

Week 12- "Intimacy: Finding His Grace"
Study Guide and Discussions Questions

Week 12 (8/4/2019)

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

For this weeks study please read chapter 13 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:

Jesus Christ paid for our sin. Sin's condemnation can no longer fall on we who have repented and believed in him (Rom 8:1). If we forget this, we turn confession into a grueling, self- punishing penitence rather than gospel repentance. (Keller, *Prayer*, pg. 208)

Primary Bible Scripture for the week:

Psalm 32 (ESV)

- ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*
- ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*

- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Study and Reflection Questions:

In Keller's book, *Prayer*, chapter 13 focuses on the second of three primary categories of prayer. The three types are, "upward" prayer, "inward" prayer, and "outward" prayer. This week's chapter focuses on "inward" prayer; also referred to as confession, asking forgiveness, and repentance.

1. Psalm 32 speaks directly to the power of confessional prayer and receiving forgiveness from God. The first two verses of the passage introduce the main topic of the Psalm by declaring a blessing. In verses 1 and 2 whom is God's blessing upon? What do you think, "in whose spirit there is no deceit" means (v.2)?
2. In verse 1 and 2 we learn that God's blessing is upon the person who is forgiven of sin. We also see the first hint of the need for confession (v.2). In the next two verses (read vv. 3, 4) we see what happens to those who try to hide their sin from God. What does life look like for the person who refuses to confess their mistakes and shortcomings to God in prayer? In contrast what happens when we openly confess our sin to God (v. 5)?
3. Now in verse 6 we are exhorted to "pray" and openly confess our sins to God. This brings three blessing upon the person in prayer. What are they? Hint: 1—see verse 7; 2—see verse 8; 3—see verse 10.
4. The psalm ends with telling us the response that all sinners should have after confessing their sin before God and freely receiving His just forgiveness. Do you finish your confession to God with gladness, rejoice, and joy? According to this Psalm why should we "shout for joy" after our prayers of confession?

“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)