



13 Feb 2022

God's Greatest Desire for Every Believer

Ephesians 3:14-19

Anniversary Worship Service

10:00 AM • Live In-Person and Online

Together in Worship

Together In Celebration

Together In Praise

Together In Stewardship

Together In Prayer

Together As Salt And Light

Together In The Word

Dr. Larry Pabiona

Together In Hope

Family Zoom Fellowship

3:00 PM • VIA Zoom

Worship Service Re-broadcast

5:00 PM • Live Online

The Shepherd's Voice

Anniversary Special Edition

by Dr. Larry P. Pabiona,
GCF Ortigas Senior Pastor



Happy Anniversary, GCF Family!

Today, we celebrate God's Constant Faithfulness to our church family. Forty-four years ago, in an evangelistic event on Valentine's Day, GCF was born at Club Filipino, "Greenhills." That's the origin of the name that has followed us in Ortigas and worldwide.

While the world projects pessimistic post-pandemic scenarios, by God's grace, we used this pandemic situation to reset the church. We have a more outward focus now, beginning with a dedicated Pastor for church planting, Pastor Ed Trono; then a Pastor for Mercy Ministry, Pastor Bong Durana. We continue that outward intention this 2022 with a year-long focus on "witnessing" driven by our passionate head for Disciple-Making, Pastor BJ Sebastian, as we partner with Evangelism Explosion for church-wide equipping in evangelism.

Related to this, you may wonder why we continued our Ephesians series today instead of having a special Anniversary message (we had a Christmas series in December and our annual "Clear the Air" series in January). It's because our passage today jives neatly with our theme for the year, "Come Home to Christ." Like Paul prayed, may we comprehend together as a church the love of Christ and show it to one another! It starts with regathering. If it's safe and accessible for you, we hope to see you in person every Sunday from hereon.

GCF website is launched today in beta version (gcf.org.ph)

In the Service today, we'll show how you can access our completely revamped website. It was updated to meet both current realities and future needs.

"Beta" means that not all functionalities are there, but we are releasing it already for you to get a feel and so that you can get used to it this early. Rest assured: it won't stay "beta"; it will get better.

The GCF Family's Hour of Prayer

We praise God for a regular group of praying GCFers every Thursday at 8:00 PM for nearly two years now. It's beautiful to see these dedicated people interceding for the same requests, and so great to realize that we've become a more prayerful church.

It took a pandemic to get us here, but who's complaining? After all, "we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).





TODAY'S MESSAGE • FEBRUARY 13, 2022

God's Greatest Desire for Every Believer

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

Christ is our home.

In Him, we find
acceptance,
forgiveness,
and strength.
In His family,
we build each
other up,
not tear each
other down.

One of the greatest hindrances to enjoying Christian life is the failure to realize and appreciate the immenseness of God's love. This affects you personally and interpersonally. But when a Christian starts to live out this prayer of Paul, he blesses not just himself or his family and friends. He blesses even the church – God's family. The church then, both as a community and as individuals, goes out and blesses the rest of the world. Until then, we can't tell the world to enjoy what we haven't.

As we celebrate **God's Constant Faithfulness** to our church, let us look at how this prayer reflects the heart of God for us, His GCF family:

1. The **MEANS** to Appreciate God's Love (Ephesians 3:14-17a)

- It takes the power of God's Spirit for us to appreciate the love of God truly. It is something to pray for AND labor for because God's Spirit and God's Word never work apart from each other (Colossians 3:16; Galatians 5:16, 25). That's how Christ lives out His life in us. Let's pray, study the Bible, and apply it so that God's Spirit can work in us.

2. The **MAGNITUDE** of God's Love (Ephesians 3:17b-19a)

- As God's love becomes real for us, it stabilizes us. But the love of God is never appreciated in isolation but always as part of a family, the church. In giving and receiving love within the church, we come to know a love that cannot be faked, that God's love is real.
 - What if, instead of fighting other Christians, we used the same effort to witness to non-Christians? (John 13:35)
 - Draw close to those whom God has drawn close to Himself. The danger of missing church is that you eventually don't. But the person you hurt most is you (Hebrews 10:24-25).





God’s Way to Heaven

● **THE GOSPEL**

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

● **THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).

● **THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST**

Christ is the expression of God’s love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:18).

● **WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: If you confess. With your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

● **PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner, I believe that you died on the cross in my place, save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

That’s why it requires the power of God. The Spirit of God will use the Word of God for us to realize and appreciate in day-to-day experience the love of God.

3. The MATURITY that Comes from Appreciating God’s Love (Ephesians 3:19b)

- We need to personally experience what God made available to the church (Ephesians 1:23). Christ is fully ours from the moment He saves us. But we are being gradually filled with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) as we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16).
- An empty life is disappointing and dangerous; if God’s Spirit does not fill us, the spirit of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2) goes to work, and we fall into sin.

Final Thoughts

We can’t mature spiritually until God empowers us to grasp the immenseness of the love of Christ.

Christ is our home. In Him, we find acceptance, forgiveness, and strength. In His family, we build each other up, not tear each other down. As we appreciate and experience the staggering reality of His love, we begin to live out the life that God has called us to live, filled with love and truth, giving us inner joy and peace. There’s no other way to live the Christian life. Come Home to Christ.

HAPPY 44th ANNIVERSARY, GCF!

Download the study guide:



bit.ly/GCFStudyGuides



Worship Through Giving



God loves a cheerful giver.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Efforts

You may also give to support the church family’s COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate **“For COVID-19 Fund”** when you email your transaction document.

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name:
Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO
BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: 000661590216

METROBANK
Ortigas Sapphire
Savings Account: 629-3-62919733-9

CHINA BANK
Ortigas ADB
Savings Account: 1112-02006218

BPI
Ortigas Emerald
Peso Savings Account: 9823 0217 01

UNIONBANK
UB Plaza
Checking Account: 0005-9001-0426

ROBINSONS BANK
Main Office
Savings Account: 1000-3010-0017-355

PAYPAL
Please visit gcf.org.ph/give



Let’s Help Typhoon Odette Victims

GCF Ortigas is now accepting CASH donations for the victims of Typhoon Odette. As a church family, let’s come together and show God’s love in this time of need.

Donate via the official GCF giving channels (**www.gcf.org.ph/give**). Email a copy of your transaction slip to **finance@gcf.org.ph** with the subject **“Typhoon Odette”**.

For in-kind donations and other inquiries, email **mercy@gcf.org.ph**