



# Freedom In Christ Church

## Newsletter

### PRAYING

**John 15:7** *But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!*

**1 John 5:14-15** *14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.*

What is Prayer? Prayer is defined as a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship. We look at prayer in different forms. Some see it as a pastor speaking behind a pulpit, or an elder on their hands and knees, or even a prayer team holding hands. We all have an idea of what prayer is.

When it comes to prayer many of us are lacking. If we are dealing with some type of problem and someone asks us if we prayed about it, we tend to feel guilty because we know that we haven't. We feel uneasy, remorseful, or guilty because we know deep in our hearts that we don't pray as often as we should. We definitely feel like we don't pray enough to please God.

Prayer is actually more simple than we tend to make it. It is simply a two-way conversation with God. When we go to God in prayer, we do not have to be in a certain mind set. We don't have to be full of joy or happy. We are to approach God with whatever emotion we have at that time. We go to Him and be ourselves. If we are sad, God will give us joy. If we are upset or mad,

God will give us peace by bearing our burdens if we allow Him to. Through Christ, we will have peace, so go to Him and indulge in a conversation.

When we pray, it is our way of

- Getting to know God intimately.
- Voicing our needs or desires, whether it's physical, financial, or emotional, so that He can help, provide, or deliver us.
- Expressing our attitudes of gratitude by thanking Him for all that He has done.

Remember that when we pray, we also have to listen. He will speak to us through the Holy Spirit.

Praying is not something that we only do first thing in the morning so that we have a morning off on a good start either. Prayer should be an open-ended conversation between us and our All-Mighty God, throughout the entire day.

### **Quotes**

*Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God. **Billy Graham***

*Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed. **E.M. Bounds***

*Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night. **Unknown***

*Prayers don't have to be eloquent. They need only come from a sincere and humble heart. **Unknown***

Sister Valerie Conner



## **Hold The Line - Revival Is Now**

As we all navigate these strange and challenging times, we find ourselves in, we at FICC have dedicated ourselves to seeking God's face above all else. We have an immense responsibility to lead and teach our children who God is, how to seek Him, how to know Him, and how to honor Him.

I understand how tempting it can be to obsess over the darkness that is encroaching upon our nation and world. As we look at unconstitutional mandates, unemployment rising, the fear of a virus, distrust in government and media, etc.... the natural response is always going to be fight or flight. Some will pretend that nothing is happening and some will obsess over the threats we face.

As born again, Spirit filled children of God, we are called to handle the storm in a different way than the world naturally would. We have to remember that greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world. Every name must bow to the mighty name of Jesus! No weapon formed against us shall prosper. Anything Satan means for our harm; God will turn for our good. We have the very living Spirit of God living within our spirits and all the authority that comes with it.

Let's turn to a familiar passage of scripture and see what we can glean from its wisdom. Matthew 14:22-33 says, "Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

When I read this story as I have hundreds of times before, the Holy Spirit continues to illuminate to me just how relevant this miraculous event is to our generation. Satan schemes to rule over us with fear and deception, but we have not been given a spirit of fear. Instead, we have been given a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. Jesus said that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free. Jesus also said that He is the way, the truth, and the life.

When Jesus was walking on the water of the lake towards the disciples, we see that their first reaction was fear. Their second natural reaction was to question if it really was Jesus. They could not understand the supernatural miraculous means of their salvation from the storm around them. Jesus replied to his terrified disciples three very powerful and very relevant things. Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid. These three statements of remedy that Jesus spoke 2,000 years ago are exactly what we need today. First, take courage. Second recognize and accept the existence and presence of Jesus in our lives and in the midst of our storm. Third, do not be afraid.

Easier said than done, some might say. Peter literally and figuratively tested the waters when he said to Jesus, “Lord if it’s really you tell me to come to you on the water.” A part of Peter knew that Jesus was the source of his salvation from disaster. So, Jesus said “come to me.” Many of us continue to come to Jesus through weekly church attendance, Christian radio, watching Flashpoint, etc.... all of which are positive steps in the right direction. We should commend Peter for having the bravery to step out of the boat, as should all of us be commended for continuing to attend church and claim our faith in Christ. Unfortunately, I see clear parallels between what happened next to Peter, and to what is happening to so many in the body of Christ who find themselves in the eye of this end times type of storm.

Peter began to walk in the supernatural, miraculously defying gravity and walking on the water toward Jesus in the middle of horrifying natural conditions! But then, we all know what happened next. Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and begin to look at the wind and the waves surrounding him. His natural brain kicked in and told him, “You’re going to drown!” As soon as Peter began to fixate upon the natural conditions around him instead of the supernatural Jesus before him, he began to sink. The devil would love nothing more than to see Christians shift their focus from the supernatural Jesus within themselves to the natural conditions the devil has whipped up all around them. The truth is, we cannot face and defeat this threat we all face with our own abilities. Just as Peter could not walk on water due to any strength or skill of his own, likewise we cannot overcome Satan’s current attacks on our country, our children, our church, our freedoms, and our minds without completely surrendering to the Spirit of Jesus within us. It is time for the Body of Christ to put our money where our mouth is, so to speak. Do we really

trust God? Will we trust Him and run to Him in the face of insurmountable odds? I believe, at this point we have no other choice, and oh what a beautiful place that is!

Many across this nation feel just like Peter did when he stared into the eye of the storm with despair. Many feel like they are sinking, drowning, doomed. We have an incredible opportunity right now to come together and in mass unity cry out to the Lord just as Peter did when he was sinking. Notice the instant Peter called on the Lord to save him, Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter's hand, returning his footing to the surface of the waters. Returning him to a place of supernatural victory.

I want to point out a very important aspect of this story. When Peter returned to the surface of the water, he walked hand in hand with Jesus through the storm safely back to the boat. Even when Peter called out to Jesus and resumed his supernatural water walk, the storm still raged on. It was not until they reached the boat until the storm subsided. We must understand that when we seek God, run to Him, surrender to Him, and honor Him with all that we are, that does not mean that the natural conditions of the storm are going to immediately subside. We must walk through the storm for a time, but we must do it with Jesus. When we give ourselves completely to Him, He gives us the ability to exist within the protecting arms of His love.

I want to go back for a moment to something Jesus said to Peter when He grabbed his hand and rescued him from drowning. Jesus said, "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?" This is powerful, especially when you understand what Jesus is really saying. Faith is not believing in God, rather faith is believing God. Faith is trusting God. Trusting without a shadow of doubt that God is who He says He is, and God will do what He says He will do. Remember what Jesus said to Peter when Peter asked Him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you." Jesus said, "come." That one word should have been all that Peter needed to avoid fear, doubt, anxiety, and all the symptoms of the storm that was raging. When Jesus says, "come", He means, "come." Jesus promised us that His Spirit would never leave us not forsake us. We are the head and not the tail. We have the authority of the Name of Jesus coursing through our veins. We have peace that passes all understanding in the middle of the worst storm this world has ever seen!

Faith is believing God. We only believe those whom we trust. We only trust those whom we know. We only know those whom we have a relationship with. We only have a relationship with those to whom we are committed and spend time with. I believe another way to say what Jesus said to Peter is, "Don't you know who I am? Don't you trust me?"

Now is the time to seek God's face like never before! Now is the time to spend heartfelt genuine time in prayer at home, every day. Now is the time to praise and worship like our lives depend on it. Now is the time to wash ourselves daily with God's Word. Now is the time to dig our heels in and honor God with our lives. Now is the time to shout from the mountain tops, "I will not conform! I will not comply!" Jesus said if you love your life, you will lose it, but if you hate your life in this world, you will find eternal life in Him. It's time to be radical. It's time to sell out to Jesus. Let's push all our chips into the center of the table and commit our lives to Christ. It's time to live out the reality that it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me.

Hold the line! Revival is now! Watch as we walk on water with Jesus' right through this storm. Remember, we are not moved by what we see or by what our minds perceive about the natural conditions around us. We are moved by the power and love of God Almighty! Freedom in Christ Church has an extremely important part to play in these tumultuous times. God has called all of us to be a lighthouse in the darkness of this world. We are a beacon of hope and healing. God is ready to move through His people and do a mighty work! First, we must cry out to Him, reach out for His hand by seeking Him through prayer, worship and His Word. Next, we must walk on water with Him right through the eye of the storm by digging in and honoring Him with our lives at all costs. Remember, at Freedom in Christ Church, we are family. We are one body with many parts, all equally important and powerful. We are in this together. Get ready for God to make a way where there seems to be no way! Victory is ours in Jesus Name!

Pastor Dane Pogue

## **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and it is that time once again to be mindful and take purposeful action to meditate on the things we have to be thankful for. It is no secret that the forces of evil are no longer hiding in the shadows but are boldly out and about in an "in your face" kind of way. That's why we are to count our blessings, name them one by one as the old hymn goes.

Openly and audibly declaring all of the things we have to be thankful for is such a beautiful form of praise to our Heavenly Father. The very air we breathe is solely attributed to His love for us! By raising our voices high and praising our Lord for the good things He has done and thanking Him for all He's yet to do, your focus will shift, that's a guarantee! No longer will the "in your face" darkness penetrates your soul, instead His light will flood your heart with goodness and truth.

4042 Sycamore Grove Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202  
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 Services: Sunday @ 10AM and 6PM Wednesday @ 7PM  
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I would like to offer up a challenge. Let's call this the "25 Days of Thanksgiving Challenge". Starting November 1st and every day after for the next 25 days, I challenge you to meditate on one thing each day that you are thankful for. Each day praise the Lord out loud and thank Him for that specific thing that comes to mind. All throughout the day when it comes to mind, praise Him again and again and again! And keep it going for the days to come all the until Thanksgiving. These things may be things that you already have or things you have been believing for as an exercise of your faith.

I am anticipating many blessings and hearts renewed by this special anointed challenge! Praise Him for He is worthy to be praised.

Happy Thanksgiving from your family at FICC. Be blessed.  
Sister Leah Hockenberry

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## Fill in the Blank

And let the \_\_\_\_\_ of God rule in your \_\_\_\_\_, to which also you were called in one body; and be \_\_\_\_\_. Colossians 3:15

## WAYS TO GIVE:

**STOP AT THE CHURCH AND GIVE IN PERSON**

**PAYPAL AND VENMO @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM**

**MAIL @ 4042 SYCAMORE GROVE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**

**GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK.**

**LUKE 6:38**

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## **Upcoming events**

### **Pantry of Hope**

**Food and loose change Sunday**

**First Sunday of every month**

### **First Friday Fellowship**

**August 6<sup>th</sup> 7 - 8:30pm**

**Speakers:**

**Sister Judy Zink**

**Brother Don Gettel**

### **Biblical Citizenship movies**

**Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Noncompliant**

**Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Monumentum**

**@ 6:30**

Answer:

Peace, Hearts, and Thankful

**Follow us on social media**



**Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.**

**Psalms 103:1-4**

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