Sermon Notes

Praying with Expectation

1. Praying the promise & enduring trials

- Daniel's consistency: Daniel stayed dedicated to prayer three times a day facing the east, even under threat of the lion's den. When Daniel read the books and recognized the 70-year prophecy was near, he prayed with expectation based on God's promise.
- God’s thoughts toward us: Referencing Jeremiah 29:11, God has thoughts of peace toward His people even when surrounding circumstances look like war or confusion.
- Staying in the process: Looking at Romans 8:26–28, believers don't always know how to pray by sight, but the Holy Spirit intercedes according to God's will. Sometimes trials linger because God is maturing believers to prepare them for what’s ahead.

2. Chosen by God & positioned through struggle

- God does the drawing: Referencing John 6:44, no one comes to Christ unless the Father draws them. God chooses His people before the foundation of the world.
- Paul’s calling: In Acts 9:15–16, Saul was knocked down and chosen as a vessel to carry God's name to Gentiles and kings. His struggles and rough paths weren't accidents; God used difficult circumstances to steer Paul directly where he needed to minister.

3. Faith, grace, and inclusion of the Gentiles

- The original promise: Reading Genesis 12:2–3, God promised Abraham that through him, all families of the earth would be blessed—showing God’s plan always included all humanity.
- Faith over the Law: In Romans 4, Abraham was justified by faith before he was circumcised. Righteousness doesn't come by the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Unity and integrity: Touching on Galatians 2, Paul had to correct Peter openly when Peter withdrew from Gentile believers. The preacher urged leaders and church members to live with integrity—not living like the world while telling others to be saved, because people watch how you live more than what you say.