

The Essentials Series – Part 6

Scripture, Prayer, and Worship

Pastor Brian R. Coles

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Good morning and welcome to week six of our series called, “The Essentials”. This has been an amazing study so far. As we take a look under the hood of our church and discuss together what the non-negotiable values are that make Petra work.

I hope this has been a meaningful conversation for you so far as we have been encouraging you. Not only to consider the values of our church but also your own personal values.

I want to take a moment to say thank you on behalf of all of the pastors for your expressions of appreciating. Pastor Appreciation.

Last week Pastor John, our guest speaker, was visiting from Africa for our Hopewell Conference. It was such a blessing to hear a voice from around the world. We couldn’t talk about the values in great detail. But the value from last week was concerning our commitment to Local and Global Missions.

SHARING JESUS AND SERVING OTHERS

We are committed to sharing Jesus’ love, healing, and hope through personal relationships and intentional outreach locally and globally. We build God’s kingdom through practical and spiritual gifts to meet needs and serve others.

We have such a rich history of missions here at Petra, God is actually pouring fresh vision on our local and global missions’ strategies.

(Video of Go to website and send a note)

Scripture, Prayer, Worship

We prioritize the authority of God’s Word in our lives and cultivating habits of worship and prayer, both personally and in communal gatherings. These are:

1. Prioritizing the authority of God’s Word

We believe that all Scripture is the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God, and is fully reliable and trustworthy.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Psalm 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

2. Cultivating the habit of prayer

What make us not pray: everything is alright, God. Not up to anything.

Philippians 4:6

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Timothy 2:1

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—

Ephesians 6:18

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.’

(Pray acronym picture)

Getting involved – Prayer at Petra, Prayer opportunities, Website, Prayer requests, prayer ministry teams, intercessors

Graphic for Text for prayer

Video for Prayer page

Graphic for Prayer shield

Sign up at the table

3. Cultivating habits of worship

(Brian)

You know, I wish I would have planned ahead a little bit instead of just teaching you about worship. We could have had Crystal come out with the team and we could have actually worshipped together while we learned about it.

Crystal comes out first, her and I will talk.

(Brian)

Crystal, can you tell the congregation what the mission of the worship team is on a Sunday morning?

(Crystal)

Our goal as a worship team is to provide a space for you to encounter the presence of the Lord that’s free of distractions. We want to fade into the background and allow the Lord to shine. Some of our favorite moments are when we hear you guys singing your hearts out and we can step away and just let the praise arise.

(Brian)

As you and the team lead us in worship, there seems to be different types of songs that we sing. I’ve heard you say in meeting and in your worship trainings that different songs lead us into unique heart postures. Can you explain what that means?

(Crystal)

So many of our songs are based on scripture and especially the book of Psalms. Knowing the kind of song we are singing helps us to take on the right heart posture before the Lord. We want to really mean the words we are singing! For instance, when we sing the song Anthem, we are taking on the posture of being amazed by the character of God and we just want to adore him. We point the words of the song straight to the Lord and use them as the roadmap to bring him glory, all together, in unison.

(Put the bold words in a lower third)

Songs of Adoration - Anthem

I'd describe songs of adoration as the kind of song we sing when we are in awe of who he is. It's when our worship gets personal.

Songs of Repentance - Bridge of Heal Our Land

I love these kinds of songs because they are songs where we humble our hearts before Jesus and ask him to purify us. They are songs that remind us of our desperate need for a Savior.

Songs of Request - Fresh Wind

You see these kinds of songs all throughout the Psalms. I also think of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus asks, "Let your kingdom come and your will be done..." In these songs of request, we are partnering what God wants to do and asking him to release his kingdom on earth.

Songs of Faith - Yes I Will

These are songs of declaration. They are like a reminder to ourselves of the truth of the word. Sometimes when you come into worship you feel it and you're full of faith, and other times it's like we need to sing it until we believe it. That's why I don't mind a little repetition in songs because as we sing something the reality of the words we are singing goes deeper and deeper into our hearts and we begin to really believe what we are saying.

Songs of Praise - Chorus of Great Are You Lord

These are some of my favorites. The power of God's people glorifying the Lord, declaring things together all at one time, is unmatched.

Praise Worship Teaching songs are songs that are totally focused in on God. Some of the other songs might talk about how we feel a little more, but these songs are all about Him - declaring his power, his greatness, his glory, his holiness. One of my favorite things about these songs is that they help us to get our eyes off of ourselves. We all need that every now and then, right? To forget about our worries, our schedules. You know how entertainment can do that? Helps us forget about ourselves for a little bit. Well, praise does an even better job of that. It's perspective shifting, realigning, and life changing. Praise is like a tune-up for the soul.

Close - prayer ministers