

**Week 11- "Awe: Praising His Glory"**  
**Study Guide and Discussions Questions**

Week 11 (7/28/2019)

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

For this weeks study please read chapter 12 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:

What can re-engineer our very inner being, the structure of our personality? What can create healthy human community? Worship and adoration of God. We must love God supremely, and that can be cultivated only through praise and adoration. (Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 195)

Primary Bible Scripture for the week:

Psalm 150 (ESV)

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens!
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent greatness!
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!
- <sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- <sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!

### Study and Reflection Questions:

In Keller's book, *Prayer*, chapter 12 focuses on the first of three primary categories of prayer. The three types are, "upward" prayer, "inward" prayer, and "outward" prayer. Each of the next three chapters will cover one of the three. This week's chapter focuses on "upward" prayer; also referred to as praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.

1. In this chapter Keller presents the idea that we give our love to the things that we think will make us the most joyful. What we praise and adore most will point us to what it is we love most (see Keller, pg.193). God knows that nothing this world has to offer will handle the weight of our expectations. He knows that He is the only one who can truly restore and renew us. This is why He desires for us to praise and worship Him before all else, because He is the only path to true and everlasting joy. Let's look at what Psalm 150 teaches us about praise. In verse 1 (read v.1) *who* does the psalmist say we should praise? *Where* is it that He should be praised? What do you think the reason is for pointing out the "where" of praise?
2. Verse 2 answers the question of *why* He deserves our praise (read v.2). In what ways has God demonstrated His power and greatness to humankind, and to the universe? Can you make this personal to you? In other words, what mighty deeds has He done in your life? What things are you compelled to personally thank and praise God for?
3. Verses 3 through 6 tell us *how* we should praise God (read vv. 3-6). What do you think the primary message of these verses is? In the context of these verses, what does praise look like? How does your praise life compare to this "party" scene?
4. Keller suggests that prayers filled with praise directly develop love for God (Keller, pg.193). Does your prayer time include the kind of praise we find in Psalm 150? Do you exclaim your joyful thankfulness to Him; cry out in celebration of Him? Will you ask God to open you heart to this Psalm and see where it leads in your 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](mailto: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)