

LOVE GOD, *dedicate your best*

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

This was God's command to His people in Deuteronomy 6:5 — but sometimes earthly desires such as money, career, dreams, comfort, relationships, and family occupy our hearts and become more important to us than God. How do we then love God more than these desires and dedicate our best to Him?

To dedicate our best to God, we must protect our hearts from lusts, worries, and idols, and remember that His provision is sufficient (Proverbs 3:9-10, Matthew 6:33). We can learn more about this from Hannah, Samuel's mother, who exemplified this in the Bible.

be in God's presence

In 1 Samuel 1:3, we see that Hannah and her husband Elkanah were devoted to the LORD. However, Hannah was faced with affliction: she was childless because "the LORD had closed her womb" (v. 5) and she was bitterly provoked by Peninah, Elkanah's second wife, who had children (vv. 6-8). When Hannah was greatly distressed, she went to the LORD and poured out her soul before Him (vv. 9-11, 12-15).

Hannah sought God and trusted Him completely because she knew who God is. This enabled her to dedicate Samuel to Him, because we cannot dedicate something important to us to someone we don't know. We need to know God and be in His presence constantly, and to desire Him more than our own earthly idolatries. Peace, comfort, and clarity can only be found in the presence of God who knows us intimately, including our struggles, what's good for us, and all our ways and decisions (Psalm 139:1-3).

set your joy in God

As she wept before the LORD, part of Hannah's prayer was a vow dedicating her child to the LORD should He remember her (v. 11). She had joy while waiting (v. 18), and worshipped God even before her prayer was answered (v. 19). When God

finally gave them Samuel, Hannah kept her word (vv. 21-22), and with Elkanah, worshipped God and dedicated Samuel to the LORD (v. 23). She was willing to forego seeing Samuel as he grew up in the house of the LORD because "as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD" (vv. 24-28).

Our natural tendency is to find our joy in the fulfillment of our desires, but the more we fix our eyes on our desires, the more they become idols. Instead, let us focus on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:1), that we may be able to dedicate our best to the LORD. The presence of God ultimately satisfies our greatest need and greatest longing!

Thank Him always

Upon receiving God's answer to her prayers, Hannah rejoiced in the LORD (1 Samuel 2:1-10), recognizing His holiness and how He is all-knowing. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9)! In fact, God prepared both Samuel and Hannah for the future: Hannah could not have expected it in her prayers (1 Samuel 2:10), but Samuel was to anoint the first two kings of Israel including King David, and he became a greatly respected prophet in all Israel (1 Samuel 3:19-20)! Additionally, God blessed Hannah by allowing her to visit Samuel every year (1 Samuel 2:18-19), and as Eli the priest blessed her and Elkanah, God gave them other children as well (vv. 20-21).

Worship is continued gratefulness to God — no matter how He answers our prayers. When we are not in the presence of God and are not willing to dedicate our best to Him, we become miserable. "Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered" (1 Samuel 2:10). But if we worship the LORD, He keeps us secure. We need to be men and women who will worship God for who He truly is.

God did the greatest act of dedicating one's best: He gave up His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. As a grateful response, let us love God and dedicate our best to Him: because of who He is, what He has done, and what He can do in and through us.

last week's memory verse

So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord." And he worshipped the Lord there.

1 SAMUEL 1:28

discuss this message

Is there someone or something in your life that you love more than God? Why?

What do you think are the reasons why we need to dedicate our best to the Lord?

What do we need to do to start dedicating our best to the Lord?

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Who is Jesus to you?

Let's talk about it in the Welcome Center!

step into the COMMUNITY

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

The Significant Woman Session 2: Pursue Your Uniqueness

with Jireh de Jose

May 23, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

  ccfwomen2women

 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

Masterpiece: Women's Conference

June 22, Saturday

9:00 AM, Main Auditorium

TICKETS: PHP300

visit our Facebook page or e-mail


jireh.dejose@ccf.org.ph for details

B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

In Deep Waters: Waves of Mercy

May 24, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

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NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

The Super Wonderful God

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)

ccf SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER




SATURDAY NIGHTS

5:00 PM

SUNDAYS

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

ONLINE LIVESTREAM

 [ccf.org.ph](https://www.ccf.org.ph)  [ccfmain](#)  [ccfmainTV](#)

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

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ABOUT OUR FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

Join GLC's NEW training cycle this May!

Enrollment is now ongoing for the following:

GLC LEVEL 1

Book 1: One by One

Book 3: The Holy Spirit

ONSITE: May 19, Sunday, 10:30 AM
and 1:30 PM, Room 2A

ZOOM: May 22, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 2

Book 7: Family Life

ONSITE: May 19, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: May 23, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 3

Module 6: Reliability of the Bible

ONSITE: May 19, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 4A

ZOOM: May 23, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Enroll now: bit.ly/GLCTrainings2024

OTHER EVENTS

How to Start a Dgroup Workshop and GLC in Dgroups

ONSITE: May 19, Sunday, 11:00 AM, Room 4A

ZOOM: May 20, Monday, 7:30 PM

Register here:

bit.ly/HowtoStartADgroupWorkshop

Are you ready to graduate?

GLC Graduation is on August 16, 2024!

Register here: bit.ly/GLCGraduation2024

GLC TRAININGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE VIA:

Online (Self-Paced) & GLC in Dgroups

Register: bit.ly/GLCinDGroupsSignUp

Enroll Here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online

Visit glc.ccf.org.ph for more info on
GLC trainings and schedules.


VOLUNTEER with us

There's no better way to serve God than to serve His people!


GLC

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YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here
for His purpose.

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

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

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

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

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

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