

Lord, teach us to pray

Letter

Enjoying prayer

Dear Friends,

If there is one word that would sum up where we are right now it would be prayer.

The teachings over the last few weeks have talked about "The Lord's Prayer." During these times of sharing, it seems the Lord has uniquely highlighted prayer as a communion with God rather than a duty to God or a means of manipulating Him.

Most of you may not remember how we ended up on prayer, but it was through a progression. We started talking about building the house of God. The intent was to do a series on what the needs in the body were and how you could find your part.

That was interrupted by a few messages on getting our heart to the place that we wanted to build His house rather than our own. After this interruption, I thought I would return to the series on building the house. I didn't.

Instead, we have gone into a time of deepening ourselves in prayer. Obviously, our greatest need at this point is not to learn a job, but to get to know the Lord and let our life and ministry flow from Him.

The Lord's knowledge is much greater than ours. Even in the midst of our seeking God and desiring greater communion with Him, He is building His house. More people than ever are finding places to serve. I have never been more blessed by people finding God's place than the last few months.

As a pastor, my hope is to see every person established and matured into the place that they find their part and give themselves to it by the grace of God. How that happens I am not sure. I only know that as we have been praying and seeking God good things are happening.

I'm sure it was sovereign that Jimmy and John came and spoke "a word of grace" into our lives as we are learning to pray. God does not want the means of communion to be a law but a grace. I truly believe He is giving us grace to pray and am thankful for it.

Don't look for some great new plan for '91. As the year ends we will probably be enjoying prayer. As the new year begins, I don't see any call to some great new era. We will continue to pray.

Let's join in with all the disciples and say, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Praying with you,

Billy

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Pastor's Brief

This newsletter is produced by Billy Henderson, Claude Hammond and Robert Harley for members and friends of LCF. It is intended to clarify the vision of this church, as well as encourage and instruct.

Does it matter How you get there?

Where's my pillow? What's this stuff all over the floor? Would you like some of my peanuts?

These are the sounds of a road trip. Some of the most memorable scenes left in my mind about our trips to Mexico are the trips themselves.

The last weekend of November will find about 20 of our singles headed for a 10 hours, one way trip to Kirksville, MO. Then they will spend another 10 hours coming back after a 48 hour stay. For some that sounds crazy. To me it sounds fun.

Learning to enjoy the trip as much as the destination is a vital part of life. For Christians, our destination is heaven. Between now and then we need to learn to enjoy the Kingdom along the way.

The best example of this principle in scripture is the journey of the Children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan. Without the journey, they would not have been prepared to enter the promised land.

In the same way, what happens going to the store is often as important as what we do at the store.

Twenty hours in the same van is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about others and reveal more of yourself.

...Would you get your feet off my bag? Shhh! everybody is asleep. You call that music?

FROM THE HEART

Is it love or infatuation?

(The following article is reprinted from *UPDATE ON HUMAN BEHAVIOR*, Vol. 10, No. 1. It is not a Religious publication, but does have some interesting perspectives to consider in regards to Love. The definition of infatuation sounds dangerously close to what a lot of people misinterpret as the voice of God. If you are single, why not discuss this article with a friend and see if there are any Biblical truths you can draw from it. -- BH)

We now know more than ever about the human mind, but the concept of love remains difficult to define. Generally, love includes...

- * **intimacy** -- feelings of closeness, and caring accompanied by sharing and openness plus
- * **commitment** -- a decision to maintain your love over time, despite fluctuating feelings.

Mate love also includes passion -- physical attraction and sexual activity.

Asked to define what love is, people in one study ranked trust as the most important element of love, followed by caring, honesty, friendship and respect. They defined commitment as loyalty, responsibility, reliability, faithfulness and trust. Love is not and cannot be a substitute for self-confidence, self respect, or a reason to live. Unless you're a character in *Dangerous Liaisons*, love is not sufficient as a career.

What's the Difference?

While romance can happen very quickly, love often develops more slowly. It often begins as a friendship and grows into love as the partners come to know and appreciate one another better. There is no compulsive need for exclusivity and reciprocity, but gradually the partners form a deep commitment to one another.

Real love is characterized by thinking of the loved one often, but not obsessively. It is an emotional interdependence that is consciously chosen; not a symbiotic dependence formed out of necessity.

Romance (or infatuation), on the other hand, is characterized by...

- * **obsessive thinking** about the other person
- * **fear of rejection or abandonment**
- * **emotional dependency**: if your lover is attentive, you're euphoric; if not, you're despondent
- * **rose-colored glasses** that accentuate the loved one's positive attributes and ignore negative traits
- * **suffering** due to unrequited love, separation, betrayal, outside interference, or a love doomed to failure
- * **lack of interest** in other areas of life (e.g. work, friendships, home).

Infatuation involves falling in love with your own creation: what you need (or hope for) the other person to be, rather than with the reality of who that person actually is. Romance is often based on a love deficit from childhood that you try to fill with an adult relationship. If so, it is doomed to failure, since another adult won't give you the unconditional, indulgent love that a parent might. Romance is like champagne -- a delicious treat, but nutritionally empty.

Medical Missions

Thankful for the opportunity

by Laura Feeny, R.N.

I am very thankful for the opportunity God gave me to serve on a medical missions team to Nicaragua. My team, which consisted of one physician, three nurses and two non-medical people, flew from Managua (Nicaragua's capital) to Bluefields. The other team flew from Managua to Porta Cabezas. Both cities are on the eastern coast of Nicaragua. Two years ago, a hurricane destroyed the city of Bluefields. The town is still recovering from the storm's effects.

The hurricane has added to the overall poverty of that city, destroying buildings, businesses and crops. We worked at Bluefields in conjunction with the Verbo churches. The objective of both teams was to set up medical clinics for one week in these two cities in order to provide basic medical care. Our routine each day would start with us writing down the patients main complaints, taking their vital signs, and looking at any observable signs of sickness. The physician examined the patients and usually gave them a prescription for the necessary medication. The non-medical members of the team gave the prescribed medication to the patient and explained how it should be used. We also had help from several Nicaraguans from the Verbo churches. The two teams together treated about 900 patients.

On several occasions, patients lined up to be seen at 4:30 and 5 a.m. We worked from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

My team stayed with the pastor of Verbo in Bluefields. He and his family love God whole-heartedly, and are working to see the kingdom of God established in Bluefields.

Though there are overwhelming needs in Nicaragua, the Christians I met were full of joy. One brother in the church told me that he considered the lack of luxuries and things Americans consider necessities to be a blessing because they could more easily see that everything they receive comes from God.

If any of you has an opportunity to serve the Lord in a Third World country, I encourage you to do so. I have learned so much from our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in these areas. Their way of life has been a real testimony to me.

I would like to thank each of you in the church who supported me both financially and prayerfully on this trip. I could tell that my friends and family were supporting and that meant a lot!

Offering to finish Pedro's house

We are ready to start the final stage of Pedro's house. We need about \$4,000 more dollars to complete the roof and floor. It will be liveable after this phase. The final phase will include finishing the rest of the interior. Give your checks to Gregg, or bring them to church by December 9. Earmark checks "Pedro's house".

Ayutla medical mission planned for late march

Pedro Basillio

We are organizing a ten day medical mission to Ayutla with Pedro and his family. We will leave at the end of May to provide opportunity for students to participate.

This will be our first medical mission and we intend to work among the Indian people in the mountain villages. Our hope is to help Pedro make personal contact with more of these people as well as meet a very real need.

Bill John, M.D., Dawn Hughes, Physician's Assistant, and Laura Feeny, R.N. will form the core of the medical team. Other medical personnel are invited to apply. We also need some porters, interpreters, and general helpers to go along.

Laura will be coordinating the trip and making arrangements to establish a mobil clinic to visit the area every six months. Our view is toward a long term relationship with these people in the villages that will result in the opening of the Kingdom to their hearts.

Wanna go?

Billy headed south

Billy will be in Ayutla December 12-18.

He will be going down to make arrangements for three coming mission efforts.

He will be meeting with health officials to discuss the mobile clinic we are preparing for the area.

Ground work will be laid for the work and evangelism team we are planning for May and June.

He will also make arrangements for finishing the next stage of the house.

Lord, teach us to pray

My only son of a few months had just started a good case of diarrhea. It was the result of the powdered milk we had tried to substitute for the baby formula we didn't have. Brenda had opened a can of green peas and cooked some noodles for she and I. After that, there wasn't a whole lot left.

We had been married about three years and Matthew was going on one year. The church wasn't what Peter Wagner would call a fast growing church and my weekly/monthly salary check often had as many numbers after the decimal as before. One year the IRS actually sent me an unsolicited check after seeing my tax return, and I hadn't paid any taxes that year.

Slim times were not uncommon to us, but when it looked like it would affect the health of our first born the situation got my attention. I decided that I needed to hear from God, I needed to know His will. I asked Him to help me hear His voice.

A similar request, "Lord, teach us to pray," was the occasion Jesus used to share the Lord's prayer

**"Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done in earth, as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil: For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen."**

with His disciples for the second time. He had taught them the principles of prayer, the teaching recorded in Matthew six.

However, in this first verse of Luke 11, the disciples come and ask for instruction. As they have seen Him praying that they realize the need for it. In the middle of a teaching it was good information. In the middle of life, they were seeing it as a necessity.

So it was with me. I had taught on hearing God's voice. I had heard great teachings on prayer. But now I knew the need.

Until we have real need for God it is unlikely that we will touch the depths of prayer that He intends. It is difficult for a wealthy man to touch the reality of the Kingdom. You would have about as much luck coaxing a camel through the eye of a needle. But when the reality of our dependency hits, we cry out with the disciples, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Unlearning prayer

Strangely enough, when Jesus teaches us to pray it is different. Maybe that's not strange since His ways have never been our's nor our's His.

Just looking at the context around "The Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6 we unlearn a lot.

First, we unlearn talking so much during prayer. To our amazement, we find that is the way a heathen prays. Where we had heard that we must tarry one hour and had sought a way to fill that hour with constant petitions, we now must yield our plan for filling the hour.

Then we unlearn the use of our prayer (shopping) list to inform God of what our needs are, "for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." He has found out our needs before we got to Him, and that cuts another ten minutes of filler.

Further study gives another blow to our ability to fill our hour by informing us, "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink, or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

There we are. We are told not to worry about what we are going to eat, drink, or wear. We find that it is heathen to think many words will get us heard. Besides, if we do ask God for something, He already knew what we needed. Stripped of all these tools for filling an hour with prayer, what's a Christian to do? Lord, how shall we pray?

Pray for the kingdom

The answer is simple to those whose eyes have been unclouded from the lusts of this age. Prayer is simply to come away with the Father and let Him speak the purposes of the Kingdom into our hearts so that we can cry out for that Kingdom to come. The verses say, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" and "Pray ye...Thy kingdom come thy will be done."

Not only are we to ask for the Kingdom to come,

but in that, we are to desire that God's name be hallowed in the midst of an unholy generation.

As the prayer itself progresses, we find ourselves being taught to ask God to make us live out His life in this earth. We ask Him to lead us in the right paths and make us a loving forgiving people.

Finally, we find the root motivation of all our prayer should be to see God receive the glory He deserves both now and forever.

Back to the situation with my family needing food a few years ago, I found that my heart was not crying out for food for my family. I simply said in my heart, "Father, you know we need food, but more than that, we need to know your will for our life. Is there anything we need to change? Are we where you want us to be?"

I found in my heart that God was saying, "I want you to trust Me. You are where I want you to be, but at times you are too resourceful. Let go of your trust in everything but Me." I had thought I was doing that all along, but realized that I had always kept some sort of back up. As the Holy Spirit affirmed our direction in establishing the church a deep peace filled my spirit and I knew everything would be O.K.

The next day we had food. I don't remember exactly how, but it was there. Ravens didn't come, bread wasn't multiplied, a large check did not appear in the mail box. God, however He did it, took care of the need.

After that we did not become automatically wealthy. There were other times that we were brought to a place of great need, but God always met the need. Many times it was through friends who were close to us and committed to the same direction. But knowing we were doing what God had called us to made us happier than all the millionaires in Lexington, which has the highest number of millionaires per capita of any city in the U.S.

Prayer, then, as Jesus lived it, was much time alone with the Father seeking His will, hearing from Him. Prayer was not a place to come and beg for provision, it was a place to receive direction. With God's direction always comes provision. You can read many times that our Lord went away to the desert, the mountain, or a solitary place to pray.

So our times with God should be spent affirming our direction and life in Him. We should find His heart's desire and walk in that. Then, "All these things shall be added unto you", for, "It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom, little flock."

Definitions of words translated "Prayer"

Old Testament - A primitive participle of incitement and entreaty. To judge (officially or mentally); by extension, to intercede, pray, entreat, judge, make supplication. A wish, I would, would God that. Love and pray, I beseech thee. To favor, bestow, to implore. The sense of bowing, prayer. By importunity, come (betwixt), cause to entreat, fall upon, make intercession, entreat. To burn incense in worship. To ponder, to converse with oneself and hence aloud, utter, commune, complain, declare, meditate, muse, pray, speak, talk with. To inquire, to request, demand, ask counsel on, beg, borrow, lay to charge, consult, desire. To be rubbed or worn, hence to be weak, sick, afflicted, be grieved, be sorry, woman in travail, be weak, be wounded. A hymn, a prayer. A whisper, a private prayer.

New Testament - To pray to God, supplication, worship. To beg as binding oneself, petition, beseech, make a request. To call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for. To interrogate, to request, ask beseech, desire, entreat, pray. To wish, to pray to God. From the word to beg, a prayer, request, supplication. A wish expressed as a petition to God, a prayer, vow. An interview, supplication, intercession, a prayer. To hold the mind toward, pay attention to, be cautious about, adhere to, apply oneself.

God's use for a family

An overview from David and Laurie Lanier

Ministering to the families of our church, David and Laura Lanier spoke recently on the role of the Christian family, and on its Biblical function. In his introduction, David revealed that the family is the basic unit within society -- the individual is not.

Now this idea may fly in the face of most twentieth century Americans, who have been brought up to emulate, and even admire rugged individualism. Yet, God's very nature points to the importance of family. There is just one God, yet He is manifest in a family; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

With the family being the basic unit, then ideally, it should be an illustration of who God is, and how He works with mankind. The Bible tells us that he puts the singles with families, and for those who are unmarried, God will provide them with a people he or she can walk with in a family style relationship.

There are a number of scriptural reasons why God created the family unit; one is companionship. We need only to look at the relationship between Jesus - God, the Son, and His Heavenly Father. Jesus prayed constantly, and enjoyed walking with His Father. During times of great pain and suffering, as well as times of great joy, the New Testament shows us the constant fellowship between Jesus and the Father. Remember also that God saw that Adam was alone, that he needed companionship, and Eve was created to meet that need.

Likewise, our families need to provide mutual companionship, support and encouragement within themselves. There is a strength when two or more walk together united in their commitment to the Lord. The purpose of a family is for that support to take place between husband and wife, and between parents and children. As adversity strikes, so does the opportunity to minister, comfort and encourage.

Families are places to serve, and

selfishness is not easily concealed within them. God's ideal for every Christian is that each saint have a servant's heart, giving thought first to the Kingdom, and then to his neighbor. These values are best learned in a family, and not a classroom. The family can be a center of learning and service to God only if the members of the family are committed to one another. Evil and strife results within a family where selfishness is common. Keep the stern warning of Paul, that a man who does not take care of his family is worse than an infidel. If a man will not serve his family, then he doesn't know how to serve at all.

One of the most important uses God has for families is for the transmission of values from one family member to another. The training of children, raising

up a future generation to serve Jesus Christ, can only be done in the context of a family. The transmission of Biblical values is crucial, and is the proper ministry of parents to their children.

A family is a learning experience for both adults and children. If parents are truly committed to raising their children correctly, they will follow and maintain scriptural principles in their lives. At the same time, the Lord will use the experience of being in a family to refine and train ALL those involved. If you live with someone in the committed context of a family, you can't run or hide from having to deal with those around you, and they can't escape from having to deal with you, either.

Finally, a family is a metaphor for God's relationship with mankind. God desires for us to be in His family. Becoming adopted sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, God will deal with us, train us up, loving us all through our trials, until we grow into the maturity that He wishes us to attain.

Focusing the family

The family, just as anything else, can easily become an excuse or an idol. An excuse is something you use as an explanation about why you don't do something else. An idol is something you put before God.

With so much teaching on the family, it would be easy to fill your life with "Making a Memory" or "Focusing on the Family". Once a person gets his family functioning the way he wants it, he can use that as "his castle". How easily we forget that our home is HIS castle.

The desire to serve the Kingdom of God should be the root of every goal we give our time and effort towards. The family is not an end in itself. It is a means to promote something greater than itself - the purposes of God.

With the holiday season approaching, we have great opportunity to use our family units as SWAT teams for the Kingdom. At Thanksgiving we can

bring others into our home to help them offer thanks to the One from Whom all blessings flow. At Christmas our families can emulate the One Who's birthday so many celebrate by doing what He did - give to those who cannot give back. As we enter a new year and consider our renewed hopes and direction, we can take the opportunity to not only better our family, but to better use it as well.

Obviously, we need to focus on the family to strengthen it for the home's sake. But once strengthened, we must then "Focus the Family" on the work of the kingdom.

Maintaining the balance between strengthening and using the family is a delicate chore. Too much inward and it become's selfish. Not enough nurture and it falls apart. It remains then, for those in charge of direction for the family to be led of the Spirit, which will always produce life. --BH



Worship Briefs

Give real thanks unto the Lord

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord: for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 106:1

I was riding down Lime getting ready to pull into Laser Graphics when the spot light identified me as the car for which the blue lights were flashing. A quite observant policeman had noticed my expired license. I explained to him that I had transferred the during the year and had not been sent a notice to renew the license. I had automatically expected the renewal to come up on my birth date. He was about to wire my information in when I told him I had a class to teach at the church in seven minutes.

He let me go.

I said thanks. I got out of the car and shook his hand and said thanks.

I was late, I was wrong and I could have gotten a ticket. The officer used his discretion and gave me a break.

This word translated thanks in Psalm 106 means more than just thanks. It is never used as the typical thanks that we use between humans. Theological Wordbook says, "...this verb was predominantly employed to express one's public proclamation or declaration (confession) of God's attributes and his works. This concept is at the heart of the meaning of praise. Praise is a confession or declaration of who God is and what he does."

According to the verse, we give thanks because God is good and His mercy endures forever.

In my episode with the policeman, I had a true heart of thanks because I knew that the man had been merciful to me. I could see clearly what I could have received.

If we are going to have true thanks to God, we must realize our plight apart from that in Him which caused and causes Him to extend kindness to us which we do not deserve. Thanks is not only something you do, it must be something you are because of experience or choice.

Many parents teach their children to say thank you. To do so is vain unless children are also taught to be thankful. It is the same with our thanksgiving during our public praise times. If we are only learning the words to songs, it is vain.

If we are going to thank God publicly because of His mercy, the revelation of Christ's death for us must be foundational. The policeman's mercy cost the Commonwealth \$42.50. The mercy of God cost Him His only eternal Son. This one fact should bring our hearts to the place of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day brings attention to our need to be thankful. Christmas reminds us of the gift God sent. As we head into the spring, Easter will remind us that His death was the price for our resurrection with Him.

As we come together for worship in this season, let's come with grateful hearts aware of Who He is and let that usher us into true thanksgiving. - BH.



"Prayparing" for worship

On Sundays before the service begins, 20 or 30 folks have been gathering in prayer.

This has been a great time of "prayparing" our hearts to truly worship the Lord as the corporate service begins.

If you feel like you don't get settled down until worship is over, you may want to come early and prepare your heart.

Last issue of "Called Out" is on prayer

The last issue of "Called Out" magazine is available on the book pew.

The publishers are putting their efforts into different areas and will replace the magazine with a news letter.

When you read the articles on prayer, you will notice that members of our body were included in the survey they used for the articles.

Fellowship briefs...

John Lemaster is still recovering from reconstructive knee surgery. He injured his knee while wrestling with Billy "Paducah Palookah" Henderson shortly before a University Christian Fellowship meeting about three weeks ago.

Steve Mazza has almost completely recovered from a leg injury sustained during a basketball game in November.

Brenda Eadens is making good progress after doctors removed her gall bladder. Also continue to pray for the entire Eadens family as they continue to mourn the loss of Glenda, Brenda's twin sister.

On Friday, Nov. 23, Judy Greer gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. Andrew Joseph Greer, weighing in at a hefty 8 lbs., 14 oz., and measuring 21 inches from head to toe, arrived shortly before 6 a.m. Andrew was born on Judy's grandfather's birthday (he turned 90, and was thrilled at the news).

Joe and Lee Olliges will be expecting another youngster in a few months. Be praying for the good health of Lee and her baby, as well as the other women who are with child in our church: Nancy Hammond and Elizabeth Williams.

Be praying for Gary Shaw while he is in training with the U.S. Navy down in Florida. His wife Agnes, and daughter Catherine have been a welcome addition to our meetings Sunday nights.

Wally Carr is recovering in a tremendous way from minor prostate surgery he underwent Oct. 16. Helping in his recovery was a stay through Thanksgiving at the home of Larry and Elizabeth Williams. Wally reports that he has experienced no pain from his surgery, and has not had to use his glasses when reading his Bible.

"As long as you have a personal interest in your own character, or any set ambition, you cannot get through

into identification with God's interests. You can only get there by losing forever any idea of yourself and by letting God take you right out into His purpose for the world....I have to learn that the aim in life is God's, not mine."

--Oswald Chambers

OPEN HOUSE
The Women's
House at 221
Westwood Court
will be holding an
open house on Dec.
7, from 6 p.m. to 10
p.m. Refreshments
will be served and
all are welcome.

Don't forget, we still have prayer meetings at Woodland Ave. Baptist Church 6 a.m. Thursdays and 4 p.m. Sundays (before church).

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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