

Week 10- “As Encounter: Seeking His Face”
Study Guide and Discussions Questions

Week 10 (7/21/2019)

As Encounter: Seeking His Face (ch.11, pg. 165-186)

For this weeks study please read chapter 11 in the book, “*Prayer*”, by Timothy Keller. If you have any observations or questions in the reading please feel welcome to bring them to your Life Group.

Main point for the Study:

It is possible for Christians to live their lives with a high degree of phoniness, hollowness, and inauthenticity. The reason is because they have failed to move that truth into their hearts and therefore it has not actually changed who they are and how they live. (Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 167)
The root problem... is that you are rich in Christ but nevertheless living poor. (Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 169)

Primary Bible Scripture for the week:

Ephesians 3:14—21 (ESV)

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Study and Reflection Questions:

In Keller's book, *Prayer*, chapter 11 focuses on the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Church in Ephesus found in Ephesians 3:14—21. Remember that this letter is being addressed to professed believers in Jesus Christ. The original intended readers are the faithful Christian believers belonging to the church of Ephesus (See Eph. 1:1, 15).

1. According to Paul's prayer what is an essential ingredient for believers to ultimately "be filled with all the fullness of God (v.19)"? (Hint: read verse 16)

What are some ways that we can encourage the Holy Spirit to work in our inner being so that we may more fully know Christ and his love? (Hint: think of the spiritual disciplines touched upon over the past several weeks) Okay, more than a hint. Things such as: prayer, meditation, reading God's Word, and...? Take a moment right now and pray, just as Paul did, for the Holy Spirit to sensitize your heart (your inner being) to more fully comprehend the love of Christ and the truth of the Gospel.

2. The Apostle Paul is praying that the faithful believers in Ephesus develop a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and his love. What does this tell us about the relationship between having faith in Jesus (v.17) versus knowing/experiencing Jesus (vv.18-19)? How are they different? (See also Keller pg.166)
3. From verses 18 and 19 what are some observations we can make about Christ's love? Verse 19 uses the words "know" and "knowledge" which can be confusing, but the first "know" can also be defined more specifically as an experiential, heart, type of knowing while the second "knowledge" can be more specifically defined as an intellectual, science, type of knowing. With this perspective on the use of "know" and "knowledge" how does this affect your interpretation of what is necessary to be - "filled with all the fullness of God (v.19)?" Given what we have learned in this study, what does this prayer (Eph. 3:14—21) inform us about God's redemption, restoration, and renewal of His children? (i.e. what is God's method for changing us; what is his way of making us more Christ-like day by day?)
4. Bonus Question: In what ways does the study of this passage affect your view of prayer? How might it impact your current prayer life?

“PRAYER” –Pathway Church Message Series
14-week study guide, (spring 2019)

Welcome to the study guide that we will be using for the next 14 weeks as we read Timothy Keller’s book, “Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God.” This book will aid us as we deepen our understanding of what the Bible teaches regarding prayer. Below is the schedule for weekly reading and the Pathway sermons that will coincide with the chapters in the “Prayer” book.

During this series we will journey together and explore many aspects of prayer. Prayer is a key spiritual discipline in the life of a Christ follower. One can certainly pray and not be a Christian, but one cannot be a Christian and go without prayer. Prayer is the primary way a Christian communes with and communicates with God. Prayer is vital in the Christian life and yet frequently a neglected discipline. Christians are instructed to “pray without ceasing... for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:17,18 ESV).

The purpose of this series is to deepen our understanding of and expand our experience with prayer. Together we will experience awe and intimacy with God through our prayer life.

The primary study guide resource will be Timothy Keller’s book, “Prayer.” Pathway will provide additional questions to help guide individual study or Life Group discussion. It is recommended you do the reading before you come to the Sunday service that coincides with that chapter. The discussion points contained herein are meant to give initial guidance and focus for Pathway’s church-wide study. It is the prerogative of the group to dive deeper into Keller’s book if so desired.

In addition to the Sunday sermons, Tim Keller's book "Prayer", and Life Group discussions, there will be several other ways during this series that Pathway will encourage one to further enrich their prayer lives:

1. Open invitation to Sunday morning prayer time @ 9AM in Room 101. We will be gathering in Room 101 every Sunday morning before service from 9AM – 10AM to pray with one another and for one another (no experience necessary!). All are encouraged to come.
2. Pathway Pastors will be texting out brief prayer prompts to those who opt it. It is easy, just text this message "**@pccprays**" to the number **81010** and you will receive a daily text prayer prompt as a reminder to take a moment to talk with God.

If you prefer email instead, just send an email to

pccprays@mail.remind.com (no subject required).

3. Pathway will be encouraging prayer during the second worship set of Sunday service, creating more opportunities for people to pray with one another, pray on their own, or pray with one of the prayer shepherds in the back of the sanctuary.

The Pastors and Leadership of Pathway Community Church thank you for your participation in this prayer series. We pray that this series will bring about a deeper understanding and a richer experience in your prayer life. We pray that your awe and intimacy with God grows and deepens through this series.

14-Week Reading and Sermon Schedule

Desiring Prayer

Week 1 (5/5/2019)

The Necessity of Prayer (ch.1, pg. 7-18) and ***The Greatness of Prayer*** (ch.2, pg. 19-32)

Understanding Prayer

Week 2 (5/12/2019)

What is Prayer? (ch.3, pg. 33-49)

5/19/2019 (break from Prayer series for PCC Retreat weekend)

Week 3 (5/26/2019)

Conversing With God (ch.4, pg. 50-65)

Week 4 (6/2/2019)

Encountering God (ch.5, pg. 66-80)

Learning Prayer

Week 5 (6/9/2109)

Letters on Prayer (ch.6, pg. 81-96)

Week 6 (6/16/2019) *Father's Day

Rules for Prayer (ch.7, pg. 97-107)

Week 7 (6/23/2019)

The Prayer of Prayers (ch.8, pg. 108-119)

6/30/2019 (break from Prayer series for a Generous Giving message)

Week 8 (7/7/2019)

The Touchstones of Prayer (ch.9, pg. 120-142)

Deepening Prayer

Week 9 (7/14/2019)

As Conversation: Meditating on His Word (ch.10, pg. 143-164)

Week 10 (7/21/2019)

As Encounter: Seeking His Face (ch.11, pg. 165-186)

Doing Prayer

Week 11 (7/28/2019)

Awe: Praising His Glory (ch.12, pg. 187-204)

Week 12 (8/4/2019)

Intimacy: Finding His Grace (ch.13, pg. 205-221)

Week 13 (8/11/2019)

Struggle: Asking His Help (ch.14, pg. 222-239)

Week 14 (8/18/2019)

Practice: Daily Prayer (ch.15, pg. 240-262)