

Genuine Pursuit

When reflecting on my life, I realize how often I am passive in my faith. I willingly choose other things above Him, actively pursuing my hobbies, my goals, all while saying “I love God,” but not putting Him first. Despite this, God has been revealing to me how faith extends into every aspect of my life, how I can’t compartmentalize this faith, and how I CAN ACTIVELY pursue a deeper faith and genuinely run to God, exclaiming, “I love you, Lord.”

You might resonate with this mentality, and struggle with it too - you are not alone! But how can we change? I believe it begins with a **genuine desire for change**, for revelation, to **actively seek Him**. What is amazing about this faith is that God, who is Almighty and perfect, has already made the first step.

Ephesians 4:11-16

God Gives Us PURPOSE

*¹¹ And **He gave** some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the **equipping** of the saints for the work of service, to the **building** up of the body of Christ;*

God gives each of us different gifts, interests and skills. Recognizing all these are God-given helps me to remember that we are all unique and have something different to bring to the table. Diversity is what makes fellowship and community special. We are all different, so we’ll surely live out our faith in different ways. We can use our different gifts to equip others, and look for help to be equipped. To build up this body of Christ together with our unique gifts is a purpose that we have in this season of school, a purpose that is uniquely and joyfully lived out at CCF.

We Have a Goal

*¹³ **until** we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

What are we running to? What are we pursuing? A deeper understanding of God. To mature in our ways of thinking about who God is and to ultimately know Him. He is so complex, and people connect to and understand him in such different ways.

In the past 2 years, I have engaged in conversations with people that have interests in different fields of study, different backgrounds growing up and with older and younger people who have had different experiences just living life. Listening to them ask about topics that I, who was born and raised in the church, don’t often question has made me want to gain a more mature understanding of God. For example, what does it mean to love God? How can some people believe in God if their exposure to Christianity was filled with violence and horror? Further, hearing how their understanding of God has affected the way they view social issues, take care of the earth and spend their money has made me realize I often compartmentalize my faith, not realizing how God’s Words apply in every circumstance. These questions have challenged me to dig deeper into God’s Word, and to make an attempt to gain a fuller understanding. Therefore, I intend to bring such conversations back into CCF, in hopes that we will begin to ask hard questions, evaluate our lives, admit we don’t know it all, explore the topics less discussed and attain the “knowledge of the Son of God.”

Jessie Gui
Chair

There Will Be Challenges

*¹⁴ As a result, we are **no longer to be children**, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*

Having these conversations, whether with Christians or not, can be tough. Discussing topics that might not be well received, that might challenge the fundamental truths and beliefs we have of God (e.g. God is good) can shake us. But, this is where we need to take a step back and remember to learn first; to think critically, we must first be equipped.

A big part of being equipped is knowing God's Word, finding a passion to study it in-depth, to want to know what the Lord inspired in the authors to say to us. Understanding His Word keeps us on the right path as we continue to run to Him. But what happens when we don't understand? Same as with anything! Being curious and asking questions, searching for answers, then challenging the things we hear: these are all part of the journey.

The Community of Christ

*¹⁵ but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Speaking the truth in love. This can involve many different things! First, the ability to tell others that we don't understand, that we doubt, that we are struggling, are all important. Being honest in our journeys of faith allows us to be vulnerable so others can see that no one is perfect. In my own walk, being vulnerable is the hardest thing. It is hard in our individualistic culture to admit that we're struggling and need help. But having people speak truth to me in return, and reminding me of God's Word that shows his love, his forgiveness, and our purpose, brought much needed accountability into my life. I firmly believe that accountability from genuine fellowship plays a big role in pursuing God more.

Being able to share about our struggles help us to de-compartmentalize our faith and fellowship, moving from a Friday night and CCF Ministry thing to a daily discussion "in all aspects" of our lives.

My hope is for CCF to be a fellowship that actively pursues God in all aspects. COME, let's run together. =)

Personal Evaluation

What are one or two strengths (skills/qualities) you possess, and how have you demonstrated these in the past?

One strength would be that I am an active planner: in schedules, meals, and budgeting. Being able to plan ahead of time is an asset that has helped me greatly in being able to lead my IG last year and Women's Ministry this year. Another strength is being considerate. I feel that I have often had a desire to take care of others, to ensure their wellbeing and safety. A simple way of demonstrating this is by making sure people get home safe, messaging them about their weeks, and asking how I could support them better.

What weakness do you possess that may hinder you in your chosen role, and how will you commit to improving in this area while you are serving on committee?

One weakness I have is being impatient. I sometimes get easily frustrated and feel annoyed, and I become quick to speak and slow to listen. This can be a problem as patience is necessary when leading with so many diverse individuals who all have different experiences and perspectives. I hope that if I am given the opportunity to serve on committee, I can actively work on having a gentle and quiet spirit, and to attempt to understand people and where they are coming from.

What can you personally offer to help the other members of committee in their difficulties next year? What is your personal commitment to ensure that committee works well together as a team?

There are many forms of difficulties that will potentially come next year. An inevitable one is conflict. I feel that on committee I can be an asset in being able to listen, discuss but also confront when necessary. I am not afraid of conflict, and I view them as necessary road bumps that only strengthen the team when we are honest about the way that we feel and actively work together to figure out how to solve the issue at hand. Another difficulty would be to make sure that every voice is heard and that no one dominates. In a group of 8, this is easy to occur, but encouraging people to speak up and making sure that all opinions are accounted for is important. I think this can ultimately come from a place of comfort, so encouraging the committee to trust each other and bond is really important.

If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?

On this road of genuine pursuit, the role of chair is not necessary but can help in encouraging others to join me on the journey. But, I believe that no matter where God leads me to serve next year, I should do so joyfully. If I am not elected, that really doesn't mean anything for my vision! I feel that I can joyfully implement my vision by bringing it up more in conversation, making suggestions to committee, and continue to genuinely pursue God whether as a participant or as a leader in other areas.