

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life with Him**.

John 3:16 "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."

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

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to **save** you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "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, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Portraits of Love-driven Obedience: The Dependent Disciple (2 Chron. 14:1-15)

Anxiety is prevalent in our workplaces, schools, and homes. At work or in school, we are bombarded with deadlines, excessive expectations, and other pressures. Sadly, we bring our stress and anxiety when we go back home. On some days, we are irritable or sullen when we join the family for dinner. When we go to bed, we can hardly sleep, anxious about what tomorrow will bring.

People who lived in the kingdom of Judah after Solomon's reign must have also lived in anxiety because wars dominated their landscape back then. One of the kings of Judah was Asa. Ten years after he became king, an Ethiopian general named Zerah marched against him with a one-million-strong army supported by chariots. King Asa only had about 580,000 men. In this desperate situation, *Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you"* (2 Chronicles 14:11, ESV). There is strong faith in this prayer. There is heavy reliance on God for deliverance. How did Asa get to this point of his spiritual life to depend on God and not on man's strategies or methods? Listen, the antidote to anxiety is God-dependence. What are the means to becoming God-dependent?

1. By seeking God through keeping His Word

For the first 10 years of Asa's reign, there was rest in the land (v. 1). During this time of rest and peace, King Asa and his people prospered as they sought God (v. 7). Rest and peace are blessings from God. They allow us to mend and heal, to be made whole again, to build capacity, and to grow stronger. This time of rest does not mean taking a vacation and forsaking the pursuit of God. It means letting the Lord strengthen you as you seek Him wholeheartedly through His Word. Asa commanded Judah *to keep the law and the commandment* (v. 4b). In accordance with passages in Scripture that warn God's people against worshipping gods other than Yahweh, *Asa took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim* (v. 3).

How important is God's Word in our lives as we seek the Lord? We can only gain confidence and certainty in what we do if we are standing on God's Word. As the Psalmist says, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path* (Psalm 119:105). The anchor of our decisions should be God's Word, not our life experiences, opinions, or ideas. So, we must study God's Word.

2. By seeking God by removing hindrances to such pursuit

If the pagan places of worship (the high places) remained in Judah, it would have been easy for God's people to be tempted to make offerings to idols in the high places and then present also their offerings to Yahweh. This would have been an abomination to the Lord (Jeremiah 7:9-10). The people of God cannot serve two masters. Our Lord tells his disciples the same thing in Matthew 6:24 — *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."*

Portrait of a Love-Driven Obedience: The Dependent Disciple (cont'd)

Are there things that hinder you from seeking the Lord? A sinful relationship? A questionable business practice? Pornography? An addiction to games or social media? How many hours each day do you spend on Facebook? How many hours each day do you spend reading and meditating on God's Word, and praying?

3. By seeking God through prayer

In his prayer, Asa addressed the Lord as "our God". There is that covenant relationship there. He was praying as someone who knew God. Notice also that he acknowledged God's sovereign rulership and eternal power when he prayed in verse 11, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty" (NIV) and "let no mortal prevail against you" (NRSV). His prayer also demonstrated his unequivocal dependence on God — "Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude" (ESV). God heard Asa's prayer and granted him victory (vv. 12-15).

Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, when troubles come, we turn to God in prayer to acknowledge His sovereignty, His power, and His rulership, and to express our deep dependency on Him. What is your natural tendency when troubles or obstacles come? Do you rely on yourself, or do you immediately turn to prayer? Our Lord Jesus demonstrated a prayerful life while He was in the flesh. We must do no less.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Want to be a CCF Member? Please email contact@ccfvancouver.org so you can receive a membership form. You can also download the membership form at ccfvancouver.org.

A Discipleship Group or D-Group is a great opportunity to meet regularly with a small group of people from CCF to study the bible, pray and support each other. Connect with us at contact@ccfvancouver.org and we will find a group for you.

Praise and Worship Team... Can you sing or play a musical instrument, and are available to serve with the Praise and Worship Team at least once a month? We'd love you to join us. Email us at contact@ccfvancouver.org.

An Invitation to Share Your Story. Would you like to encourage one another, and give honor and glory to God through your personal testimony? Email Bryan Pinpin at ebpinpin@gmail.com.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to www.ccfvancouver.org/give/ to donate.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship ♦ Praise and worship ♦ Children dismissal ♦ Sermon ♦
Response song ♦ Benediction



There will be a special meeting on **Sunday, October 15, 2017** at 11:30 am. The Church Nominating Committee will submit the names of nominees to the Board of Directors/Council of Servants for approval/affirmation by the membership. We look forward to your presence



Name _____ Phone/Email _____

Prayer Request/Answered Prayer

Please drop in tithe boxes