### I. GOD LOVES YOU and desires that you:

**1. 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

**2. 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…

### II. Man has a SIN problem that SEPARATES him from GOD.

**1. Everyone has sinned. “**… For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God….” Romans 3:23 (also ESV, NIV)

**2. 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

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

### III. JESUS CHRIST is God’s ONLY way to heaven.

**1. 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

**2. He COMPLETELY PAID the penalty of your sins.**

“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

**3. 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

**4. He 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.

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

**1. 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. Show your faith in Jesus Christ by accepting His gift of eternal life.**

“[Jesus says,] ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.’” Revelation 3:20

Jesus says that He will come into your heart if you invite Him in. That is His promise to you, and He will always keep His promise!

**3. 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, 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 all my sins. Please come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. I accept your free gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you for coming into my life and giving me eternal life. Amen.



Prayer and faith are inseparable. Why do we pray? Because we believe in God and that He listens to our prayers. Because God commands us to pray. When we work, we work. When we pray, God works. It is by God’s grace that our prayers are heard and answered. How does God answer our prayers?

**God answers with a “Yes.”** When He does, it means He will do it His way. And His ways are not necessarily our ways (Isaiah 55:8).

For centuries, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. For 400 years they cried out to the LORD in prayer, asking for freedom. God answered with a “Yes!” His way to answer their prayer was to call a runaway murderer named Moses: *“Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt”* (Exodus 3:10).

Did Moses respond with joy and gratefulness to answered prayer? No. He questioned God’s way. *“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt’”* (Exodus 3:11)? Moses was saying, "Thank You, Lord, for listening to our prayer, but please don’t use me. I am not capable. I am not eloquent. Who am I to go in front of Pharaoh, the richest and most powerful man in this country? Answer my prayer, Lord, but do not use me. Do it my way, not Yours."

Are you like Moses, insisting God answers your prayer your way, forgetting that His love and wisdom for us is complete?

When God says “Yes,” do you say “No, the cost is too great” like the ten spies sent to scout the Promised Land (Numbers 13:31)? In Joshua 3:13, the flooded river Jordan did not recede until the priests carrying the ark stepped into it. Are you reluctant to take the first step of faith? Do you pray for healing in your relationships but refuse to assume the humility of apologizing?

All of us have experienced answered prayers. Often, though, we forget them. Luke tells the story of ten lepers, all miraculously cleansed by Jesus. Only one came back and *“fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. Jesus said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? The nine—where are they’”* (Luke 17:12-17)? Are we quick to forget God’s faithfulness and grace?

At one point the disciples quarreled among themselves because they were hungry. Jesus said *“Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand”* (Mark 8:14-21)? Can you relate?

Are you praying for the salvation of a loved one? Are you asking God to change the heart of that person? To divinely intervene with indubitable miracles in his life? But God is saying, “To answer your prayer, I want to use you.” Instead of responding with “I am not eloquent; I may not be able to answer his questions well,” try trusting in God to use you. You have Christ’s Spirit in you. He will give you the wisdom and the means to obey Him.

**God’s answer is “Wait.”** When we find it hard to wait, it may be because we do not know when the answer is coming. Or, because we really do not know what we are waiting for. Living in a world of instants — coffee, noodles, fast food, instant messaging — we have learned to frown upon waiting. We find we are okay to wait as long as we know when the answer is coming. But it is no longer fine we do not know.

Most of the time, when you and I are waiting for something and God says “Wait,” what we wait for is God’s “yes.” The truth is, for all our waiting, God can still say “No.” We should not assume that God’s “Wait” is as good as a delayed “Yes.”

A CCF Weekly Bulletin

**June 21, 2009 189th Edition**

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## Romans 8:28

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ([ESV](http://www.esv.org))

Saul was a king who did not know what it meant to wait. In 1 Samuel, the prophet Samuel had just anointed Saul king over the nation of Israel. At that time, they were at war with the Philistines.

God’s instructions were for Saul to wait seven days for Samuel. Samuel, as God’s high priest, would perform rites for the burnt and peace offerings.

Saul stayed at Gilgal, and his men were trembling with fear. He waited there seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him earlier, but Samuel still didn’t come. Saul realized that his troops were rapidly slipping away. So he demanded, *“Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings”* (1 Samuel 13.7-9)! Saul didn’t wait. He sacrificed the burnt offering himself. The consequences were drastic.

*“Samuel said to Saul, ‘You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you’”* (1 Samuel 13:13-14).

Inability to wait also occurred among the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked them to keep watch and pray. But he found them sleeping.

When God tells us to wait, do we become impatient? Grumble? Lose heart and give up? Go ahead of God and take matters into our own hands?

*“Rest in the LORD”* we are admonished in Psalm 37:7. *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10). The stillness is a prerequisite to knowing God.

*“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day”* (2 Corinthians 4:16).

What should take up our time while we wait? Prayer is number one. *“I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope,”* sang the psalmist (Psalm 130:5). *“My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning. Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning"* (Psalm 130:6). God tells us to wait expectantly because Jesus is more reliable than the sunrise.

Wait with childlike expectation, trusting your Father to meet you and your need in His perfect timing, wisdom, understanding, power and love.

**God says, “No.”** Prayer and faith are inseparable. Faith without prayer is just believing in yourself. Prayer without faith is just babbling some words.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego’s faith were tested by fire. Because of their fervent prayer life to God and their refusal to bow down to idolatry, King Nebuchadnezzar sentenced them to be thrown into a blazing furnace.

*“The three men replied, ‘Your Majesty, we don’t need to defend ourselves. The God we worship can save us from you and your flaming furnace. But even if He doesn’t, we still won’t worship your gods and the gold statue you have set up’”* (Daniel 3:16-18). Whatever the outcome, their faith rested firmly in God.

Imagine how much God can use a person who trusts Him completely. Whatever the Lord’s reply is — yes, no, wait — the person chooses to obey. Our faith rests in Jesus, not in our circumstances or the outcome of our prayer requests.

*“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”* (Romans 8:28).

**God works.** Even when He says no to our requests and we don’t see why, we must trust that God knows what He is doing.

### CCF Vision Statement

Our vision is to see a movement of millions of committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ meeting in small groups, transforming: Lives, Families, Communities and Nations for the Glory of God!

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… And counting!

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| **Branch** | **Time** |
| St. Francis Square 5th Floor Auditorium | 8:00-9:00 A.M. |
| 10:00-11:30 A.M. |
| 12:00-1:30 P.M. |
| 3:00-5:00 P.M. (Filipino) |
| 6:00-7:30 P.M. |
| [Alabang](http://www.ccf-alabang.org) | 8:00-9:30 A.M. |
| 10:00-11:30 A.M. |
| 12:00-1:30 P.M. |
| 3:30-5:00 P.M. (Filipino) |
| [Cagayan de Oro](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#cdo) | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN. |
| 4:30-6:00 P.M. |
| [Cavite](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#cavite) | 8:00-9:30 A.M. |
| 10:00-11:30 A.M. |
| [Cebu](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting/ccf-cebu) | 10:00 P.M. - 12:00 NN (Ayala Cinema 2) |
| [Davao](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting/ccf-davao) | 10:00-11:30 A.M. |

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| --- | --- |
| **Branch** | **Time** |
| [Isabela](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#isabela) | 9:00-11:00 A.M. |
| [Malaybalay](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#malaybalay)/ Alanib | 10:00 A.M. -12:00 NN |
| [Malolos](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#malolos) | 7:30-9:30 A.M. |
| 9:30-11:30 A.M. |
| [Marikina](http://www.ccfmarikina.com) | 9:30-11:30 A.M. |
| [Marilao](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#marilao) | 8:00-10:00 A.M. |
| [Pampanga](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#pampanga) | 10:00-12:00 A.M. |
| [Pasig](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting#pasig) | 8:00-10:00 A.M. |
| 3:30-5:30 P.M. |
| [Singapore](http://www.ccf-singapore.org) | 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN |
| [Taytay](http://www.ccf.org.ph/about-us/branches-church-planting/ccf-taytay) | 8:30-10:00 A.M. |
| 10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN |



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Kindly make your comments and suggestions

Making Christ Committed Follower who will make Christ Committed Follower who will make Christ Committed Follower…