

the Lamp



...as a light shining in a dark place.

2 Peter 1:19

September 2006

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Listening in Prayer



Justin Bruner

Something that drives me crazy...about myself...is my stunted prayer life. Maybe some of you can identify with me, but here's the thing: I know the power of prayer, and I acutely desire to be in a deep relationship with my Creator and Savior – the problem is, I rarely spend much time in prayer. It irritates me that my prayer life is so shallow, so I have spent a lot of time lately pondering my prayer life (not to mention actually praying). Here is what I discovered:

The majority of my prayer life is made up of me talking to God – asking for things, thanking Him for things, giving praise for things, etc. All of these elements of prayer are good, but I started thinking about the idea of listening as prayer. This might seem crazy and/or weird to you – but, to effectively communicate in relationships, it requires listening as much as, if not more than, talking. Since listening is important to communication in relationships, then wouldn't it be of huge importance to

I listen, usually there is have honestly never

I am reminded of in 1 Kings 19. The the mountain – for an earthquake and a in any of those loud the sheer silence. At the had come near.

Meditate on scripture, running verses over and over in your mind. Listening to the Word of truth will have great implications for your life.

listen in prayer? The problem lies in this: when an audible voice speaking back to me, and I audibly heard the voice of God.

Elijah's encounter with God on Mt. Horeb Lord tells Elijah to go out and stand on the Lord is about to pass by. A great wind, fire all passed by – but the Lord was not demonstrations of power; the Lord was in sound of the silence, Elijah knew the Lord

To listen as prayer, read scripture. Spend some time in prayer and then listen to what Scripture has to say. Use the Psalms as a guide for prayer. Meditate on scripture, running verses over and over in your mind. Listening to the Word of truth will have great implications for your life.

To listen as prayer, be silent. Spend time in the silence – with no radio, TV, computer, anything. Talk to God, begin a conversation with Him and listen. May you be blessed as you grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord.



Website of the Month

A new website selected for your viewing edification.



Ministry Highlights

Discipling and Adult Education take center stage this month.



Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of September.

Ministry Spotlight

United We Stand



Todd Smithgall

AS YOU'VE HEARD BY NOW, THE ELDERS ARE BRINGING A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JOHN TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION DURING THE SUNDAY AM BIBLE STUDY TIME DURING THE UPCOMING FALL CLASS QUARTER. WE HAVE HAD SIMILAR CHURCH-WIDE STUDIES IN THE PAST, WITH VERY GOOD RESULTS, BUT I EXPECT THIS ONE TO BE EVEN BETTER. WHY? IN THE PAST, WE'VE STUDIED OUR RELATIONSHIPS TO EACH OTHER, TO OUR LOCAL CONGREGATION, TO AUTHORITIES AND TO NON-CHRISTIANS. THESE STUDIES HAVE ALL HELPED US IMPROVE OUR DAILY LIVES AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS, AND OUR WORSHIP TIME TOGETHER.

The study of John, though, will be unique, because John is unique among the gospels and among all the books of the bible. It goes so far beyond just an account of the things that Jesus said and did, and it goes far beyond giving advice or commands. John reveals the true meaning of Jesus' life and teachings in a much broader, deeper sense than a simple recounting of deeds. He treats Jesus as the supernatural being who participated in the creation of the universe as a partner to God, and he places that same Jesus here among us for a time of teaching, healing, admonishing, encouraging, and saving. John is not just a fantastic story teller, though. He is a reporter and explainer of the truth.

In this age of relativism, where the very concept of absolute truth is held in disregard by the world, we should all be deeply committed to learning and living that which is true. Just as the truth does not permit us to agree that "being good" equates to salvation, neither does the truth permit us to erect barriers between ourselves and other Christians over matters of form, style or interpretation.

In John 17, Jesus offers this prayer for US, the future believers:

20 "...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: **23** I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

LOOK BACK AT THIS PASSAGE, AND COUNT THE TIMES THAT JESUS PRAYED FOR ONENESS, FOR UNITY, FOR HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TO BE THE PATTERN FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS HERE ON EARTH. JESUS UNDERSTOOD THAT ONLY IN THE UNITY OF HIS BELIEVERS WILL THE WORLD KNOW HIS TRUTH, HIS GLORY, AND GOD'S LOVE.



Ministers

Mike McAlister, Pulpit

Mike Ross, Pastoral care

Justin Bruner, Youth and Family

Assembly
Schedule

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.

Worship 10:15 A.M.

Care Groups 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.

Friday

Ladies study • call Charmayne



Announcements



LADIES BIBLE CLASS – Mark your calendars now for Thursday morning classes beginning Thursday, September 7th at 10 AM. Nancy Thomas will be teaching from the John McArthur Bible study series on the Gospel of John. Books are \$8. Babysitting will be provided.

FRIENDSWOOD COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST will be Saturday, September 19th at the Friendswood High School Cafeteria from 6:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP by contacting Ed Hoskins.

DEAR CHURCH OF CHRIST FRIENDS, Words cannot express our gratitude to you all for once again providing school supplies for our children! What a blessing you are to our family! May God bless you as you have blessed us! *Gene & Maryjane Mathis* Matt. 25:34-40

Thanks! The School Supplies are great!! Jordan Mathis • Thanks for the school supplies and the great stuff! Tye Mathis

Thank you so much for helping us. You are a blessing to our family! Starla Mathis • Thanks! Devin Mathis

PRAYER MEETING – Wednesday's @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Abundant Joy Conference • Crowned With Joy

One day conference for women, by women. Saturday, September 30th at West Houston Church of Christ

Cost: \$35 if registered by 9/18/06 • A registration table will be set up on August 26th.

That You Might Have Life – A 12-week study of the Gospel of John

John presents a portrait of Jesus in words and miracles that reveal Him to be the very Word of God.

- § This Word is revealed to be Life.
- § He came that we might have life within ourselves.
- § His miracles and His teaching invite us to believe in Him and find life in Him.
- § His sacrificial death offers His life to give us life.
- § His resurrection life confirms the truth of His words and His promises.
- § The sending of His Spirit empowers us to live as the children of God.

This will be a 12-week study in the Gospel of John, led by four of our elders who will each be teaching the same text each week. *(Study begins on Sept. 10 and concludes on Nov. 26.)*

Press Release • September 2006 • Lifeline Chaplaincy Benefit Dinner • (October 9, 2006)

Lifeline Chaplaincy, a ministry of the Churches of Christ, announces its 21st Annual Benefit Dinner in Houston to be held at The Westin Galleria, October 9, 2006, Reception and Silent Auction: 6:00-7:00 PM. Dinner and Program: 7:00-9:00 PM. Featured speaker will be Dr. John C. Bailey, Dentist and Medical Missionary, President of Body and Soul Ministries. Chip Carlisle, President of Wells Fargo Bank and Chairman of the Board of Greater Houston Partnership will be Master of Ceremonies. Individual tickets for the evening are \$75. Sponsor tables are available at various levels: Diamond (\$10,000); Sapphire (\$6,000); Ruby (\$3,000); and Emerald (\$1,500).

For tickets, please call: 713-524-1055 • <http://www.lifelinechaplaincy.org>

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Charles Kirklín,
Naseem Khonsari | 8 - Nancy Smotherman | 20 - Cathy Erminger |
| 2 - A.J. Shaw | 9 - Amy Bruner | 21 - Charlene Fulgham, Claudia Hart |
| 4 - Anel Sacramento | 10 - Weldon Womack | 23 - Cole Scanlan |
| 5 - Jacob McAlister, Kristen Foulk,
Irene Hart | 11 - Jade Warren, Leigh Ann Adair | 25 - Bubba Davis |
| 6 - Peggy Guilliams | 14 - Susan Cox | 26 - Brawner McDonald |
| 7 - Nik Kovitz, Becky Wooley | 15 - Diane Bailey | 27 - Tyler Adair |
| 9 - Jeff Thomas | 16 - Glenda Duncan | 28 - Nina Harrison, Sandra Harrell |
| | 18 - David Veatch | 29 - Amy Williams |
| | 19 - Connie Young | 30 - Ann Taft |

Communion Preparers

Lisa, Clint & Tyler Sullivan

Greeters

Stephen & Duda Fulgham

Contribution Counters

Linda Harris &
Betty Dillon

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY 4	5	6	7 QUILTING NIGHT	8 9 - 11 A.M. FCS GRANDPARENTS DAY Fusion Cell	9 Team Weekend
5 p.m. Fusion 316 @ Windsong 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12 P.M. Fusion LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER 5 P.M. Fusion 316 @ John & Donna Simpson's 17	18	6 - 7:30 A.M. FWD COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST @ FHS CAFETERIA 19	20	21 QUILTING NIGHT	22	23
5 p.m. Fusion 316 @ Windsong 24	25	26	27	28	29	8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. WOMEN'S ABUNDANT JOY CONFERENCE @ WEST HOUSTON C OF C 30

One of the first websites we highlighted was the site for Ligonier Ministries. They are having a conference in Houston this month that'll be worth your while if you can make it. The subject is entitled "The Cross of Christ, Redemption Accomplished." The dates are September 15-16 at Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugarland. You can get more information at their website at www.ligonier.org

Sometimes you may come across a website that you really think is worthwhile, and I had this experience researching our monthly spotlight. By all means check out www.allaboutgod.com. Their homepage says "The Community for Seekers, Skeptics and Believers," and they say of themselves that "We write compelling websites that reach out to skeptics, seekers, believers, and a hurting world with powerful evidence for God and the Good News of Jesus." They have extensive articles on relevant issues that face everyone today, such as the existence of God, who is Jesus Christ, the reliability of the Bible, philosophy, world religions, cults just to name a few. And much, much more. A terrific example of how the internet can be used to spread the Gospel. Check it out !!

the Church of Christ
in Friendswood



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www.fwdcofc.org