

What's the craziest thing you've asked
someone for that you actually got?

GCC YG - FEB 8, 2026

PREPARING AND PURSUING

MATTHEW 7, JAMES 4

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,* ⁹ ***not a result of works***, so that no one may boast.

Isaiah 64:6 ESV

*We have all become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.***

James 2:14, 17 ESV

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

*¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is **dead**.*

Fruitless faith is dead faith

Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

⁷ *“**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

What's preventing anointing in our lives?

Fear of people

Hidden sin

Pride

James 4:8-10 ESV

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

“Open” is not enough.
We need to actively pursue God.

God is worthy of your pursuit and preparation

Ways to Prepare and Pursue God this week

- **Pray daily**
 - For specific elements of retreat
 - For specific people
 - For authority against the lies and attacks of the enemy
- **Fast media**
- **Douse yourself in Scripture**
- **Stir up your passion**
- **Stir one another up**

Small Group Questions & Prompts

- What's something God has highlighted from today's message or other recent messages you've heard?
- Share about some moments or seasons in life where you felt really passionate for God.
 - What brought it about? What caused it to fade?
- Where do you feel like you are spiritually as we head into retreat next week?
- What's one way you can practically prepare yourself spiritually in this coming week?
- Pair up and briefly pray for each other as we all prepare for YG retreat.