,
visit glc.ccf.org.ph

Join and Participate

Come together with the community to learn and grow, or to retreat and recharge!

Before and After I Do

February 17, CCF Center
REGISTRATION FEE: PHP3,500/couple
Register at <https://bit.ly/BAIDO2024>

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13