



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, October 21, 2018

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PASTORAL PONDERING

Prayer: An Important Spiritual Discipline

Here's an important reality to hold onto, every day we are either becoming more like Jesus or less like him, we do not stay in one place very long. As believers in Jesus Christ, we know that spiritual growth is not an option for us. We are now in union with Christ and being guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit to be transformed into His image for the purpose of communion with God.

What role can prayer play in our spiritual formation and growth? Dr. Tim Keller tells us that, "Prayer is continuing a conversation that God has started through His Word and His grace, which eventually becomes a full encounter with Him. The power of prayer, then, lies not primarily in our effort and striving, or in any technique, but rather in our knowledge and relationship with God."

Of all the spiritual disciplines, prayer is second only to reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word. Prayer is second in importance because it relies heavily on our knowledge of God, which comes directly from reading His Word. Without engagement with Scripture, our prayers are lacking. It's like having a phone conversation in which the other person can hear us, but we can't hear them. There is a very important connection between being a student of the Word (to use a Pastor Tony phrase) and prayer.

If you are like me, it's so easy to start praying for my own list of needs vs. God's will. If prayer is asking God for things agreeable to His will, and the purpose of the discipline is to train us to be godly (1 Timothy 4:7), then the primary purpose of prayer as a spiritual discipline is to help conform our will to God's will. As we study God's Word, meditate on it, when we pray, our will should start to conform to God's will. Our prayer life must be rooted in the following seven words; "*Not my will, but yours be done.*" (Luke 22:42) Man's highest aim should be to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31) and this includes praying according to His will.

How do we know if it is God's will? If the matter we are praying about is covered in a passage of Scripture in which God gives us a command or a direct declaration of His will, then the answer to the question is easy. His will is that we obey His Word. For this reason, knowledge of Scripture is a tremendous help in prayer, enabling us to follow the pattern of the first Christians who quotes Scripture when they prayed. (See Acts 4:25-26) The regular reading and memorization of scripture, cultivates over many years of a Christian life, will increase the depth,

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Children's Nursery Ministry
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PASTORAL PONDERING

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power, and wisdom of his or her prayers. Jesus encourages us to have His words within us as we pray, for He says, *"If you abide in me, and my Word abides in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you"* (John 15:7)

One particular pattern for prayer that many Christians have found helpful, is expressed by the acronym "A.C.T.S.", representing adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication:

Adoration - is an attitude of worship characterized by love and reverence.

Confession - refers to the admission or acknowledgement of our sins before God.

Thanksgiving - refers to offering thanks to God for His grace, love, and daily blessings.

Supplication - is when we come to God and ask for something. Intercession is when we pray for someone else and their needs.

I love the attached two phases by Charles Stanley on the importance of prayer.

- 1) "Remember the shortest distance between a problem and the solution is the distance between our knees and the floor."
- 2) "Prayer is life's greatest time saver."

As we go through the day, prayer should be our first response to every fearful situation, every anxious thought, and every undesired task God command's. A lack of prayer will cause us to depend on ourselves instead of depending on God's grace.

Are you facing a decision in your life that is too big for you to handle? Are you going through a difficulty that has left you confused and disheartened? God said, *"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know"* (Jeremiah 33:3) He will clear away the fog that surrounds your circumstances, He will show you what to do.

Your brother in Christ, Jim Nelson

October Memory Verse

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (ESV)

Fellowship Tip: Share something you just learned from the book of Judges with someone today.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

WELCOME BABY GABRIEL

Let's shower Pastor Bennett and Holly Anderson with diapers for baby Gabriel upon their arrival later this month. Drop your packages of diapers in the collection pale in the entryway.

VIDEO MINISTRY

This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee @ 651-470-4172. We'd love to have you on the team.

LADIES PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Attention Ladies! Starting **Tuesday, October 23rd at the building, from 7-8:30 pm**, and every 4th Tuesday of each month (Christmas exempted), we will be gathering for a time of prayer and worship. I don't know about anyone else, but my soul longs to spend more time in God's presence; to sing his praise with other believers, to have greater unity, and community with the body of Christ. Here are some scriptures about what this is all about. (See Psalm 92:1-5, John 4:24, Matt 18: 18-20, James 5:13-20, Romans 12.) This is simply one more opportunity to practice the things mentioned in these verses. A time dedicated to listen to God and find out what's on his heart. The chance to be prayed for and pray for others. For more information contact Sara Gallagher (715)294-0748 or Sonnet Points (406)871-5063.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP GATHERING

The Fugate family would like to invite all high school students, young adults, their families, and adults from New Life interested in discipleship to gather for fellowship, a time of study and prayer, and a turkey leg dinner on **Sunday, October 28th**. Dinner will start at 5:30, and freshly smoked turkey legs and lemonade will be provided. Guests are invited to bring a dish to pass, but do not that that stand in the way! We will enjoy a nice time for dinner and fellowship from **5:30-6:30 pm**. Following dinner will be a short teaching and study led by Pastor Tony, with prayer and discussion to follow. Activities will wrap up around 7:30. Our address is 2278 Stokley Rd., Milltown, WI 54858. We hope to see you there!

IMMERSE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Immerse **cancelled Wednesday October 31!** This is due to conferences that the pastors are attending and also, to give opportunity to those who would like to serve pastor Bennett and his family who will be moving in to their home around that time.

CEF'S ANNUAL VERSE-A-THON

It's time to register for CEF's annual Verse-A-Thon! Verse-A-Thon takes place **Saturday, November 10 from 2-4 pm** at the New Life building. Participants find sponsors who pledge money per verse recited, memorize predetermined Scripture verses, and recite them to official listeners at the event. If you are unsure about your own ability to memorize, please come on November 10th and listen to others and be blessed and challenged to hide God's Word in your heart. Families can register as a family and tag team verses to participate together and encourage each other through the process. Register by calling CEF at 714-263-4344, pick up a form from the Welcome table and mail in, or return to Erika Rice.

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Oct 28 Meal Team #4
Nov 4 POTLUCK Team #1

Please join us for fellowship and a meal following our service today!

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson	612.799.4865
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Oct 23	Women's Prayer/Worship 7:00 pm at NLCC
Oct 24	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Oct 24	Immerse Family Studies 6:15-7:30 pm at NLCC
Oct 25	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am at NLCC
Oct 25	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am at NLCC
Oct 25	Adult & Youth GriefShare (meet separately) 6:30-8:30 pm at NLCC
Oct 25	Ezekiel Bible Study 7-8:30 pm at NLCC

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org
• Events • Sermons Online
• New Life Connect • Set Lists • & More

JUDGES

Our Desperate Need for the King

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Judges 16:23-31

Sermon Notes: