

# Pastor's Pen

Call Home!

## **"Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

So, Christian, how is your prayer life? Do you know what prayer even is? The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection. It is a direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.

The longest prayer in the Bible is Psalm 119. All but three of the 176 verses are a prayer to God. One of the shortest is when Moses prays, "My God, please, heal her!" (Num. 12:13). Also, Peter's short prayer, "Lord, save me" (Matthew 14:30). The length of the prayer is not what is essential. What is important is the attitude in which you go to the Lord in prayer.

Several weeks ago, I spoke with my son Jesse on the phone, who lives in Nebraska. He was shoveling snow, so I could not hear anything but the scrapping of the shovel on his driveway. I asked him to stop, but instead, he said he would put his phone on mute, and he asked me to continue to talk. I did so for about three minutes. I told him what was going on and how the Lord had been blessing his mom and dad. However, after what I felt was a long time, I told him that this was awkward that he was not talking, so I hung up. He called me back and told me that he so much enjoyed me just pouring out my life to him during that conversation. Then he said the most profound statement, "Dad, when you were talking to me, I could not help but think that just as I enjoyed you speaking to me without any direct feedback, how much more does God want His children to speak to Him?"

God wants to hear from you if you are His. He wants us to talk with Him without ceasing. He wants you to bring your praise, pleas, concerns and hurts to Him. The writer of Hebrews tells us we can go bodily to the throne of God (Hebrews 4:14-16). What stops you from praying to the One who saved you. You can be confident that he will answer your prayers:

If we pray for God to glorify himself (Matt. 6:9; John 17:5)

If we pray for forgiveness (Matt. 6:12; 1 John 1:9; James 5:13-20)

If we pray to know God better (John 17:3, 24-26, Eph. 1:15-22)

If we pray for wisdom (to know how to live for God) (James 1:5-6)

If we pray for strength to obey/ live for God) (Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 6:11, 13)

If we pray for the spread of the gospel (Luke 10:2; Acts 4:27-29; Col. 4:3)

Other prayers that we pray, such as for healings, God may not answer the way we desire, but He does hear your pleas, and His will, will be done.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"Prayer is doubts destroyer, ruin's remedy, the  
antidote to all anxieties."  
- Charles Spurgeon

# Grace Gems

The diamonds of Heaven!- (Charles Spurgeon)

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book." Psalm 56:8

"Behold, he is praying!" Acts 9:11

Prayers are instantly noticed in heaven. The moment Saul began to pray, the Lord heard him. Here is comfort for the distressed but praying soul. Oftentimes a poor broken-hearted one bends his knee, but can only utter his wailing in the language of sighs and tears; yet that groan has made all the harps of heaven thrill with music; that tear has been caught by God and treasured in the lachrymatory of Heaven. "You have collected all my tears in Your bottle." This implies that they are caught as they flow!

The suppliant, who groans out his words, will be well understood by the Most High God. He may only look up with misty eye; but prayer is the falling of a tear! Tears are the diamonds of Heaven! Sighs are a part of the music of Jehovah's court, and are numbered with the most sublime strains which reach the majesty on high!

Do not think that your prayers, however weak or trembling, will be unregarded. Our God not only hears prayers, but also loves to hear them. "He does not forget the cry of the humble."

True, He does not regard proud looks and lofty words.

He no concern for the pomp and pageantry of kings.

He does not listen to the swell of martial music.

He does not regard the triumph and pride of man.

But wherever there is a contrite heart full with sorrow, or a lip quivering with agony, or a deep groan, or a penitential sigh—the heart of Jehovah is open! He marks that prayer down in the registry of His memory! He puts our prayers, like rose leaves—between the pages of His book of remembrance, and when the volume is opened at last there shall be a precious fragrance springing up therefrom!



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

New Testament  
Sunday School  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's  
Every other Thursday @ 7PM  
@ Patrick's & Cox's



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and forgot to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30PM  
Youth Study  
AWANA @ 6:30PM-8PM



## Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Children's Church @ 10:30AM

Giving from service on 03/14/2021

General Offering .....	8,297.60
Building Fund .....	744.60
Benevolence .....	25.00
Annie Armstrong .....	100.00
Total .....	\$9,167.20

Annie Armstrong Goal: \$1750. Donated: \$100.

Attendance .....183  
Online.....19

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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