

The PRISM



Sunshine Church of Christ

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Spiritual Growth and Prayer

Someone once asked the question of why we need to pray to God since he knows all things anyway. If he already knows what I need, why do I need to ask? Other than the obvious answer that we are instructed to pray without ceasing, I believe the deeper answer is rooted in the nature of God, which raises a similar question. If Jesus and God are one, then why did Jesus spend so much time praying?

God is one yet three. I have heard people try to express this as the love and fellowship that exists within the Godhead. An example of this fellowship that exists within God himself comes from Luke's account of Jesus baptism. Notice how God responds. *"Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased (Luke 3:21-22).'"* Later, God makes a similar statement on the mount of transfiguration. *"This is My Son, {My} Chosen One; listen to Him (Luke 9:35)!"*

There is a difference between saying, "You are my beloved son," and "This is my beloved Son." What is the difference? At the baptism, the words were for Jesus. At the mount of transfiguration, the words were for the disciples. God communicates directly to Jesus, "YOU are my beloved son." Love moved God to express this love. In the same way, love motivates Jesus to pray to God.

In other words, the motivation for Jesus prayer life was not to "get" something from God, but simply because he loved God. Nowhere is this clearer than at the conclusion of Jesus' prayer in John 17. The answer to the question of, "Why do I need to pray to God since he knows what I need anyway?" is the same answer to the question of "Why did Jesus pray to God if he and God were one?" Our prayer life, like everything else we do, should be motivated by our love for God.

Jesus said the great and foremost commandment is this: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matt 22:37)"*

Growing in the love of God is central to spiritual growth. It moves us beyond a mere sense of obligation and duty to heart felt love, which is at the core of the nature of God. God is love, therefore we are to love. But you cannot grow in this love without a healthy prayer life any more than you can grow in love for your spouse without ever communicating with each other.

So our challenge is to spend time in prayer to God, not just asking him for things, but to express our heart to him. We need to make prayer a lifestyle, not just a duty.

John Telgren

Leavenworth Church of Christ

Leavenworth, TX



Prayer Requests

For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the innocent who are suffering in the midst of war.

For the lost in our families and community.

For the ban on partial birth abortion to stand as law.

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri

For Tim and Jennifer in the adoption process.

Sharon Rogers is scheduled for foot surgery at Grant Hospital on August 11. She will be homebound for several weeks following. Pray for her healing.

Praise Report: Sam Miller survived survivors school. He thanks you for your prayers.

Derek Miller headed back to Afghanistan on Saturday. Prayers for safe passage.

Jack and Mary Strickland as they are both having serious chronic health problems.

Helen Preston (Delores Gamp's mother) is now under hospice care at Heartland.

Wes Workman (15 yrs old son of Aaron Kallner's coworker) struggling with drug addiction.

Homer Miller had a stress test in Columbus on Thursday. He will get the results sometime this week.

Dearly McGlynn (friend of Vivian Woodworth) is battling advanced lung cancer. She is now in Heartland.

Fair Honors and Awards

Next Sunday we would like to publish and complete list of all the Sunshine people who won awards or recognition at this year's fair. Put your name and the award which you received on the sheet on the bulletin board by Wednesday evening.

Teen Devo

Special Back to School devo on August 15, 3 pm at Terry and Debbie's house, invite your friends! Swimming, games & other stuff. Girls will swim at 3:00, boys at 5.

Spirit Club Review

The first year of Spirit Club is about to come to an end. August is the review month. This month we want every child to go back and review the previous 11 month's memory work. This is just another way of putting deep inside the heart. If you missed a month or two or three along the way, think of August as "catch up" month. This is your chance to go back and get the verses you did not memorize through the previous 11 months. Anyway, we hope that each and every student in the Spirit Club will qualify for the Big Bash on Saturday, September 30.

Fitness Class

Normal Schedule.

Sunday PM Services

To be announced.

Sunshine Men's Retreat, Oct. 6 & 7

The elders announced a few weeks ago that the leaders retreat we have been having at Fort Hill in October has been opened up to all men of the congregation this year. The elders are encouraging and inviting every Christian man in our congregation to come and spend 24 hours in planning, discussion, prayer, devotion time, etc. in order to prepare ourselves and the congregation for the year 2007. Cost is \$20.00 which covers lodging and the evening meal on Friday, October 6 and breakfast and lunch on October 7. There will be a sign up sheet posted soon for those who want to participate. We will need a firm number by the last Sunday in September.

Bible Curriculum

Sunday

8/13 Luke 3:23-38
Matt. 1:1-17
8/20 Luke 1:57-80
8/27 Matt. 2:1-18

Wednesday

8/16 1 Sam. 28-29
8/23 1 Sam. 30-31
8/30 2 Sam. 1-2

Looking Ahead at Sunshine

8/15 Teen Back To School Devo
8/19 Reception for Josh & Christian
9/22-23 24 Hour Prayer Vigil
9/29-30 Roundlake Men's Retreat
9/30 Spirit Club Big Bash
10/6-7 Sunshine Men's Retreat at FHCYC
10/15 Sunday PM Home Groups begin

Junior Devo Hosts Needed

Please see the sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for hosting a Junior Devo. Many dates are open at this point.

Next Junior Devo

Thursday, August 31, 6:30 pm, Jacob Book's house. No devo on August 17 due to Open House at Minford Schools.

Invitation to Reception

Josh Coriell and Christian O'Rourke will be married in a private ceremony on Saturday, August 19. We are all invited to the reception which will follow at 6 pm at the church annex. If you plan to come, please sign the list on the bulletin board ASAP.

Wedding Announcements

A couple of families formerly connected to Sunshine are announcing the wedding plans of a son or daughter. Both wedding invitations are posted on the bulletin board.

Jamie Brown will be marrying Alysia Lynn Mabry in Goodlettsville, TN on August 19.

Crystle Price will be marrying Eric Steffens in Brentwood, TN on October 7.

24 Hours of Prayer

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus asked his disciples to watch and wait with him in prayer. Three times he returned to them to find them sleeping. He said, "Could you not tarry with me one hour in prayer?" An hour in prayer. Definitely not too much for the Master to ask of his disciples. Would you give one hour to prayer?

On Friday, October 20, 6 pm, we will begin to pray as a congregation one hour at a time so that as each hour passes for the next 24 hours, we know that at least one of us is carrying the prayer forward until we have prayed through to Saturday, October 21, 6 pm. We've done this in the past but not recently. Several of you have asked to do it again. **We are proposing some changes in how we handle things this time around.**

- 1) *In the past I have collected requests and given you a prayer list to use in the hour of prayer. This time around I want you to develop your own prayer list. I want you to start now jotting down the things that you want to include in that prayer.*
- 2) *In the past we have used the building as the location of the prayer vigil, but this time around I want to include locations outside the building. You may want to pray alone from your home. Or it may be that two or three or four of you may want to meet at a home for this time of prayer. There will be a way to sign up for an hour of prayer away from the building.*
- 3) *3) In the past we have not pushed the idea of fasting with this prayer. But I am asking as many as will to make this 24 hour period not only a time of prayer but also a time of fasting.*

If there was ever a time our nation, our church, our community, our schools, our young people, our leaders were in need of God's guidance and strength, it is now. I hope you will participate in what will surely be a powerful time before the Lord.

-Steve.

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning

Bible Class Text
Welcome & Prayer
Song Director
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Lord's Supper - Server 6
Server 5
Server 4
Wine
Bread
Server 3
Server 2
Server 1
Message
Closing Prayer

August 13

Luke 3, Matt 1
Wayne Gamp
Shaun McCray
Steve Williams
Jason Coriell
Aaron Franke
Andrew O'Dell
Ed McLaughlin
Dewey Cordle
John Berry
Dale Kuhn
John Gamp
Ike Hardin
Steve Miller
Travis Scott

August 20

Luke 1:57-80
Tom Kelley
Nick Davis
Ira Coriell
Aaron Kallner
Price Gammon
David Gamp
Matthew Gamp
Terry Sullivan
Jamie Riley
Barry Hayward
Jack Jennings
Jacob Miller
Steve Miller
Eric McLaughlin

Sunday Evening

Song Leader
Opening Prayer
Lord's Supper
Closing Prayer

Mark Gamp
Mike Gamp
Matthew Hoskins
Gary Glispie

Zach Coriell
Gabe Coriell
Greg Coriell
Mike Gamp

Wednesday Evening

Song Director
Prayer
Bible Class Text

August 16

Jamie Riley
Josh Coriell
1 Samuel 28-29

August 23

Bud Coriell
Aaron McCray
1 Samuel 30-31

Scheduled Services

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:45 am
Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

The Prism is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover.

Deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. Friday. News items may be called to Al Graff or Steve Miller or e-mailed to:

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
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sunshine-church.blogspot.com

Elders

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Wayne Gamp	820-3444	wgamp@sunshine-church.org
Tom Kelley	259-2258	tkelley@sunshine-church.org

Ministers

Steve Miller	820-4379	smiller@sunshine-church.org
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Jamie Riley	820-3348	jriley@sunshine-church.org
Pager	290-0158	
Terry Sullivan	776-7056	ply642002@yahoo.com
Cell	935-7056	

Building	820-3415
Building Fax	820-5450
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Church Office Hours
8-12 M-F

Deacons & Areas of Ministry

Rich Book	820-3213	Education, Elbrooke Services, Library
Jason Coriell	820-4739	Treasurer, Benevolence
Scott Gamp	820-3545	Worship, Special Events
Gary Glispie	776-4279	Church Directory, Program of Work
Alan Graff	776-7905	Bulletin, Advertising, Front Sign, Computers
Dick Havens	456-5009	Building Maintenance, Supplies
Shaun McCray	776-7738	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Homer Miller	776-7550	Funerals, Hospital Visitation, Attendance
Eugene Risner	820-2256	Fire, Health, Seniors, Joy of Giving
Willis Shumway	820-2833	Building Use & Security, Baptistery