

when life gets too hard to stand...

Prayer

kneel

Prayer

Today – time of Corporate Prayer around themes

Prayer is both:

Personal – communication with God

Corporate – practiced in community

Joining our hearts in agreement before God

Matt. 18:19-20 “¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Prayer

N.T. Example

Acts 2:42ff “ And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Acts 14:23 “²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

Prayer

1. Prayer of Thanksgiving & Praise

Col 3:15-17 “¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. ***And be thankful.*** ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, ***with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*** ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, ***giving thanks to God the Father through him.***”

Prayer

1. Prayer of Thanksgiving & Praise

Reminder of the Themes of Eph. 1-2

God's Action on my behalf.....

- chosen and adopted
- forgiven and redeemed
- given an inheritance, sealed with Holy Spirit
- eternal future and kindness of God revealed
- made one in Christ – children, citizens of heaven
- bold approach to the Father

Prayer

1. Prayer of Thanksgiving & Praise

God at work in our church...

- Believers are growing in their faith... Loving God and one another
- Believers are doing life together
- People are becoming Christians
- God has been generous to us
- God has given this church unity
- Every spiritual blessing has been given to us (Eph)

Prayer

2. Prayer for One Another

Phil 1:9-11... ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Prayer

2. Prayer for One Another

Phil 1:9-11

- That you may grow in...
 - Love
 - Knowledge
 - Discernment
- So that you may...
 - Approve what is excellent
 - Be pure and blameless
 - Be filled with the fruit of righteousness

Prayer

2. Prayer for One Another

- desired culture here – pray openly, often together
- weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice
- in our body
 - corporate gatherings – prayer for each other
 - community groups – prayer a cornerstone
 - opportunity for elders – anoint & pray
 - for those new believers, those who need covering and encouragement

Prayer

2. Prayer for One Another

Dear Lord:

inflame our love

grant us your knowledge, discernment

fill us with your spirit

grant us the privilege to feel with others

offer to us your protection

speak for we are listening

Prayer

3. Prayer for our Community & Lost Friends

Eph 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- 2 Cor. 5:18-20 – Ambassadors
- Matthew 9:35-38 – Pray for Workers
- Rom. 10:1 “Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”

Prayer

3. Prayer for our Community & Lost Friends

Eph 6:19-20 “and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Prayer

3. Prayer for our Community & Lost Friends

God at Work in our community

- People are coming to know Jesus
- Names on our floor
- Community Group Prayer Jars
- God stories
- Jesus has given you a mission field to shine the light of Christ in the darkness of our community
- 2 Corinthians 4 tells us that Satan has blinded the spiritual eyes of unbelievers

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