



CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Chronicle

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Weekly Bulletin

May 6, 2012

Intimacy with God and

The Thorns of Life

As we walk with the Lord, we will encounter obstacles. The apostle Paul was no exemption. He, too, experienced pain and suffering in what he described as a thorn in his flesh (2 Cor 12:7).

Thorns reveal the level of our intimacy with God. At the same time, thorns are also means of intimacy. Trials are part of human experience, and there are two possible responses when we are faced with pain and trials: either we become bitter and drift farther away from God or we become better by drawing nearer to Him. We must learn how to handle the thorns of life.

The apostle Paul considered his thorn a blessing. The Bible does not exactly say what Paul was suffering from. He might had a physical ailment, which caused him a great deal of discomfort (Gal 4:13-14). On the other hand, his thorn might have been people who caused him distress (Phil 1:17). Whatever it is, there is one thing we can be sure of: Paul knew that God was using this thorn to keep him from being proud (2 Cor 12:7).

Intimacy with God develops in us an eternal perspective on circumstances. We recognize that there are no accidents in the life of God's people – that things happen for a purpose – and that God's ultimate purpose for us His children is Christ-likeness.

Paul was honest enough to turn to God and plead with Him three times to take his pain away (2 Cor 12:8). Distress and suffering remind us that we are not in control. But the question is: Whom do we run to?

Only through a closer fellowship with the Lord can we make sense of our experiences and enjoy His peace despite all trouble. In fact, anything that will make us draw closer to God is a blessing.

However, God did not answer Paul's prayer the way he would have wanted it. God's reply to Paul was a 'NO' and He offered no explanation. But He gave him the promise of His grace: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." (2 Cor 12:9).

God's children do not live by explanation but by faith. Indeed, it was enough for Paul to know that God's grace was more than enough for him to do everything that God asks him to do. Through his thorn, Paul was constantly reminded that he needed to depend on God for strength. When we allow God to use our weaknesses, He is glorified.

What are the thorns in your life? Are you wasting your time and energy fighting off these thorns? The truth is, there are thorns that will stay in your life forever no matter how hard you try to get rid of them. But the key is surrender. Embrace the thorns in your life wholeheartedly and thank God for them, trusting that God is sovereign and good.

Thorn are opportunities to be intimate with God and to glorify Him. Our weaknesses can be our strength provided that we surrender them to God. God is inviting you to offer your weaknesses to Him in exchange of His

	Weekly Activities	DGroup Malaybalay	DGroup Valencia, CMU & Alanib
Monday	Office Closed	<u>Small Group with Celsa</u> @ Ayala's residence 7 pm mixed group	<u>Dgroup Jzone CMU</u> @ CMU Campus 6 pm Leaders <u>Small Group with Lingling and Rose</u> @ Hagkol, Valencia 6 pm
Tuesday	Office Hours: 8:00am to 5:00 pm	<u>Small Group with Celsa</u> @ CCF Center 5:00 pm <u>Dgroup with Donald & Marie</u> @ Antipasado's Residence 6:00 pm Mixed <u>Small Group with Lloyd and Ann</u> @ Mint Leaf Cafe 7:00 pm Young Couples	<u>Dgroup with Mulong & Inday</u> @ Hagkol 6:30 pm Couples
Wednesday	Office Hours: 8:00am to 5:00 pm Prayer Watch 5:30-6:30 pm	<u>Bible Study with Francis</u> @ Tinsay Farm 11:00 am Employees <u>Small Group with Necy</u> @ SS Room 6:30 pm Mixed	<u>Small Group with Neil & Malou</u> @ MKAVI Alanib – 5 pm
Thursday	Office Closed	<u>Men's Group with Neil</u> @ Abejuela Residence 7 am <u>DGroup with Norenz & Eileen</u> @ Gamo Residence 7 pm <u>DGroup with Titot & Necy</u> @ Fortich Residence 7 pm	<u>Bible Study with Tino</u> @ Valencia 6 pm <u>Dgroup with Rory & Dawn</u> @ 19 th Tee, Malingon 7:00 pm
Friday	Office Closed	<u>Women's Group with Elaine</u> @ Tinsay's Residence 2 pm <u>DGroup with Cocoi & Cynthia</u> @ BB Café 6:30 pm	<u>DGroup JZone High Valencia</u> @ Michael's Batchoy 6:00 pm
Saturday	Music Ministry Practice 5:00 pm – Instrumentalists 6:00 pm – Instrumentalists and Singers	<u>DGroup With Joel</u> @ Damasco's Residence 10am	<u>DGroup with Raffy</u> @ CCF Alanib 2 pm <u>DGroup JZone Alanib</u> With Ken and Bonie @ Jariol's Residence 4:00 pm
Sunday	<u>Visayan Worship</u> Sunday School Hall 8:00 am – 9:30 am <u>NxtGen</u> Sunday School Rooms 10:00 – 11:30 am <u>English Worship</u> Worship Hall 10:00 am – 11:30 am	<u>Men's Bible Study with Titot</u> @ Quadra 2 pm <u>DGroup with Bernard & Angie</u> @ Bukidnon Brew Cafe 2:00 pm Mixed <u>D12 with Neil and Malou</u> @ Pal-ing, Malaybalay	<u>Visayan Worship</u> CCF Alanib 10:00 am – 11:30 am <u>English Worship</u> Valencia Worship Hall 10:00 am – 11:30 am <u>D12 with Rory and Dawn</u> @ Hagkol 2:00 pm

*** To all DGroup and Bible Study leaders: Please update your schedules in the church office

Our mission is to make committed Christ's followers who will make committed Christ's followers

God's Gift of Eternal Life is for YOU!



GOD LOVES YOU and desires that you: Have eternal life with Him.

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

Have an abundant and meaningful life.

"Jesus said, '... I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.'" John 10:10

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

Man has a SIN problem that SEPARATES him from GOD.

Everyone has sinned. "... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23

The penalty for sin is DEATH. "For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 (also ESV, NIV)

The Bible talks about two kinds of death. The first death is **physical**. The second death is **spiritual** or eternal separation from God.

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and ALL LIARS, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death." Revelation 21:8

Since sin separates man from God, what is the solution to his problem?

JESUS CHRIST is God's ONLY way to heaven.

He is the ONLY way. "Jesus said... 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" John 14:6

He COMPLETELY PAID the penalty of your sins.

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all your sins." Colossians 2:13 *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."* 1 Peter 3:18

The RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST assures us of Eternal Life.

Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

His resurrection proves that He is the Son of God, the Messiah, the only Savior.

"... Concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord..." Romans 1:3-4

Jesus promises Eternal Life.

"Jesus said '... I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die..." John 11:25-26

However, merely knowing what Jesus Christ has done for us is not enough.

We must place our FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST to save us.

You are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

To be saved by faith means to **TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE** to save you. Good works are not the means to salvation; rather, they are the byproducts or evidence of your salvation.

2. Prove the sincerity of your faith by turning away from a life of sin.

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. A person who genuinely asks for forgiveness will seek to change his ways." Acts 26:20 (NIV)

God knows we are not perfect, but the sincerity of our faith will move us to live lives that show our gratitude to God for His free gift of heaven.

You can pray this simple prayer to express your faith in Jesus Christ and to receive Him into your heart as your Lord and Savior. You only have to pray this prayer once, but with sincerity, because when He enters your life, he will never leave you.

PRAYER: Lord, Jesus Christ... I admit I am sinner, I confess and I repent of all my sins. I believe by faith that You, Jesus, died for my sins, You were buried and You rose again from the dead. I claim Your promise of forgiveness and accept Your gift of eternal life. I thank You for dying on the cross for my sins, I thank You for forgiving my sins and I thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

Our CCF Branches

METRO MANILA	LUZON	VISAYAS+ MINDANAO	INTERNATIONAL
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CCF Lantapan

MKAVI Compound, Alanib, Lantapan, Bukidnon

Be part of God's Ministry!

Sign Up ▶



If you are interested, please ask your DGroup Leader or thru Norenz.



Not DGroup member yet?

Choose your most convenient schedule and let us know through the church office so that we can usher you to your desired group. Let us **GROW** together in a small group.

