

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Roger Wendt

May 24, 2009

STOP AND PRAY

"Pray with passion"

Luke 11:1

"There is nothing more vital to your Christian life than prayer."

- Rick Warren

James 4:8 "Come near to God and he will come near to you."

- We come near to God when we stop and pray **with passion**.

Luke 11:1 "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, just as John taught his disciples."

- Charles Spurgeon, the famous 19th century London preacher, said, "**He who prays without fergency does not pray at all!**"

- One of the greatest obstacles we have in our prayer lives is that our prayers are so casual ... they lack passion -- intensity.

Luke 18:1 "... always pray and never quit."

- A passionate prayer comes from a passionate heart, and a passionate heart comes only from the **heart of God**.

What must we develop in our hearts to pray with passion?

1. A **HUNGRY** HEART

- The key is to have an appetite for God.

"The Bible idea of prayer is that we get to know God Himself."

- Oswald Chambers

- Busyness does not distract a hungry heart.

Luke 5:15-16 "Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. **But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**"

- If you have a hungry heart, you will do whatever it takes to talk with Jesus as often as you can.

2. A **DEPENDENT** HEART

"I generally pray two hours every day, except on very busy days.

On those days, I pray three." - Martin Luther

- Digging Deeper – “Stop and Pray”

For personal or small group study

Week of May 24, 2009

• A dependent heart is a **sold out** heart – we realize we can't, but He can.

Acts 17:28 “For in him we live and move and have our being.”

• A dependent heart is an abiding heart.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

3. A TRUSTING HEART

• A trusting heart is a peaceful heart.

John 14:27 NLT “I am leaving you with a gift -- **peace of mind and heart**. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.”

• Worry is a subtle, and not so subtle, form of **distrust**. In fact, worry is the opposite of trust.

• What is the antidote to worry?

Philippians 4:6-7 NLT “**Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 50:15 NASB “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”

“Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of Himself.” - Mother Teresa

• You don't pray to change God's mind, but to **gain** His mind, His ways and perspectives.

• To pray with passion doesn't manipulate God or guarantee we will always get our way. That is not the purpose of prayer. But it will change us.

Luke 22:42, 44 “Father, if you are willing, take away this cup of suffering. But **do what you want, not what I want**.” Being full of pain, **Jesus prayed even harder**. His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

We must become tired of being prayer deficient.

No more excuses. Just do it!

STOP AND PRAY! Pray with passion!

Did you have an “AHA” moment from the sermon or sermon notes? If so, what was it and how has it impacted you?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Rick Warren says, “*There is nothing more vital to your Christian life than prayer.*” How does this statement make you feel? How important is prayer in your life? Describe how prayer is a relationship. [Luke 18:1; Matthew 6:5-15; 7:7-11; John 14:13; 15:11-15; 16:24]

2. David Hubbard says, “*In prayer we don't tell God what to do; we find out what He wants us to do.*” What effect does this have on how you pray and how you listen to what He is saying to you? [John 8:47; 10:3-4, 27; 15:7; Revelation 3:20]

Who are some people in God's Word that were able to hear God's voice? How did they hear? [Genesis 2, 6, 12, 22; Exodus 3; 1 Kings 19:11-13; Acts 8, 10]

3. Who do you know that prays with passion? Describe what you have observed. Does praying louder and more emotionally get God's attention more than a quiet prayer? If not, then what constitutes a passionate prayer? [Psalm 46:10; 47:1; Matthew 14:30; James 5:17-18; Luke 22: 42-44]

4. What are some obstacles to prayer? How can an obstacle also be a prompter to pray? [Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Acts 4:31; 1 Peter 3:7]

5. Why would God close His ears to our prayers if we have unconfessed sin in our life? [Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 19:1-2] What can we do about it? [1 John 1:9-10]

6. What do you desire to see God accomplish in your own life through prayer? What are you doing, or what can you do, to put more passion in your prayer life? [Psalm 51:16-17]