

# Unleash God's Power: Pray with Humility

CCF CHRONICLE  
WEEKLY BULLETIN  
Vol. 37 | February 10 to 11, 2024  
LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Prayer serves as our direct line of communication with the Heavenly Father, a sacred act of humility exemplified by Jesus in the parable found in Luke 18:9-14. What significance does this hold in our journey of prayer and humility?

## THE POISON OF PRIDE (Luke 18:9-12)

Pride is a venomous force that silently corrodes our souls, often without our awareness. Jesus directed this parable to those who placed unwavering trust in their own righteousness, harboring contempt for others. Even devout followers of Jesus can fall into this trap, whether by viewing themselves as intellectually superior to fellow believers or by refusing to seek forgiveness. The Pharisee, epitomizing self-righteousness, stood in prayer with an air of confidence, oblivious to the fact that he prayed only to himself. His prayer dripped with pride as he thanked God for not being like the despised tax collector.

Pride manifests in mechanical and thoughtless prayers, viewing prayer as a mere obligation to earn favor with God. It surfaces when we expect answers based on our deeds or when we harbor resentment towards others without acknowledging our own faults. Moreover, praying with selfish motives further fuels this prideful disposition. The initial consequence of pride is a diminished reliance on prayer, as we lean on our own resources until they fail us, prompting us to turn to God as a last resort.

Isaiah 14:12-14 talks about the king of Babylon, but also is a reference to Satan who wanted to be like God. Eve was tempted the same way, to be like God. Until today, that's the sin problem we have -- we want to be our own god. We are most like Jesus when we are humble, but we are most like Satan when we are proud.

## THE POSTURE OF HUMILITY (Luke 18:13)

What defines genuine humility in the eyes of God? In a surprising turn of events, the tax collector, positioned apart from the Pharisee for a distinct reason, humbly

acknowledged his sinful state, pleading for God's mercy. His plea for mercy, rooted in the Greek term "hilaskomai," conveys the concept of making propitiation for sin, a task only achievable through Jesus Christ, the unblemished sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10). This tax collector recognized his utter helplessness in the face of sin, praying in humility for divine mercy.

Similarly, a woman in Mark 5:25-28 exhibited profound humility by reaching out to touch Jesus' garment in faith, believing in His power to heal her. Her silent plea mirrored the tax collector's acknowledgment of total dependence on God. Jesus did not only heal her from physical disease, but also from her spiritual disease, she was forgiven! King Solomon, despite his elevated status, exemplified humility by seeking God's wisdom in ruling His people, recognizing his inadequacy without divine guidance (1 Kings 3:7-13). Whether in dire circumstances or positions of prominence, humility in prayer acknowledges our reliance on God's grace.

## THE POWER OF GRACE (Luke 18:14)

James 4 verses 6 and 10 reminds us of a sobering reality that God opposes the proud. Therefore, let us voluntarily humble ourselves before the Lord, lest He humbles us through circumstance. God extends greater grace to the humble, as exemplified in the parable where the tax collector is justified, declared "not guilty" through the perfect righteousness of Christ imputed through faith. Outside of Christ, our spiritual account remains empty, but through faith, His righteousness fills our spiritual deficit, rendering us acceptable before God.

Let us approach God with humility and experience the transformative power of His grace in our life.

## Last Week's Memory Verse

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." ... Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

JAMES 4:6, 10

## Discuss This Message

What symptoms of pride do you realize you have? Confess these to the Lord and to your small group.

In what specific ways can you improve in the area of humility — especially when it comes to prayer?

Who do you know that needs to hear about the grace of God, that has the power to save and transform? How and when will you tell them?

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4WS EVERY MONDAY!  
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# Have you experienced God's unconditional love?

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

## Step into the Community

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

### WOMEN2WOMEN

ALL WOMEN

#### Become a Transformed Woman: Reveal & Release the Weights that Entangle

February 15, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

  ccfwomen2women

 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

### B1G MINISTRY

SINGLES

#### Seasons of Love

February 16, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

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

ONSITE: G/F CCF Center for ages 4-12

LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

(ccfnxtgen) for ages 4 to 12

ZOOM: for ages 7-12, message us to sign-up

Reach us via [facebook.com/ccfnxtgen](https://www.facebook.com/ccfnxtgen)

### 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

## Learn More About Our Faith

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

### Know everything about GLC: CCF's official training discipleship program!

Join us on February 18, 1PM, Room 2A for the GLC PREMIERE: An Orientation

### GLC Training Cycle 2024

F2F and Zoom classes

coming this February

Register here: [bit.ly/GLCTraining2024](https://bit.ly/GLCTraining2024)

### Be equipped!

GLC Training is also available on 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/](https://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](https://bit.ly/GLCRegistrationForm)

For more information on GLC trainings and available resources, visit [glc.ccf.org.ph](https://glc.ccf.org.ph)

## Join and Participate

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

### A Beautiful Exchange Retreat

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN AGES 21 AND UP

March 15 - 17

Mt. Makiling Recreation Center

REGISTRATION FEE: PHP4,950

Contact (0945) 276 7074 or [aberetreat@gmail.com](mailto:aberetreat@gmail.com) for more details



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*

## Services at the CCF Center

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES ENGLISH

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

FILIPINO

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS

 [ccf.org.ph](https://www.ccf.org.ph)  [ccfmain](https://www.facebook.com/ccfmain)  [ccfmainTV](https://www.youtube.com/ccfmainTV)

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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