

Friday, September 6th ... Join in **fasting** for the day ... Night of Prayer & Worship begins at 7pm - 10:30pm.

Download of Strategies and ways to love, serve creatively

Never Give Up

I. Faith Hope Love

A. Eternal Love

1Cor. 13:1 **If I speak** ... 2 **And if I have** .. powers... all knowledge ... all faith, 3 **If I give away all** ... but have not love, **I gain nothing.**

13 So **now faith, hope, and love abide**, these three; but the **greatest** of these is love. 14:1 **Pursue love**, and earnestly desire ...

B. Confidence in Prayer.

My Father's Conversion – "He will be OK" 3 wks later.

1John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And **this is the confidence that we have** toward him, that if we ask anything **according to his will** he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

2 Questions — *His Will & The Mystery of Delay – Faith, Hope and Love are eternal*

II. Understanding His Will

A. Holiness — Separated from the Ordinary, Outside the Natural, Godly, Beauty.

1Th. 3:11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 12 and may the Lord **make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all**, as we do for you, 13 so that he may **establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.**

1Th. 4:1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us **how you ought to walk** and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For **this is the will of God**, your **sanctification:**

[SLIDE 1]

PERSONAL & PHYSICAL — Heaven on Earth

that you **abstain from sexual immorality**; 4 that each one of you know how to **control his own body** in **holiness** and **honor**, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

INTERPERSONAL

6 that no one transgress and wrong (defraud) his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For **God has** not called us for impurity, but in **holiness**. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

B. Joy, Prayer and Gratitude

1Thess 5:16 Rejoice always, [SLIDE 2]

17 pray without ceasing, [SLIDE 3]

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is **the will of God** in Christ Jesus **for you.** [SLIDE 4]

III. Tensions in Prayer

A. *Some Mock at the Delayed Results*

Luke 17:20 Being asked by the Pharisees *when the kingdom* of God *would come*, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is **not** coming in **ways that can be observed**, **21** nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is **in the midst of you.**” (marg. *within your grasp*)

B. *Never Give Up*

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought **always to pray and not lose heart.** [SLIDE 5]

2 He said, “In a certain city there was a **judge** who neither feared God nor respected man.

3 And there was a **widow** in that city who **kept coming** to him and **saying**, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

4 **For a while** he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she **will not beat me down** by her continual coming.’” **6** And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says.

7 And **will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?** **8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, **when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**

C. *Confidence in the Throne of Grace*

Luke 18:9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

10 “**Two men** went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector.**

11 The Pharisee, standing **by himself**, prayed thus (margin -praying **to** himself, NIV - **about** himself, NKJ - **with** himself): ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

“Good job, God! Look at how impressive I am.” He glanced at God, but contemplated himself.

13 But the tax collector, **standing far off**, would **not even lift up his eyes** to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be **merciful** to me, **a¹ sinner!**’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified**, *rather than the other.*

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but **the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**”

Beholding the beauty of God’s holiness, he couldn’t look. He cried out for MERCY!

IV. Faith & Boldness

A. Throne of GRACE — God’s Ability & Favor

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest ...

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of **grace**, that we may **obtain mercy** and **find grace** to help in time of **need**.

[SLIDE 6]

B. Our Confession

Ro 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? *[SLIDE 7]*

HOPELESS SITUATIONS? BIG MESS? BEYOND OUR FIXING?

Heb. 13:6 So we may boldly say:

¹ Literally, “*the*” sinner

*“The LORD is my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?”*

[Rom 15:13 NIV](#) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That we might pray and never give up!