

In Awe of God's Love

What is the motivation behind Christians serving God? Why do they strive to love others? It was not till recently that I was able to rediscover my drive. Serving as a worship leader in the past year was a rewarding experience where I found a lot of Love, Joy and Peace. Yet it was a taxing commitment filled with many logistical responsibilities, and I often found myself feeling "burnt out". Eventually, I realized that passion-filled devotional and prayer time had become obligations of my faith. Also, I lost my drive in serving the community and committing to my faith.

At this point God intervened; He spoke through His people and my prayer. He challenged my understanding of the Gospel and my intentions behind serving. I was greatly humbled because I realized how unfathomable God's love is and how I needed Him to realign myself with His will. By the grace of God, He reminded me of my drive: Being in Awe of the love of God.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." - 1 John 4: 10-11 (NIV)

In the upcoming year, I want us to experience **God's powerful love** and be **compelled to love**.

Humble Pursuit:

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ" - Philippians 3: 7-8 (NIV)

In our individual journey, there are moments where we experience spiritual highs. In those moments, we are passionate towards God and often devote our time to God through the Word or prayer. However, over time we become confident in our own understanding of God and complacent with our spiritual journey. Eventually, our passion dies down and our interactions with God become a routine; we reach a spiritual low where we lose our purpose and passion. In this time, God intervenes miraculously, which in turn humbles us and realigns us back to Him. Through this, we rediscover our purpose and God's love. Once again we become in awe of this love.

My hope is that every individual in CCF can adopt the humble mindset of constantly being in need of God. We should not put confidence in our own understanding of God or in our image of satisfaction with our spiritual journey. I hope that we would not just be rooted in the Word and live a life of prayer, but that we would see God as the greatest Treasure in our life and strive to pursue Him at all costs. Through the pursuit of God, we can encounter the amazing love of God and be in awe of this love once again.

Overflowing with Love

*“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!” -
Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)*

How incredible is the love of God? The infinite God decided to humble himself and take on the form of a finite being. In this finite form, Christ showed His love for us not just through His words, but through actions - He washed the disciples feet and took responsibility for our sins by dying on the cross. How is there a greater love than this?

Being in awe of God's love, we should be compelled to imitate Christ. Christians have the access to the Spirit of God, and it is by fellowshiping with the Spirit that we are able to love like Christ. Thus, it is my earnest hope that we will be inspired by this sacrificial love and be filled with the Spirit to love one another.

I hope that our fellowship can build each other up in love through actions that are modelled after Christ.

I hope that we can be compelled to love God and one another, and lay down our lives for others.

I hope that we can develop a space within the fellowship that is overflowed with God's love.

Sharing the Good News

The Gospel, which reflects God's love, is the greatest news of our lives. It is in this love, that we are adopted into God's family and we are liberated from sin. If the love of Christ is so amazing, wouldn't it be natural to share the Good News to everyone? Personally, I had the privilege to witness CCF loving one another internally. However, outside of CCF, our fears hold us back and our passion for spreading the Good News grows dim. Although CCF is a small part of God's kingdom, we too are commissioned to make disciples of all nations.

Thus, I hope that CCF can develop a passion in spreading the Good News on the communal and individual level. In order to build our passion, I believe we have to start as a community by encouraging and reminding one another of God's love and our mission. Then, as a fellowship we should continue live out our mission by investing in the UofT community. We need to recognize that CCF is a small part of the body of Christ; there are many other existing fellowships on campus that are part of the same body. It is important for CCF to invest in each

other, learn from each other and build each other up in love. Also, we should increase our fellowship's presence and find opportunities to love our neighbours by humbly serving the UofT community while promoting evangelism and prayer for others. Eventually, I hope through reaching out as a community, individuals can develop a confidence anchored in Christ's love that compels us to share the Good News in our everyday life.

My desire is that we as a community can be in awe of God's love and develop a passion to love God, love others and further the kingdom of God. Thank you, God.