



Welcome!

SERIES: YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU

Today's Message: Never Stop Praying

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, because you answer prayer. We ask you to teach us your ways and your truth. Help us to take your Word into our hearts and onto our lips. Make us to delight in your testimony more than in riches. Help us to meditate on your precepts, and to fix our eyes on your ways. Grant us to delight in your truth, and to never forget your Word. Teach us how to pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever received an answer to prayer? What was it?

INTRODUCTION: If we could predict the future, do you think we would change our daily habits? Do you think we would invest in different things? If we could see the future results of our present efforts, we'd make far better decisions. This is no secret—God wants you to become all God created you to be. However, to become all that God created us to be, we have to make some choices and decisions to participate with God in the process. Your Future Self will thank you.

SCRIPTURE: Read St. John 14:12-14 (NIV)

DISCUSSION:

1. What stood out in today's message? Although His day was filled from morning to night with many pressures and responsibilities—addressing crowds, healing the sick, granting private interviews, traveling, and training His disciples—Jesus made prayer a top priority. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being “incredibly” and 1 being “barely,” what priority is prayer for you?
2. Someone has wisely said, *“Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees.”* Prayer is God's appointed way of doing God's work. Do you believe that? Why or why not?
3. The writer of the book of Hebrews said, *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence (boldness), so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16) But how do we approach the most powerful presence in the Universe? Do we pray directly to God? Do we pray to Jesus and ask Him to present our needs to the God? How can we even approach such a holy God with boldness? What do you think? Why?
4. Effective prayer cannot be reduced to a magic formula. God does not respond to our requests because we have the right ritual. God is more interested in our hearts than in our words. John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, said, *“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”* What basic elements did we learn about prayer in today's message?

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
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CHALLENGE: Dedicate time to pray this year. Know that sacrifices will be made, and that is good. Dedicating time to pray might mean *waking up earlier* and *going to bed earlier*. Prayer is important, and so is sleep. Staying up late is not. Set *alarms*. Set a bunch if you need them. Eventually your body will get used to the new rhythm.

SERVE: **Pray** over St. John 14:12-14 this week. **Praise** God in advance for answering your prayers in the name of Jesus. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become.

Respond. Write it down, live it out, give God praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES ARE PHYSICALLY CLOSED AT THIS TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As a small group leader, we depend on **you** to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR/DIRECTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams (Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith (SMB: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Curtis Ballard (curtis.ballardjr@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr. (lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend (michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan (Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman (maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Wallace Simms (Wallace.Simms@myspbc.org)

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.

Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.