

# The Purpose for Pursuit

This past year, I found myself getting frustrated at God, as struggles and doubts that had previously haunted my thoughts resurfaced. When I turned to God to understand why, He revealed to me that I had grown prideful and apathetic to His love. Out of this came my vision for CCF: in humility, we remember the purpose for our pursuit.

## Our Humble Pursuit

*"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."*

- James 4:7-10 (ESV)

Humility in faith is a constant cycle that all Christians experience. We not only need to adopt a posture of humility when we first admit our need for God in our lives as a new believer, but every day after that as we reaffirm our need for Him. This year, I was again reminded of the necessity of humility. I grew prideful in my abilities, to the point where I thought I didn't need God. I grew prideful in my knowledge of Him, leading me to become stagnant and comfortable in my faith. But knowledge of God is a lifelong pursuit, one that we cannot even accomplish in our lifetime, and it is through the worshipful act of humbly pursuing God that we grow in our relationship with Him.

## God's Constant Pursuit

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?... if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."*

- Psalm 139:7-10 (ESV)

By adopting a posture of humility, we remember what lies at the core of our faith: God's constant pursuit. It's a simple idea, but when we are prideful, we lose sight of our motivation for pursuing Him. It's something we become indifferent towards, causing our faith to grow stale as we follow God solely out of routine or habit. We forget how amazing it is that a God as great as our God would be our Father, never ceasing to chase after us!

## Our Response

When we realize for the first time, or simply remember that God, in all His greatness, actively pursues us, our sole desire should be to know Him more and live a life worthy of His love. My hope is for every individual to be driven to humbly live their lives in worship to God as a reflection of His constant pursuit. In doing so, we as a fellowship will be unified upon the same foundation of God's love and our desire to embody Jesus' example of humility. By recognizing who we are in the midst of God's grace, we work to further His Kingdom together, as equally broken people who need God. Not only this, but we will also encourage and challenge one another to continue seeking Him when our faith becomes passive. May we remember and be in awe of His pursuit as the motivation for ours.

## Practical Implementations

- Reminding ourselves of God's endless pursuit by allotting space during LG to share and reflect on how we have seen God in our lives

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- Emphasizing the importance of Scripture in LG as a way to know God more (e.g. scripture reading before/during musical worship)
- Providing a space for people to come humbly before God during musical worship (e.g. time of silence and reflection before/during a set)

## Personal Evaluation

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

One strength that I possess is being easy-going. This definitely helps me when I work with other people, such as in school team projects, because I can handle a lot of personalities and am patient with dealing with those that people may perceive as more difficult. Another strength I have is being a good listener. Whenever someone has a problem or needs someone to talk to, I lend a listening ear and offer them emotional support or advice. These strengths will help me in committee as I work alongside people with varying personalities and as serving will certainly be stressful, I can support my fellow members by listening when needed.

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

A weakness that I have is avoiding conflict. With my desire to work well with everyone, I also try not to confront anyone, even when it might be necessary. Committee is, in the end, a team effort and I know that there will be times when we disagree. In this case, I know I will struggle with confronting others, even if it comes out of love. But I am committed to working on this, and to express my opinions or frustrations when necessary so that we as a committee can lovingly challenge each other.

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

Communication is crucial to making a team work together well and so in this regard, I will be aware of communicating my thoughts and opinions to each member of committee. It's easy to only communicate with certain people on committee, but I believe that in order to work well, we must **all** be open and transparent with each other. I will be vulnerable to my fellow committee members, ensuring that they know how best to support me. In the same regard, I will make a conscious effort to check up on each individual member of committee so that I know how to care for them, or at least have an understanding of what they're going through at the present moment. I believe that this reciprocated transparency will help us know how to support and rejoice with each other and result in easier conflict resolution.

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

If I am not elected to be Worship Coordinator next year, I believe I can still carry out my vision as a participant in CCF. Pride is something I think we all struggle with, perhaps unknowingly, and it is through challenging and reminding one another of God's pursuit and how undeserving we are of it that we are able to humbly approach God. As a participant, I can continue to not only adopt a posture of humility in my own faith, but also encourage my fellow brothers and sisters to remember their purpose in pursuing and worshipping God.