

Sermon Discussion Questions: Prayer (Ephesians 3:14-21)

October 20th, 2019

1. What in the sermon encouraged you, comforted you, challenged you, or informed you?

2. Read the quote below. How does self-assurance and self-righteousness keep us from praying? Are there any other reasons why we may struggle to pray?
“A self-assured person is not going to pray prayers of petition; there’s no need to pray if you think you have got it all covered. A self-righteous person is not going to pray prayers of confession; there’s no need to pray if you think you’re good enough to earn God’s blessing. But the person who knows their heart before God—the person who knows the depth of their need of forgiveness and help from God—does what Paul does. They bow their knees (Ephesians 3:14).”
Alistair Begg, *Pray Big: Learn to Pray Like an Apostle*, 19

3. Shane reminded us that we need God’s power for many reasons: to strengthen us to fight sin, to strengthen us to endure through suffering, and to strengthen us with courage to share the Gospel. What circumstances are you facing now that require greater strength from God?

4. Many people see prayer primarily as a time to ask God for things, but Paul prays that the people would “comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,” (Eph. 3:18b-19). In other words, prayer is also about seeking God’s presence and receiving His love. Read Psalm 63:1-8. How does the Psalmist encourage us to seek God’s presence and what effect does knowing this love have on our life?

5. Read Psalm 62:5-8. These verses instruct us how to pray our petitions to God and how to trust God as we wait on His answer. Why can we hope in God as we wait on his answer to our petitions? Go around the group and share any prayer request and “pour out your heart before Him” as you pray, knowing God is a refuge for us.

6. Prayerfully read through the scripture this week using this 1 Timothy reading guide.
 - **Adoration:** Read and adore God for His great character and kingdom clarified in the verse.
 - **Meditation:** Read and consider key phrases, prepositions, people, plots, connections, and redemptive themes.
 - **Confession:** Read and confess ways you don’t reflect God’s character and kingdom in the verse.
 - **Thanksgiving:** Read and give thanks for God’s grace, forgiveness, and help in or around the verse.
 - **Supplication:** Read and seek God’s guidance in applying the text. Write down application.

10/21 1 Timothy 3:14–16

10/22 1 Timothy 4:1–5

10/23 1 Timothy 4:6–10

10/24 1 Timothy 4:11–16

10/25 1 Timothy 5:1–8