

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

God is Here, As We Pray, What a Beautiful Name

WELCOME

New Year's Resolution. What is your new year's resolution for 2017? How do you intend to make it happen?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

Our greatest exertion of discipline, commitment and perseverance will be channeled toward things which are of greatest value to us. We need to ask the Lord to remind us what is of greatest value to Him so that we can adopt it as the thing of greatest value to us.

What should be of greatest importance to us as followers of Christ and as members of Christ Commission Fellowship? Our core values spell out why and how we do things to fulfill our mission and vision. CCF core values are built on **L.O.V.E.:**

Love God and Love Others

Obey God's Word and Authorities

Volunteer

Engage the Family

Everything we do must be built on love (**Matthew 22:37-40**).

DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER

One practical expression of our love for God and others is to devote ourselves to prayer (**Colossians 4:2**). The English word 'devote' usually means to set-aside or to be pre-occupied. But in the original Greek, it means to persist, to persevere, and to stick to it, not giving up.

Here are reasons why we should be 'prayer-majors' and be devoted to it:

1. *Jesus said that His house shall be called a house of prayer* (**Matthew 21:12-13**). Wherever we gather as a church, we should make it a house of prayer as this is the desire of Jesus.
2. *Jesus Himself was - and still is - devoted prayer* (**Luke 5:16-17; Hebrews 7:24-25**). Jesus is a model of devotion to prayer. In the midst of busyness, He would often withdraw to desolate places to make time to pray. Even up to this day,

Jesus is interceding for us. In the same way He prayed for Peter and the other disciples, Jesus prayed even for future believers.

3. *Early Christians were devoted to prayer* (**Acts 2:42**). Prayer is the object of the discipline, persistence and perseverance of early believers. As Christians, it should also be part of our key results area (KRA) in our spiritual discipline.
4. *All believers have been set apart for prayer* (**1 Peter 2:5**). The Bible says that once upon a time we were dead in our transgressions and sins, but by the grace of God we were made alive. We are now living stones which collectively are being made into a spiritual house. We are created to have a relationship with God and are set apart for prayer.

How then should we pray?

1. *With Confidence* (**Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 John 5:14-15**). This does not mean praying with self-confidence or being presumptuous, it means having confidence based on the Word of God. Jesus Himself went through the pains and sufferings far beyond what we experience and this gives us confidence that He knows exactly what we are going through. Because of this, we can also have confidence when we pray according to the will of God which we can find in the Bible.
2. *With Confession* (**Psalms 66:18-19**). Sin puts a strain in our relationship with God. If we stay in sin, it will jam our communication with God and prevent our prayers from being heard. But if we humbly come to confess our sins, God will listen and He will answer. Confession means to agree with God that He is right and we are wrong. Turning Scriptures into prayer, like the one in

WORD (cont'd)

Psalm 139:23–24, can help us to prayerfully confess.

3. *With Consideration for Others* (**1 Peter 3:5–7; Matthew 5:23–24**). Our inter-personal relationships have a direct impact on our prayer life. Before praying, we need to be reconciled first with people who have something against us.
4. *With Consistency* (**1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6**). If we are not consistent, then there is no discipline. We should always be in a prayerful attitude. Our love for God should also reflect our love to dwell in His presence through an attitude of prayer.
5. *With Compassion* (**Ephesians 6:8**). Having compassion means realizing that other people have problems too. We should pray for others

with sympathy and empathy as we relate with their experiences. We should pray for all people, church leaders, the authorities, those who need to be saved (**1 Timothy 2:1–4**) and even our enemies (**Matthew 5:44–45**).

6. *As One Community* (**2 Chronicles 20:3–4, 13**). We should gather as one church to pray for one another according to the will of God. We should make prayer not just an event or a part of our regular activities but as a way of life.

The Bible teaches us that we are to discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness (**1 Timothy 4:7–8**). Godliness is having the appropriate response to who God is. It is living a life of spiritual maturity towards becoming more like Christ and this includes loving others by praying for them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Prayer Devotion.** What should we devote ourselves to according to **Colossians 4:2**?
2. **Prayer Life.** How is your prayer life? What are the benefits of praying in your spiritual growth?
3. **Prayer List.** Who are the specific people you would like to pray for this year? How will you pray for them?

WORKS

PERSONAL MISSION AND VISION

Our mission in CCF is “To honor God and to make Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers”. It is the command of Jesus to His disciples (**Matthew 28:19–20**).

Our vision for CCF is what we prayerfully anticipate as the result of our mission: “To see a movement of millions of Christ-Committed Followers who are making Christ-Committed Followers, meeting in small groups, transforming lives, families, communities and nations, all for the glory of God”.

As you begin the new year, this is the best time to ask what your personal mission and vision is in accordance with the CCF mission and vision?

Your mission defines why you exist; it is the reason for your being.

Your vision is what you anticipate to achieve as a result of fulfilling your mission.

Write down your responses then share them with your small group leader.

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