

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 11, 2024
BULLETIN ISSUE #32



SERMON OUTLINE

MOVING FORWARD FROM CHURCH PAINS

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

The church is not a building. It is a group of imperfect people saved, sanctified, secured and called by our perfect God to be part of a local community of believers. There is no such thing as a perfect church. If you are new in the faith, you need to know it is an illusion to think that the church should be free from any problems.

Just like any family, relationship issues in the local church may cause pain among believers. If these issues are not addressed properly, it might give the devil a foothold to cause ungodly talk that could spread like gangrene, affecting the entire church family (2 Timothy 2:16-17). These may lead to division, and much worse, it may cause a split within the church. When this happens, it puts our testimony before the world about Christ on the line

(John 13:34-35; 17:20-23).

There is a need for us to have the right perspective about what the church is all about and why God called us to be part of this local church we consider our spiritual family. Do not be surprised when you experience pain being part of a local church. It is part of our sanctification process. The good news is that Scripture affirms that there is no perfect church. But, despite our imperfections, we should be confident that God will sustain us until the end to fulfill His purposes.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians reveals that the church in Corinth was a perfect example of an imperfect church. It was characterized by division, carnality, sexual immorality, sinful and evil

behavior, and grievances against each other. There are also many issues that Paul needed to address pertaining to marriage, singlehood, food sacrificed to idols, submission to Paul's apostleship, idolatry, religious practices, spiritual gifts, speaking in tongues, resurrection of Christ and collection for the saints. Despite all of these issues, Paul expressed his thanksgiving to God for the Corinthian church!

Similarly, in this sermon, we will be challenged to be thankful for our spiritual family despite its imperfection. And for those who experience church pains, whether from the past or in the present, I pray you can move forward knowing nothing escapes God's sight, and nothing will hinder His purposes. ✨

GOD'S PLAN, NOT MINE.

REV. VINCE SYYAP

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:16-20

Eighteen years ago, I started ministry in GCFSM, facilitating Celebrate Recovery and Missions outreach. I was so content serving in these ministries that I thought I would spend the rest of my life doing the same. But God was preparing me for more. I was not yet a pastor but served with all my heart. After 18 years, the Lord led me to something new. He led me to spearhead the church planting efforts in Alfonso, Metro Tagaytay, Cavite. This is something out of my comfort zone, but I know that this is something that God called me to do. He orchestrated, and He is the one preparing me for His work! Like some of the people who were with Jesus back then, my initial reaction was of doubt and fear. Am I the right person for this task? Is this really what I am called to do?

As I reflect on my life, there were many times I asked God, "Is this

for me?" when he called me to be a pastor in 2008, to be ordained in 2023, and now to plant a church. These are all the things I would have never considered, but they are part of God's purposes for me. So, with a grateful and dependent heart, I submit to Him.

There are many things that I need to learn how to do. This is when I rely on God the most. God has led me to share the gospel with people in different seasons and all walks of life. Yes, I was anxious, but I was confident that He would make a way because this is His work, not mine.

I don't have to know everything – I just have to be willing to submit to Him. In this posture, the Lord has taught me seven lessons in the past months to prepare me for the work in Alfonso.

- Release Control – This is God's plan, not mine. I do not need to control the plan. Trust God's process and plans.
- Experience God Daily – The main goal of the effort is to plant a church in Alfonso. I do not need to be obsessed with it, but instead, enjoy the journey of experiencing God daily!
- God is my Help – I do not know everything about church planting, but what I know is that God is faithful in providing everything I truly need.

- Get ready for battle. It is going to be a challenging task. The enemy will always try to stop me, but the Lord reminds me that the battle is His!
- Put God first – Saying "yes" to God means saying "no" to other things. Following God means dying to self, giving up your dreams and ambitions, realigning your priorities and objectives. God first.
- Depend on God – I am learning to rely on God for every move and every opportunity He opens. God will lead and equip me to do what He wants. He only asks that you trust him and take the first step.
- Saying yes to God is always the best choice – I have struggled many times with things God has called me to do, but not once did I regret saying yes to Him.

I thank the Lord for giving me co-ministers who help and encourage me. I praise God for Pastors Dong, Parkin, Bobot, and the Rizaldes for the essential partnership in doing the Lord's work. I thank God for my wife, Joy, and her invaluable help, service, and encouragement. She is truly my greatest blessing!

In all of this, I have learned and affirm that God's plan is always the best plan! ✨

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Let us continue to be found faithful in our giving.
You may deposit your giving to:

ACCOUNT NAME:
GCF South Metro, Inc.

BDO
BRANCH: MADISON

Current Acct. No:
00650-802-2882

ROBINSONS BANK
BRANCH: LAS PIÑAS, DAANG HARI

Current Acct. No:
174-230-000-138

SECURITY BANK
DOLLAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Dollar Account Number:

0000013183012

Swift Code:

SETCPHMM

Bank Code:

CHIPS UID 010457

SECURITY BANK
BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Current Acct. No:
0000-0063-65400

CHINABANK
BRANCH: AYALA ALABANG

Current Acct. No:
128-195-0910

BPI
BRANCH: ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Current Acct. No:
1591-0091-56