



Luckier Than Before

August 26, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH



The Only Way Forward

- The way forward is prayer. Everything that's ever mattered here has been birthed and sustained by prayer
- Ephesians 6:10-18
- **Ephesians 6:18** HCSB
“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.”

Problems in Prayer: Comparison

- When some people pray, we feel like they've offered God filet mignon and we've given him Spam in comparison



Problems in Prayer: Outcomes

- We don't know how or whether it works
- Archbishop William Temple: "When I pray, coincidences happen; and when I don't, they don't."

Problems in Prayer: Outcomes

- I don't know much about prayer but I know this: the more I pray, the luckier I get
- Luck in the sense Eugene Peterson uses the word: "lucky with holy luck" as a way describing blessing
- Prayer makes us luckier than before—it invites and invokes the purposeful presence of God

Pray All Kinds of Prayer

- Paul says we are to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” NIV
- A kind of prayer we undervalue and ought to be praying: short prayers
- **Matthew 6:7-8** VOICE TRANSLATION
“When you pray, do not go on and on, excessively and strangely like the outsiders; they think their verbosity will let them be heard by their deities. Do not be like them. Your prayers need not be labored or lengthy or grandiose—for your Father knows what you need before you ever ask Him.”

The Power of Short Prayers



Be Alert

- Paul also says, “With this in mind, be alert ...” NIV
- Why be alert? One, we’re in a war and “our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8)
- Two, our prophetic word for 2018 is listen and the one who is alert listens best

Be Alert



Pray In the Spirit

- Paul says, “Pray at all times in the Spirit...” HCSB
- Tongues have long been a source of controversy, including in the early church
- When Paul addresses the misuse of tongues he commends their proper use, not disuse

Pray In the Spirit

- Some have been told they're not a real Christian or haven't been baptized in the Spirit because they don't speak in tongues
- But Romans 10:9-11, which deals with salvation, makes no mention of speaking in tongues in connection with salvation
- And when Paul describes the Spirit-filled life in Galatians 5:16-26 he doesn't write a single word about tongues

Should Every Christian Speak in Tongues?

- **1 Corinthians 12:29-30** NRSV

“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?”

- **1 Corinthians 12:29-30** PASSION TRANSLATION

“Not everyone is an apostle or a prophet or a teacher. Not everyone performs miracles or has gifts of healing or speaks in tongues or interprets tongues.”

The Purpose of Tongues

- For use in personal prayer life and for one's edification
- **1 Corinthians 14:4a** NKJV
“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”
- **1 Corinthians 14:4a** PHILLIPS TRANSLATION
“The speaker in a ‘tongue’ builds up his own soul...”
- While you are praying in tongues the Spirit begins to work a great many changes in your life

An Unpredictable Life

- If you open yourself to the Holy Spirit, you'll live an unpredictable life
- **John 3:8** NIV
“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
- Our unpredictable life involves unpredictable things with an unpredictable God



Boring through
barriers we haven't
been able to breach





2 Chronicles 7:15 NIV

“Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.”



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