

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (For September 5, 2021) FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning brings us to a conclusion in our summer sermon series on prayer titled, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." Throughout this series we have asked the questions, "What is prayer? And How do we pray?" Prayer is both simple and profound. Prayer is conversation with our heavenly Father. Length of prayer and eloquence is not the priority, instead honesty spoken for the heart is. Prayer does not require special training or a degree, it is, and always has been, an amateur event. We pray because we trust the lovingkindness and steadfast love of God. Our prayer this morning is from 1 Kings chapter 8. Solomon, the son of King David, built the temple in Jerusalem. At the dedication ceremony Solomon offered a public prayer. The prayer is beautiful, expansive, pleading, and an affirmation of God's commitment to His people. In this prayer Solomon remembers the promises of God and God's desire for His people to love, serve, and welcome others (even foreigners). In our prayers may we recall the goodness of God and the opportunities we have at Grace to love, serve and welcome all in His name.

### **Lord, Teach Us to Pray** (SERMON PASSAGE: 1 Kings 8:22-66 excerpts)

"1 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, <sup>23</sup> and said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart ... <sup>27</sup> 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, "My name shall be there," that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. .... <sup>41</sup> Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake <sup>42</sup> (for they shall hear

of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, <sup>43</sup> hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by Your name.

... <sup>46</sup> "If they sin against you — for there is no one who does not sin — and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, <sup>47</sup> yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, "We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly," ... <sup>50</sup> forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them."

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. Who is Solomon? Read 1 Kings 3:3-28, & 1 Kings 6:1-7
2. From this prayer, what is Solomon's understanding of God?
3. Why would foreigners come and pray to the God of Israel?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What does it mean that the God of the universe dwells in a temple made by human hands?
5. What does it mean that "My Name shall be there"? (verse 29)
6. What does it mean that foreigners are invited to pray too?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. Where do you think God dwells today? Does He hear you when you pray? Where is God when you pray?
8. What do you believe about God as you offer your prayers?
9. What is the role of public (community) prayer in your faith?
10. List out all the attributes of God (who He is) you can think of in 5 minutes. In a prayer thank God for each of those attributes.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to reveal His heart and His character to you. Ask God to help you know Him. Ask Him to help you be someone who welcomes others into Grace, His church. God loves us and He will help us.