

MSWSBA Messenger

June 2017

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray!”

As I continue to have conversations with many of you, there is a pattern of thought that continues to come to the forefront of concerns in regard to the church. It is concern over a lack of commitment and lack of involvement. Going further, there is the concern that we are not reaching the lost in the community and struggling to figure out how to engage them. In Acts 2:42, we see that the new and growing Christian church was devoted to the Apostles teaching (the Word of God), the breaking of bread and fellowship, and prayer. When I look at the American church today, I fear that we have become less devoted to prayer. As a test case for yourself, let me ask you this: How much time do you spend each day praying over the soul of a lost person? Not just the community at large, but praying for the salvation of specific people. Also, how much time in your church meetings, small groups, Sunday School classes, etc. are you devoting to praying for lost people? How you answer those questions I'll leave between you and God but I will say this: How can we expect for our churches to reach our communities and grow if we are not truly devoted to praying for the souls of those we need to reach?

Prayer is a discipline that Jesus highly expects of us. In the Sermon on the Mount, as He gives instruction about prayer, we see four times where Jesus indicates that prayer is an expectation by stating “but when you pray” (Mt. 6:5, 6, 7, and 9). We also see Paul giving the same kind of expectation as he exhorts us to devote ourselves to prayer in Colossians 4:2. As humans, we are all devoted to things. It is inevitable because we are active with minds and have choices to make. Our actions are merely a product of our devotions. Whatever we devote ourselves to, we will make sacrifices to do those things. Therefore, if we are devoted to prayer, we should be ready to make sacrifices time-wise to pray, even if that means giving up other things. That is what devotion is. Paul also teaches us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 that we are to pray continually, or to pray without ceasing. I have found in conversations that this is often a confusing statement for us. How do we not stop praying? The idea is that we never lose awareness of our communication with God. During any given day, I talk with my wife continuously even though I'm not specifically talking with her all day. We have tasks that we are working to get done and updates to give each other, so we have ongoing communication happening over the course of the day. Co-workers do the same thing on their jobs. That's how we pray without ceasing to God. Prayer is relational. Like any relationship, there is an ongoing conversation. Unlike any other relationship, we are to be devoted to esteeming God and entering His presence with reverence, but we are also able to and commanded to have ongoing communication with Him through our day-to-day work and activities.

I believe that one of the reasons that Christians struggle in prayer is not from hard-heartedness, but like Jesus' disciples who asked “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Lk. 11), we need to be taught. Learning to pray is like learning a language and the more you put it into practice, the easier it gets. The Holy Spirit works and instructs us as we pray. Also, meditating on Scripture as we pray teaches us. I fear that too often we separate the prayer part and Bible-reading part in our devotion time. Remember, prayer is relational. We can respond to what we read by praying our thoughts back to God. Enjoy that relational communication. In Psalm 19, we have one of the great statements about Scripture in verses 7-11, and then David concludes in v. 14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight...” He is praying back his meditation on the Scripture to God. Let us continually cry out to God “Lord, teach me to pray!”

Chris Kuenzle, DOM

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 13

SBC Annual Mtg

Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix.

Hymn Sing

7:00 PM

FBC Ewing

Wednesday, June 14

Flag Day

SBC Annual Mtg

Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix.

Sunday, June 18

Fathers' Day

Tuesday, June 20

Camp Meeting

7:00 PM

Camp Meeting at Ten Mile. For more information contact Hannah Ewart at 573-822-7713.

Monday, July 3

Missions/Evangelism Meeting

7:00 PM

Meet at FBC Ewing. Numerous opportunities are coming up this summer! Contact Floyd Pyle at 636-358-0559 for more information.

Sunday, July 9

Uganda Q&A

6:00 PM

At FBC Ewing. Q&A time with Josh and Kimbre Thrower about their upcoming ministry in Uganda. Cookies and snacks to follow.

Monday, July 10

CAMP MEETING

7:00 PM

July Camp Meeting for final plans prior to Camp starting July 24. For any questions you may contact Hannah Ewart at 573-822-7713.

Uganda Q&A

Josh and Kimbre Thrower will be having a Q&A time at FBC Ewing on Sunday, July 9 at 6pm. During this time, they will describe the ministry that the Lord has called them to in Kampala, Uganda and answer any questions that you might have. With many churches inviting them to present their ministry and not enough dates on the calendar, this will help them to be able to fellowship with multiple churches at once. You are all invited to fellowship together this Sunday evening as we send them off to this vitally important ministry in one of the fastest growing places in the world that they may proclaim Christ to millions in this city who haven't heard the gospel.

Pray For Your Community

Colossians 4:3, "At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..."

Join us in committing to pray for the salvation of at least one lost person in your church's community for at least one minute per day.

Pray For Our Churches Seeking A Pastor

Wyaconda Baptist Church
South Wyaconda Baptist Church
FBC LaGrange
Durham Baptist Church
Liberty Baptist Church

Contact Your Director of Missions

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