

Knowing Jesus – Philippians 3:10

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

Last week:

Growing By Feeding God's Word

1 Peter 2:1–3 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good

Last week:

GROWING BY FEEDING THE WORD. HOW TO GROW IN GRACE?

- 1. THE PREPARATION FOR GROWTH. "Get rid of all malice"(V1)
- 2. THE PURSUIT FOR GROWTH. Craving the word.
- 3. THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH. "Maturity in Christ".
"so that by it you may grow up in your salvation"
- 4. THE POWER FOR GROWTH. "Tasting God's
goodness." now that you have tasted that the Lord is
good."

Strengthened Through Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Introduction:

What is Prayer?

How Does the Bible Define Prayer?

Why do we Pray?

Finding Strength in Prayer

What is Prayer?

For the believer

Prayer is a treasured privilege and mainstay for those who belong to God through the saving work of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

For the unbeliever

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

How Does the Bible Define Prayer?

God promises peace to those who keep their minds on Him

Isaiah 26:3-4 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

Why do we Pray?

Martin Luther - “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

Jesus prayed alone Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

He prayed with others Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray

He prayed *for* others Matthew 19:13 Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray.

Jesus went to His Father in prayer John 17:1-5 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus prayed for His disciples

John 17:6-9 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

Jesus prayed for *us!!*

John 17:20-23 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Finding Strength in Prayer

Psalm 110 verse 4: “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.”

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.

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

**The Faithful Reading of God's Word
Persistent, Consistent Prayers of Faith
Making Disciples – Caring for the lost**

ARE YOU READY?

Conclusion

The Shadow of the Cross ...

Pray with me, would you?

Faithful Father, I believe you know the end from the beginning, and you have the whole world in your hand. I lay my worries and burdens before you, for you know all things and all power belongs to you. Help me to trust in you even in difficult times and grant me perfect peace in my soul.

AMEN.