

Prayer

Matt VanCleave

February 11th, 2024

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>

Review Last Week's Next Steps

- I will renew my mind by regularly reading the Bible.
- I will place my life under the authority of the Bible.
- I will ask God to form me spiritually as I read Scripture.
- I will ask God to wash my mind with the Word.
- I will read with a readiness to to what it says.
- I will reflect on Scripture in order to transform my mind.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Enhance Your Life with God's Wisdom, Peace, and Love | Find Guidance and Gratitude
Discover the transformative power of connecting with God in every moment. Learn how to approach God with confidence to receive mercy and help in your time of need.

Explore the core prayer: "God, grant me knowledge of your will for my life and the strength to fulfill it"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this week's sermon, Pastor Matt emphasizes that prayer is a conversation with God (not the use of force, not magic). We need to come out of denial and face up to the "lame excuses we tolerate to live lives of spiritual mediocrity". Why do we need to have conversations with God? And why do some people avoid it?

2. This week's sermon reminds us that faith involves trusting that God knows and sees what we can't - that God's power and goodness are way greater than ours. We are encouraged to pray for "the knowledge of God's will for our lives and the power to carry it out". However, our culture is always telling us to be in control of our lives. How do you reconcile the two or choose one from the other?

3. Please read Hebrews 4:14-16. "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

We are taught, "Approach God's throne of grace with confidence" meaning pray to God who is powerful and sovereign, he offers us forgiveness and love, we are not able but God is. How is prayer different from wishful thinking?

4. Pastor Matt explains prayer is not "Give me this, change her, prevent that, or produce those," rather it asks God to provide knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out. How do we learn to pray, not for things, but for knowledge of God's will?

5. Do you know someone close to you who prays steadfastly every day? Can you share something about that person with the group?

6. In this culture of inflated self-sufficiency and individualism, what actions can you take in your daily life to depend on God?

7. If you decide to live a life seeking God's guidance and His will rather than trusting in your own wisdom and capabilities, take a moment to reaffirm your determination. You can do this in silence.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will pray, “God, please give me knowledge of your will for my life and the power to carry it out.”
- I will not allow my life to become prayer-less striving.
- I will approach God in prayer with confidence.
- I will be still for a few moments in prayer to listen to God speak to me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Psalm 119:55

Prayer Request(s)

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