

A PRAYING LIFE

What is the series about?

In this short series we'll be looking at what it looks like to have a praying life. Whatever our background or worldview most of us have at one time or another prayed. You may have been in a desperate situation or just thrown out a few words in vague hope. Over the summer we'll see what the Bible teaches us about prayer today.

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kingsnorwich.com/blog

Recommended Reading

A Praying Life

Paul Miller



A PRAYING LIFE

Title: Consistent Prayer pt 2

Speaker: Toby Skipper (City Centre)

Bible Ref: 1Thess 3:10-13

Overview

In part one we looked at how we can grow in having a 'praying life' & what helps us to pray continually (5:17). In verse 3:10 Paul adds 'earnestly' to 'consistently' - his prayers were heartfelt, not half-hearted. This earnest prayer flows from feeling the impossibility of what we face, being real with how we feel, refusing to allow despair/cynicism to take root & continuing to trust the Shepherd through it all. Sometimes we struggle to know what to pray for people or ourselves & in Paul's letters we're given an incredibly helpful window into the content of Paul's prayers for others & himself. In these verses we find three specific prayers; (1) Make a way where there is none; (2) Make them/us more like Jesus(3) Help them/us to stand firm...

Questions to help your group **understand** the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. What provokes earnest prayer? see Acts 12:1-19
2. What were the Thessalonians facing that caused Paul to pray this way?
3. What does the content of Paul's prayer tell us about the attitude of Paul's heart?

Questions to help your group **apply** the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. How does the focusing on the Cross help us to pray "make a way where there is none...?"
2. Paul seems to make it a priority to pray for them to grow in their love (3:12, 4:9-10, 2Thess 1:3, 3:5) why is this so important and how do we continue apply this in our lives together?
3. Paul not only prayed that they would stand firm in all they were facing (3:13) but took action to help them (by sending Timothy to them 3:2) and writing to them. What do we learn from this?

Questions to help your group **dig deeper**

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. In the story in Acts 12 where Peter is released from prison, James was not (12:2) - how do we pray when circumstances don't turn out the way we wanted & how do Jesus' words to James and John in Mark 10:35-39 help us?