

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:39:16

To be alone. There's no way he left. He was dead. He was always going to be gone. You guys, we all know he made way for me by first. You know the world around me. I see his loving care and. Oh, my heart knows where we. I know the world is. When I know that if we went through it all.

00:00:39:16 - 00:01:33:20

We saw me. First day of this up here. It will come by, says he. Let the Christ Jesus. Then we want to be upfront with me. I want to share the way he let me go. See, there are so many said to me, but you ask me how I will erase the earth with me. I won't rejoice, rejoice, oppressed, and lift up your voice and say, you don't know how, yes, Jesus Christ, but we know the world will see.

00:01:33:23 - 00:02:30:12

And I know the other side now know there is so loving. So God, I'm calling you. Let me live in my friends. Jesus, let's do that. He walks with me and jobs with me along with the way he let you know that we met so many times before you asked me, oh my God, we let you go. My first.

00:02:30:14 - 00:03:09:05

Good morning, good morning. Welcome. Welcome to Dean Baptist Temple. Thank you all for being here on this special, Easter Sunday. He is absolutely risen. And because of that, we know that everything is true. The Bible is true, his life is true, his words are true, and we are just so excited for that. I want to, say, introduction prayer, for the message today that pastor just going to be bringing to us and, prepare your hearts and minds for what you hear and, just the words that you're going to you're going to absorb, and, let's, let's bow our heads for prayer.

00:03:09:07 - 00:03:27:08

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you on this special day. We thank you for the blood and sweat and tears. Lord, we thank you for the suffering that your son did on the cross to save us, to save us from our sins. Lord, we know you did not have to do that. You did not have to pay the ultimate price.

00:03:27:10 - 00:03:57:01

But because of that, you saved sinners like us who have no business having or spending eternal life with you. We have that chance and we have that opportunity, Lord, just by accepting you into our lives, Lord and we are. We are so blessed and we thank you for your your grace and mercy. Please work with our hearts in our minds, Lord, and just help us be prepared for the message that's going to be presented to us, Lord, and seek out any opportunity to praise you and to lift you up.

00:03:57:01 - 00:04:18:22

I pray that everything that happens is for your edification and glory, Lord, and just pray that everything goes smoothly. Lord, for your honor and glory. Thank you for everything you do, Lord. In Jesus name I pray. Amen. All right, before we get started, we've got a couple announcements that we need to talk about that will be happening throughout today.

00:04:19:00 - 00:04:31:15

And throughout the week, Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study, that's the norm and the usual. And that will happen this Wednesday at 630. So you want to be there. Don't miss that.

00:04:31:16 - 00:04:56:22

After today's service, there will be food provided. We'll have lunch. And you can see the table set up out there in the foyer. We are going to have, a time of, fellowship with each other and, just to continue the celebration of Easter Sunday. So today we will have the luncheon directly after the service, and then we will also have an Easter egg hunt for the little children.

00:04:57:00 - 00:05:22:08

And I guess for the older whoever wants to participate, I guess there's no age limit on this thing, but, there will be an Easter egg hunt, so, you should, we'll all enjoy that. Would you stand for me right now? We're going to have the our worship tone set a message. As is the norm and what we're accustomed to, it's going to be from first Corinthians 12 nine.

00:05:22:10 - 00:05:48:07

I will say this all together and, let it sink into our minds and hearts. Let's start with the chapter in the verse, first Corinthians 12 nine. But as it is written, I have not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. Thank you.

00:05:48:07 - 00:06:04:16

Excellent, excellent. All right. Now, before we get into the message, we're going to have a time of opportunity to say hi to each other, greet them, visit with them for just a little bit, and, we'll come back and sing The Family of God. I'll bring you back with the verse, and y'all can join me and sing.

00:06:04:16 - 00:06:28:05

But, right now, let's just go ahead and mingle among each other and, let's say hi to each other.

00:06:28:07 - 00:06:43:16

I.

00:06:43:18 - 00:07:50:22

May.

00:07:51:00 - 00:08:00:15

Have.

00:08:00:17 - 00:08:39:20

You may.

00:08:39:22 - 00:09:26:06

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by his blood, joined as with Jesus as we travel this, for and part of the family. The family of God.

00:09:26:08 - 00:09:50:10

Thank you all. Welcome back. We're going to be singing verse, at verse. We're going to be singing hymn. And we actually have hymn hymnals and hymn books, in front of your seats there, page 451. Or you can just follow along on screen. But we're going to be singing gentle Shepherd single couple of verses of gentle Shepherd on page 451.

00:09:50:12 - 00:11:14:18

Gentle ship. Come and lead us, for we need you to help us find our way. Gentle Shepherd. Come and feed us. For we need your strength. From day to day. There's no other we can turn to who can help us. Faith. Another day, gentle shepherd. Come and lead us. For we need you to help us find our way.

00:11:14:20 - 00:12:01:01

Thank you. You may be seated. And just before the message of Pastor Jeff will come and bring to us, we're going to have a special interlude of music. So enjoy the music. Being presented here.

00:12:01:03 - 00:12:07:16

Today,

00:12:07:18 - 00:12:30:19

Thumbs some. And bells. Oh. Major and joy. Oh.

00:12:30:21 - 00:12:48:04

We love. Oh.

00:12:48:06 - 00:13:19:01

He would be sorry. Oh. Because of my so many people. Oh. She. For some reason. Oh.

00:13:19:03 - 00:13:41:02

She here for. Oh.

00:13:41:04 - 00:14:04:17

Love. Oh. Well, yeah. Oh, I see.

00:14:04:19 - 00:14:25:05

Oh.

00:14:25:07 - 00:14:35:09

Oh.

00:14:35:11 - 00:14:55:19

Oh.

00:14:55:21 - 00:15:23:10

Oh. Well, how do you follow that? Right. So the kids are going to transition, into Kid Town now and again. We just want to remember them in prayer. Those little souls, future disciples and disciple makers as the team invests in them. And so let's let's do that. Let's pray. Let's pray for them. Let's pray for each other.

00:15:23:12 - 00:15:54:07

Happy Easter, let's get to work in prayer and in the word. And then we'll just see what the Lord has for us. Amen. Okay. Lord, thank you so much for this morning. And, that we get to celebrate your resurrection. You rose from the dead, and you're alive today. According to the scriptures. And, what a gift it is for us to be able to acknowledge that, to celebrate that, to worship you in light of that, because of that.

00:15:54:09 - 00:16:20:00

And so, Lord, we just we want to say thank you. I want to say thank you for the children. Say thank you for the children's workers, for, the folks who have labored and sacrificed and prepared for the lesson that those kids are going to going to have this morning. I pray for, you know, I know my girls, their heart and their mind toward you.

00:16:20:00 - 00:16:52:10

You got to pray for their salvation. Pray that the gospel is clear to them. I pray that your resurrection is is powerful in their mind and in their heart. And I just pray for grace for them. And, Lord, we pray for ourselves. We pray for each other right now that your Word would speak clearly to us by your spirit, that you would you would communicate just clearly what you think, what you say, what you feel, about us, for us, to us this morning.

00:16:52:10 - 00:17:14:01

And we just ask that you'd help us to receive that. And so, Lord, if there are things in our minds, there's things in our lives there's plans for after church. If there's things going on that are going to rob us from just meeting with you and worshiping you, God, would you help us? Would you help us to set those things aside and just attend?

00:17:14:03 - 00:17:21:22

I knew this morning. Help us to hear from you. We ask it all in Jesus name. Amen.

00:17:21:23 - 00:17:41:03

Amen. Well, it's it's, It's not quite the same not having the nets here, but we've got the nets here, right? We still got the nets, but orange Jack, you're up in, Pittsburgh. So we want to keep praying for them as they're visiting their other son. And, his family and and, but thanks, Jason, for leading us this morning.

00:17:41:03 - 00:18:03:11

It's awesome. Praise the Lord. It's Easter service, too. So we got some extra bread up here and some cool decorations. This is, all a little bit different. A little bit new Easter that my mom said. That is brass. Like, do you have brass on Easter? Is that a thing where brass for Easter or loud? I don't know, I'm just making it up as I go.

00:18:03:11 - 00:18:24:20

I don't know, he's Easter. To me, it feels like, you know, we're celebrating the resurrection of Christ. And that's significant. That's profound. Right. And we get to do that every Sunday. We're going to do that next Sunday. So come on back next Sunday. And so in one sense, this

morning is actually no different than previous weeks and the weeks to follow.

00:18:24:22 - 00:18:53:17

But it is significant because around Denton, right, folks are celebrating Easter. And maybe there's, folks coming to church who don't usually go to church. And so all around the country, even maybe even all around the world, people are focusing on the reality that Jesus Christ died, was buried. That's easy to to understand. But then he rose from the dead and he's actually alive.

00:18:53:19 - 00:19:14:20

Okay, so you got to hear that on Easter Sunday. That's true. And that's a reality. But this morning, we're actually not going to just talk about that story, that particular story. In fact, we're just going to continue in our series in Ephesians. And we will highlight the the reality of Jesus's resurrection. But we're going to talk about breathing.

00:19:14:22 - 00:19:52:07

So Jesus gave up his breath, and then he took it again, right? He received it. He came back to life. But we breathe. Yeah. We breathe in and breathe in oxygen. And we exhale carbon dioxide. All right. Yeah. In my past science class, you breathe in oxygen, you breathe out. And I think that what we'll see is our prayer life and our worship and our, receiving of God's word.

00:19:52:07 - 00:20:18:13

And his spirit is, like, as simple and natural as breathing. And that's what I hope to communicate this morning. So let's just read a couple verses here. These first couple verses for study are Ephesians chapter one, verse 15 and 16, where Paul continues in his basically his introduction to this letter to the church of Ephesus. And so he is now going to begin a kind of a prayer request.

00:20:18:13 - 00:20:42:02

He's going to start praying for him, and we're going to glean some things from his prayer, that I think are significant and relevant to us today. It says, though, in verse 15 and 16 says, wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

00:20:42:04 - 00:21:03:15

Okay, so Paul here is telling the church that their faith and their love that he had heard of, right? If I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and and love unto all the saints, he's saying that faith in that love is commendable, and it's worthy of celebrating to the Lord. He specifically is giving praise directed to God in his prayer.

00:21:03:15 - 00:21:32:08

Life is like man, I thank God I'm throwing a praise party over your faith and of your love that you have for people. We see a similar prayer in first Thessalonians chapter two, verse 13 says, for this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when you receive the Word of God, which he heard of us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in

truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

00:21:32:08 - 00:22:02:14

So he he's again here, saying to this church, man, when you just believed God at His Word, when the word is preached and you just received it, you just chose to have faith in it. You just received it is like, man, I thank God for that. You say, well, okay, what's the big deal? That's good for him? Well, I think, I think what we pull from that, just even initially here is that there's faith and there's love that warrants giving thanks to God and celebrating.

00:22:02:16 - 00:22:29:13

There's a faith and a love that ought to get you excited. I mean, think about it. A child, right? Your child is born again. Your child gets saved. I bet you you're going to be celebrating if you're not. You don't understand what happened when your kid gets saved. Like my my oldest, she's made a profession of faith. I believe her profession of faith is genuine, that she's accepted Christ as a Lord and Savior.

00:22:29:17 - 00:22:51:02

And I tell you what, I'm pretty burdened. I'm pretty desperate for the second one. I've to see it. I'm not going to. I'm not going to strong armor into a false profession. I'm not going to make her pray a prayer with me. I'm not interested in that at all. I'm interested in the Spirit of God convicting her of her sin, showing it as exceeding sinful, that she's got a desperate need for a Savior.

00:22:51:02 - 00:23:10:17

And then when she calls out, Jesus saved me. I tell you what, I'm going to be more fired up than I've ever been in my life. And I'll tell you what, I'm going to get excited. I'm going to praise the Lord. I'm going to thank God because there's faith. It's worth celebrating when you see that in other people or love.

00:23:10:18 - 00:23:37:01

I mean my kids treating each other in love. What a relief, right? What a relief. What a relief when we see people loving other people, well, it's like, man, that's beautiful. That's praiseworthy. A disciple growing in their love for the lost or growing in their love for their family or their friends. When someone gets the love of God, they've received it and they give it to others.

00:23:37:01 - 00:24:00:15

That ought to excite us a little bit. It ought to to see the love of God and faith reproduce. That's awesome. It got Paul excited. But there's another phrase from these first two verses that really struck me. Okay, there's another phrase that I thought, oh man, I gotta, I gotta look into that. I got to explore that. I got to see what else is there.

00:24:00:15 - 00:24:36:07

And that phrase is he says he makes mention of them. He says in my prayers. And my prayers. He said. Making mention of you in my prayers. And I thought my prayers that that distinguishes that. He's got his

prayers right. It's not just that he's praying for them, it's that they got included into his prayers. He had prayers exclusive from the prayers that included them, right?

00:24:36:07 - 00:24:53:09

He had his own prayer life. You guys were like, what are you talking about? Well, okay. He said it a couple other times, even Romans one verse nine, For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit, and the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers. So he included the Ephesians.

00:24:53:14 - 00:25:15:17

He includes the Romans, second Timothy, verse one and three. I thank God, whom I serve for my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers, and I in days. Praying for Timothy. But all those groups, all those people, get included into my prayers.

00:25:15:19 - 00:25:50:10

I think there's something significant there. Okay, so bear with me for a moment. There's a personal prayer life that includes the work of the ministry. It includes the life of other believers. It includes the members of our body. But there's a prayer life that's rooted and established in a personal conversation and relationship with God. When he says, my prayers, you're included in my prayers, you in my prayer, my prayer for you is not my prayers.

00:25:50:12 - 00:26:17:19

My prayer life is not just praying for the church. It ought not be not to pray for you, but I ought to have a personal prayer life where I'm talking to the Lord about what's going on in here. Like what? What's in my heart? What's on my mind, what's in my life. Okay. To put it, put it shortly.

00:26:18:01 - 00:26:42:21

Paul owned his prayer life. His prayer life was his own. He he claimed it. I have a prayer life. It's not. It's not a set of obligations that I have to mention. You know, I have to write in my journal. I have to write all these people's names and all the things that they've got going on. And I've got to pray before I got to pray before I eat my food, and I going to pray before I go to sleep.

00:26:42:21 - 00:27:07:13

And I'm hitting all my prayer task list and I'm, I'm knocking it out of the park, and I'm doing all the praying that needs to be done. That's that's I think that's short of what it really is. His prayer life is personal and intimate. So how do you know? Well, there's a lot of things that Paul prays for in Scripture.

00:27:07:15 - 00:27:30:13

There's a lot of things. He prays for healing. He prays for open doors. He prays for the burdens of the churches. He prays for his friends. But then there's also so many other examples of other people praying, all kinds of different prayers in Scripture. You can see all these key men

and women of God through Scripture, praying in different ways about different things.

00:27:30:15 - 00:27:54:23

And I think it's I think it's hard to miss that. What prayer is, as it's described and prescribed in Scripture, is it is so much bigger than just a set of things that I mentioned to God. And then I continue my life. I continue going the way I'm going.

00:27:55:01 - 00:28:20:23

What am I getting at? I think I think my prayer life, if I'm not mindful, I'm not careful. My prayer life gets to be just a thing. Where we have meetings on Wednesdays and we pray together. Okay, check my kids, man. I want them to be healthy. I want them to be thriving. I want them to be spiritually healthy.

00:28:20:23 - 00:28:38:16

I want them to like there's a lot of practical things that I need to be taking care of for. And so I'm gonna pray for them. And God, would you bless them. Okay. And then, you know, my parents moved here. So my God, would you help them find the house? Okay. They found the house. Okay. I'm just working through the list of the things that I know I need to trust God with.

00:28:38:16 - 00:29:05:19

I know I've got these physical, practical tasks that need to be accomplished, and I think I know I need God's help for them. But if I'm not careful, there's no honest reflection between me and the Lord. I think it's easy to just pray with ceasing. I think I can pray on Wednesday and then I'm done. And then Thursday.

00:29:05:19 - 00:29:24:11

I'm good Thursday. Now I can have fun. Now I can play, now I can do this, or I can do that Sunday. Right? We can come to church and we can pray and we can sing and we can receive the teaching and we can go through the service. And then on Monday, okay, the church stuff is done. Now I can be whatever I want to be, whatever I need to be.

00:29:24:13 - 00:29:52:21

And I think Paul said in first Thessalonians 5:17, pray without ceasing. Like that prayer life doesn't end when you've prayed for all the things that need to be prayed for. It actually continues not to cease. We're called to pray without ceasing, pray without stopping. And when I heard that for the first time, I thought, oh man, that sounds hard to pray nonstop.

00:29:52:23 - 00:30:20:16

Okay, that line of communication between me and God personally, my prayers, that line of communication should always be open. It should be an open line of communication. And what I'm not saying, and what Paul is not saying, is that you should be talking the whole time. Okay. So those guys who are singing in the choir, like on the video we watch, I don't know if you noticed, but I thought their faces were all kind of funny looking, like they were all making like, oh, like funny faces.

00:30:20:21 - 00:30:41:20

I used to be in choir. And so when I got saved and I'm plugging into the church that I was saved in and plug it in and I want to serve, I want to participate. After high school, I joined the choir. So our church had a choir. And so I'm up there singing. I go to the practices, and then we had like a an opportunity to lead worship one Sunday.

00:30:41:20 - 00:31:03:05

And I think there was like a special thing and it's like a mother's day thing or I don't know what it was, but we were singing up there on a Sunday and we had to sing for multiple services. So there's a couple services where I'm up in the choir singing, and I just read Pray Without Ceasing. I'm like, okay, I'm going to pray in between singing.

00:31:03:07 - 00:31:16:13

So if I have to pray without stopping, that means I'm singing. Oh la la la la la la la la. And then my part ends. I'm like, okay, God, I just pray for everybody out here right now. And I just pray that God you help to acquire, to sing the right notes. And God, would you please bless us?

00:31:16:13 - 00:31:34:15

Oh no no no no no. Let's sing my part. No no no no not at all. And then I end and I keep praying. I have to keep praying. I'm getting panicky because it's really hard to sing and pray at the same time. If I'm walking around not doing anything, not thinking about anything, it's easy to just constantly be talking.

00:31:34:17 - 00:31:59:06

And then under my breath, you know, there's a lot of charismatic folks who do that. They take this to mean that I have to be constantly talking the whole time to God. That's what it would mean to pray without ceasing. I don't think that's it. You should pray as much as you possibly can. But the expectation is not just that you would be the one talking to God, but it is like breathing.

00:31:59:08 - 00:32:30:00

And just like breathing is in every moment, part of being physically alive. Praying is in every moment, part of being spiritually alive. Praying is in every moment, part of being spiritually alive. If you're spiritually alive, if you've received Christ and you have eternal life, then just like you're breathing in, there's air in your lungs right now. Prayer should be going out of your heart, out of your mind, out of your mouth.

00:32:30:02 - 00:32:58:13

Naturally out, out just as frequently as you exhale. Right. You know, I well, that's sounds like a lot of praying. Well, I think it's encompassing. I think it is intense. I think it is a lot, I think, to be praying without ceasing to have a lifestyle or a relationship where it is open lines with the Lord is kind of encompassing.

00:32:58:13 - 00:33:24:12

It's kind of, consuming. And I think about my spiritual life. Right. What's the quality of my spiritual life? There's times where I feel like, I don't know, why do I feel distant from God? Why do I feel like this is just perfunctory? Why do I feel like I'm just going through the motions? My spiritual life? Does it feel fired up and ready to go?

00:33:24:13 - 00:33:47:08

What is it? Well, one gauge to check is your prayer life. Prayer life. So. Well, I've been praying. I prayed on Sunday and I prayed on Wednesday. And I prayed for that meal and this meal, and I prayed for this and that. I think it's more than that. I think it's a little more invasive than that now. Okay.

00:33:47:13 - 00:34:06:02

If you yourself sitting there have thought, well, why do I feel distant from God? Why do I feel like my heart and passion for God have gone cold? It could be because you've not accepted Christ into your heart. Maybe you haven't received the forgiveness and the peace and the reconciliation that Easter affords us. Christ raising from the dead.

00:34:06:02 - 00:34:27:12

After paying the penalty of our sin, it gives us this new life of regeneration. And maybe you haven't been born again. Maybe you haven't accepted Christ into your heart to save you and forgive you. If you haven't, you are spiritually dead and that's why you feel distant from God. That's why you feel cold, because you don't have his life in you.

00:34:27:14 - 00:34:53:11

But if you are a believer, it could be because your prayer life is out of whack. And maybe it's not that you're just not praying enough. Maybe it's not that you're not praying. Maybe you are praying enough. Maybe you're saying the right amount of prayers. If there were such a thing. But again, I think it's more than just going through the motions of the times that you're supposed to pray.

00:34:53:13 - 00:35:18:18

So I think it's it's like, a little bit like running. Okay, so last week, last week I was running a monkey in there like a wild bird. So I was running last week. Right. And I have not trained like I was supposed to train for that race. I'm supposed to run, like, four or 5 or 6 times a week, and I did not do that.

00:35:18:20 - 00:35:36:08

But I had run that much in a previous training block. So last year I been running a lot and so I had some fitness built up. But I'm showing up on race day a little underprepared right? And in running, there's a few things that I consider as I start a race. Okay. So let me tell you a little bit about it.

00:35:36:09 - 00:36:01:05

First of all, heat and hydration. If you don't have enough hydration, if you don't have enough liquid, if you get overheated, then you're not going to run very far. You're not going to run for very long because your body won't let you. So heat and hydration energy okay, you have to get

carbs in your body. If you don't have enough carbs, you're not going to have the energy and the fuel to continue doing what you're doing.

00:36:01:07 - 00:36:20:23

And then your stomach. I don't know about you, but my stomach, if I eat the wrong thing at the wrong time when I go running, I get into trouble and my stomach's like, there's stuff in here that doesn't belong. We got to get this out of here and I'll spare you the details. But your stomach is a factor.

00:36:20:23 - 00:36:41:17

It's one of the gauges that I have to check. And then the legs had on my legs. Feel that they feel heavy. Do they feel tired? They have enough energy and and strength in them to keep going. And then there's the fitness. There's the the aerobic system, the heart and the lungs that can maximize the oxygen being used and, and the heart pumping and getting the blood where it needs to go.

00:36:41:17 - 00:37:15:14

There's that aerobic system. And and and even if it's not too hot, even if I have plenty of carbs, my stomach is clear, my legs are fresh. If I don't have oxygen being processed properly in my lungs, I'm not going to be able to run very far or for very long. But if I've got good fitness, I can overcome a lot of those conditions a lot easier if it's hot, but I've got fitness, I'll be able to endure that a little bit there called endurance sports, because you just suffer as long as you can right?

00:37:15:16 - 00:37:42:20

I've, I've got fitness and my stomach hurts. Well, if I got to use the restroom, I can keep going. My legs hurt, but I've got enough fitness. I can just slowly but surely trudge along and keep moving and keep moving. If you've got fitness, you can keep moving. You can keep moving. So again, if you feel distant or cold, full of concerns, frustrations, burdens of life that are bogging you down and you feel like you've got a lot on your plate if you feel overwhelmed.

00:37:42:22 - 00:37:59:17

I don't know if you've ever felt that way, but I feel that way. Like every day my kids wake up and I'm like, I'm overwhelmed. My kids wake up in the chaos that just. It's like a tornado in my house every morning. And I don't even do the bulk of, like, the cleaning and tidying, and Kylie does that.

00:37:59:17 - 00:38:36:23

I'm overwhelmed. Life is busy and crazy and chaotic. When you add on top of that all the things that we want to accomplish, work, relationships, friendships, family. I don't know about you, but I can feel overwhelmed and I think these cares if we hang on to them. I think it's kind of like holding your breath. If I breathe in really deep and then breathe out.

00:38:37:01 - 00:38:59:11

I was just to make sure you're still awake. Okay? So you breathe in. Now, the longest I've ever held my breath is like, just over a minute. And I felt like that was a long time. There's guys who train and they can do it

for minutes and minutes. I remember one time I was a swimmer in high school, and we were on our way to the state swim meet, and we were renting a van.

00:38:59:11 - 00:39:17:23

Our coach was renting a van. There's a bunch of swimmers in this minivan. We're driving to Saint Louis, Missouri from Kansas City, and we're sitting in the back and we're having a competition. And swimmers have big lungs, right? So we can hold our breath. And I remember a guy named Jeff Shallots, our it's his turn. We're going to time.

00:39:17:23 - 00:39:43:01

And he holds his breath. He gets passed a minute a minute ten a minute 20. And he's got panic on his face. He's turning red and he sees his pants just. And we're like, dude, you took it to the limit, man. You maxed out your ability to hold your breath like you were none of us were willing to go.

00:39:43:03 - 00:40:09:06

He began to feel panicky. He like thing. He couldn't control everything because he's holding on to that breath that he was supposed to let go of. Right? I don't know about you. When you hold your breath or. Or you try to swim from one end of the pool to the other underwater. You know, I'm talking about and it's like you got goggles on and everything's blue because you're underwater, but you start swimming and you feel panic and you feel like I'm out of breath and I'm like, five feet away.

00:40:09:06 - 00:40:34:15

I don't know if I'm going to be able to make it. And then everything turns red somehow. I'm like, well, that panic, you know what I'm talking about. I think we get that same experience or that same sensation spiritually in regular life, when we hang on to things that we need to exhale, that we need to breathe out.

00:40:34:17 - 00:41:01:19

That's why God tells us to cast those cares, those personal issues, those things that go beyond the checklist. I gotta pray for this person and that person, this person, that person. I have to do the work of prayer, which prayer is work, and we have to do those prayers. But I think we forget it, and we neglect those things that are in our heart that are really heavy and hurt, that are scary.

00:41:01:19 - 00:41:26:16

Sometimes those things that that really we only want the Lord to know, hang on to them. But he says in Philippians chapter four, verses six and seven, I got a few verses here for a first look at says, be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

00:41:26:16 - 00:41:51:03

And the peace of God which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen. Be careful for nothing. Nothing in this world. Nothing in this life that you experience in. You go through none of that should you hang on to the cares of. Be careful

for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God.

00:41:51:04 - 00:42:14:08

God, I've got this feeling. I've got this thought. I've got this experience that I'm walking through right now. And only you understand. Even my friends in my family don't get it. They don't understand. But, God, I know you do, because you're God. So here it is. Okay, that conversation. When do you have that? You're not having it right now.

00:42:14:09 - 00:42:50:11

You don't have it when you're. When we're just zoned out staring at the TV. We're not having that conversation. Then we don't have that conversation with God. Typically on a Wednesday night. We want to I would love for us to, but that's like intimate. That's like vulnerable. First Peter five verses six and seven. Another exhortation to to prayer, to pray honest prayers, says, humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

00:42:50:11 - 00:43:35:08

Check this out. Casting all your care upon him. I care about a lot of things. God, I just got to cast all those cares right onto you. Why? For he careth for you. God cares about you. He cares about that thing that bugs you that is burdening you down. He cares. Trusting him at all times. You people. Psalm 62 eight he people pour out your heart before him so if you are running hot or overloaded, maybe you're going through life and you're like, man, I just feel like I can't keep up with this pace.

00:43:35:10 - 00:44:05:11

I can't keep this pace. I feel like I'm I've got too much on my shoulders. I can't move very far. I'm not going to be able to do this very long. You're right, you're right. Yeah, that's true. 100% true. The answer is not give up. The answer is not stop walking. The answer is unburden yourself. The answer is give those things to the Lord.

00:44:05:13 - 00:44:38:00

Al, I just demolished the clicker. I'm going to need your help to click. I'll signal you when we click. The answer is to exhale. Stop holding your breath. Let go and let. I mean, it's kind of cheesy, but it's kind of true. Well, we're designed just as we are in breathing to exhale in spiritual like in our prayer life to just,

00:44:38:02 - 00:44:40:22

To let it all out.

00:44:41:00 - 00:45:06:05

Now, the mystic religions of the world. Okay, just a word of caution. The mystic religions of the world will advocate for a person to empty their mind and empty their soul and be completely empty of all thoughts. And that is spiritually dangerous and not at all what God wants for us. Just like breathing has an exhale, it also has an inhale.

00:45:06:07 - 00:45:34:12

And so too does our prayer life. So here's where it kind of maybe makes sense. There's another side to it. Okay, so we should be praying without ceasing. All the prayers, all kinds of prayers. We're just giving all these things to the Lord. We're giving all these things to the Lord. And that is a consuming process. But when you're not praying out, when you're not calling out, crying out, exhaling, there should be inhaling right?

00:45:34:14 - 00:45:51:09

If you push all the air out of your lungs, have you seen the video? You push all the air out of your lungs and then you try to. What is it you try to scream? All right. You can't do it. You should try it on your own. You can do it right now. It won't make very much noise.

00:45:51:11 - 00:46:11:10

If you exhale all the air out of your lungs, and then you try to cry out. You try to do anything. You're going to start feeling that same sense of panic because you're meant to inhale. You're meant to bring in oxygen. And our prayer life parallels that. Okay, so that's why Paul prays here. He's got his prayers and he's including the Ephesians.

00:46:11:10 - 00:46:32:13

And then he begins to pray specifically for them. In verse 17, it says that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, and the knowledge of him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, with the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

00:46:32:15 - 00:46:54:15

So he's asking God to give them something. And there's a parallel prayer for the Colossians that I want to look at here to says, for this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will and all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

00:46:54:17 - 00:47:18:11

He's praying that they would be filled with something spiritual understanding, wisdom, the spirit of wisdom and revelation, and the knowledge of God. What are we talking about? God wants to listen to our hearts being poured out before him. But like a good friend, he not only listens, but he gives feedback. Now, I'm not a good friend, always to my wife when she wants to talk.

00:47:18:11 - 00:47:42:09

If she talks past 10 p.m., I become a terrible friend. I have no feedback. I can't even really even comprehend what she's saying. I just my brain stops working after 10 p.m. but when it's before 10 p.m., if she wants to talk as a good friend husband to her as she talks, I give her feedback. Oh yeah, that's a great idea.

00:47:42:09 - 00:48:04:15

Great. Great point. Yeah. You're right. Yeah, babe. You're right. That's what I say mostly. You're right, you're right. But actually, she doesn't want me to just say you're right. You're right. Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah.

You're right, you're right, you're right, you're right. Yeah. That's a great idea. You're so brilliant. Yes, you are awesome. You're amazing. Everything you say and everything you think is right.

00:48:04:17 - 00:48:38:05

Yes. Perfect. They get old quick. Wouldn't it? What does she want? Honesty. Truth or conversation? Response back and forth. Okay. God wants to give that to us. But prayer is just us talking to him, ain't it? Well, God's similar to us in that he doesn't want to just be talked at all the time, and he's got more ears than we have voice.

00:48:38:07 - 00:49:03:12

He's got more ears. He's a better listener than anybody in here. But he wants to be able to respond. It ought to be a back and forth. And so Paul is specifically praying for these churches to be able to receive what God is saying, the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of him. He's praying that you would just know what God thinks and what God says to you, and that you'd be able to do it and follow it.

00:49:03:17 - 00:49:06:14

Obey him.

00:49:06:16 - 00:49:31:15

He wants to give feedback to us. He gives wisdom. He gives insight into how to navigate the issues of life. The girl school and was like, well, here's some ideas. Here's some thoughts about what we could do for the girls school. I'm like, wow, okay, great. Sounds good. She's like. I need more than that. Well, I don't have more than that, but I know who does.

00:49:31:17 - 00:49:56:07

I know who does. God has more than that. God can give wisdom and insight and direction and leading for those kind of complicated, nuanced issues that everyone in this room has to navigate. It gives the wisdom and the insight he wants to empower and equip us with His Spirit and His Word to wisely handle everything life throws at us.

00:49:56:09 - 00:50:31:14

So get this we say all kinds of prayers to God, and he speaks principally and personally to us in His Word. Okay. We give all these cares and all these prayers to God. And then he has spoken principles in Scripture, if we will take them in, if we will listen, if we will read them, if we will receive them, these principles will actually change our life.

00:50:31:16 - 00:50:54:02

If you live your life according to what the Bible says, if you just listen and obey him, if you'll just receive that spirit of wisdom and revelation, if you'll just receive what God says to you about your life, you will live a life that is so much better than doing it on your own.

00:50:54:04 - 00:51:16:17

He gave us principles and he speaks to us personally. So check this out. You can open your Bible every day and it's going to become a task like, well, I got to read my Bible today. I know because we're all a little bit legalistic in in our core. Okay, I got to read my Bible. Well yeah you

do, but but actually, hold on, if you would just open your Bible, what will happen?

00:51:16:17 - 00:51:37:15

What can happen is you open that Bible and you just begin to read and you say, God, I just want you to speak to me. Forget my agenda. Forget my task list. Just would you speak to me then as you read his words? There's going to be some of it. You're like, I don't know what that's means. I can't pronounce that word.

00:51:37:15 - 00:52:06:08

I don't know what's happening right here, but I'm going to keep going. I'm going to keep going. I'm just going to read this page and then keep going. And then the verse goes, you know, I go. I understand that one. I understand that that it says that God is long suffering and compassionate, woe, long suffering, compassionate. And the Spirit of God is like, yeah, that's what you need to be because you yelled at your mom yesterday.

00:52:06:08 - 00:52:33:20

Oh, I need to be long suffering, compassionate. And then all of a sudden God is principally instructing you. But personally, he's like, hey, remember that thing you did yesterday that you disrupted unity and you need to recover and reconcile? Boom. He led you personally in his word. I don't know about you, but I want that kind of relationship with God where every day I'm walking with him and I'm not just praying to him, but he's talking to me.

00:52:33:22 - 00:52:55:21

I hear him talk to me and lead me and guide me. How exciting is that? It's not just a formal religious experience that I show up on Sundays and Wednesdays, and I get a feel good because the music is right and this and then and Jeff says the right thing. That makes me feel good. I want to tomorrow to be led by God.

00:52:55:23 - 00:53:21:05

Don't you? That's what I want. I think that's what we want. And he does that. He speaks principally. He speaks personally. But Paul specifically prayed that these folks would have the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. And from our parallel passage there in Colossians, we see that it is being filled with the knowledge of his will, being filled with the knowledge of his will.

00:53:21:05 - 00:53:44:00

Where do we find God's will? Where do we find the knowledge of his will? It's in Scripture. It's being filled with Scripture and then mixed with the spiritual wisdom shows us how to apply and obey what we know to be true. Okay, I know what's right. I know what I'm supposed to do, but I don't know how to do it.

00:53:44:02 - 00:54:07:02

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever had a prayer that something like God, I know what is supposed to happen, but I don't know how to make it happen again. A lot of my illustrations in my mind come from my

children. I know what my children are supposed to be. I know what I want for them, I know what the Bible says even about child rearing.

00:54:07:04 - 00:54:40:06

I've read all the verses, I've read books about it. I know what I want and I know what's supposed to happen. But how to actually do that? When my daughter says this or my daughter does that now, I'm like, oh God, I know what I'm supposed to do, but I don't know how to do it here because she's a whole person with her own attitudes and her own opinions and her own thoughts, her own free will.

00:54:40:08 - 00:55:07:07

You know, I'm talking about to me, my kids are my most precious assets. I want to do that. Well, I want to do that better than I do anything else in my life. I know what I need to do, but I don't know how to do it. And so that makes wisdom super valuable, because I need wisdom to be able to do what I need to do to raise my children that make sense.

00:55:07:08 - 00:55:32:00

Now, wisdom is super valuable. Now. It's like, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. I'll do whatever I gotta do to get this wisdom, because this wisdom is more important to me than a new car. It's more important to me than this or that. Now, the value of wisdom has been driven high because I'm talking about things like parenting. I need wisdom for career advancement, maybe relationships, life in general.

00:55:32:00 - 00:55:51:21

Life is full of nuance that we actually just need wisdom for how to move forward with what we know to be true. And so Proverbs 8:11, for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it, because we need it for life's delicate situations which reveal the value of wisdom.

00:55:51:21 - 00:56:19:21

But Paul still prays for the believers to receive that spiritual understanding and wisdom. He has to pray that they would receive it. Because why? Because believers today, then and now, we have to actually choose to receive it or not. We have to choose to exhale. We have to choose to inhale. We have to choose to receive wisdom. Isn't it isn't it just easy to push through the situation?

00:56:19:23 - 00:56:42:17

Tough it out in our own way? It's easy to just do it on our own. Isn't it simpler to just do what we've always done when conflict arises? When our feelings are hurt? Hey hey hey hey hey. When your feelings are hurt, what's your natural response? I tell you what, when my daughters disobey me, that hurts my feelings.

00:56:42:20 - 00:57:05:02

But. But more specifically, when my daughters disobey me, I know how it makes me feel. It makes me get a little flared up. What do you mean? You're going to disobey me? What do you mean you're going to throw some attitude at me? I know how I feel, I feel some kind of way about that. Wouldn't it be simpler to just react, wouldn't it?

00:57:05:04 - 00:57:08:00
And I could.

00:57:08:02 - 00:57:38:23
And I do sometimes. And I hate it. Wouldn't it be simpler to just do things the way we naturally do them, when we don't know what else to do? Isn't it easier to just turn to our own wisdom to get things done? Isn't that what we actually just do? We just use our own wisdom? Okay, God's position is plain God's position.

00:57:38:23 - 00:58:02:03
His stance on this is very plain. It's very simple. It's very easy. Okay, check this out. God wants us to ask for wisdom and receive it from him. He just wants us to ask and he wants to give that to us. We get so busy, we get so chaotic, we get so proud. We get so occupied that we have to do things the way that we want to do them, the way that we've always done them, that we can't slow down and be like, wait, wait, wait wait wait.

00:58:02:05 - 00:58:21:00
God, how am I supposed to handle this? What am I supposed to do here? But God's position is plain. He wants us to ask. He wants us to slow down. Proverbs two verse six and seven says, for the Lord God, for the Lord giveth wisdom out of his mouth. Come with knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous.

00:58:21:02 - 00:58:42:03
He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. James one five tells us, if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upright it's not, and shall be given him. I mean, I don't even see any qualifiers there in James that says, you have to be a believer to get wisdom from God.

00:58:42:04 - 00:59:07:00
It says, if any of you lack wisdom, anybody, maybe you don't even know Christ. If you lack wisdom. He's like, I got the wisdom for you. Let him ask of God. They give it to all men liberally and embrace this knowledge, and it shall be given him. Okay, get this wisdom is available for those who ask for it, and it will work.

00:59:07:02 - 00:59:40:22
It will work. Proverbs three verse 13 says, happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that giveth understanding. Happy is the man who found wisdom. Happy is the man who got the wisdom from God that he needed to handle his children, to handle his business, to handle his relationships, to handle his faith, to handle his ministry, to handle his retirement, to handle his whatever happy is that man to find his wisdom.

00:59:41:00 - 01:00:06:15
And the man that get is understanding. Because it works. Because God's ways work. God's ways work. So again, why wouldn't everyone just eagerly request this wisdom? Why don't we?

01:00:06:17 - 01:00:32:19

Well, I think I think here's your next point. I think we often convince ourselves that we already have adequate wisdom for our situations. I think we convince ourselves that we actually already have the wisdom we need to handle whatever situation situation comes before us because we have the experience, right. We have the experience, we have the experience. We have the degree.

01:00:32:21 - 01:01:07:12

We have the pedigree. We have the parents. We have the we have the whatever. We convince ourselves that we have whatever we already need in order to take on whatever life throws at us. And I think sometimes we convince ourselves that we have the wisdom that actually we don't. Can I make myself an example again? I was the children's pastor at the church back in Kansas City, the children's pastor, my in-laws, my father in law was the children's pastor before I was.

01:01:07:14 - 01:01:36:12

And they've raised five children who all love and serve the Lord like they are a model for raising your children biblically, to love and serve the Lord. And then I was the children's pastor, and I was a public educator. I was dealing with investing, handling like the the lives of young people for a decade before full time ministry.

01:01:36:14 - 01:02:09:02

Surely I have the experience to raise my children right? Right? Surely I have the experience. Surely I have the knowhow. Surely I have the wisdom to do it. Man. I tell you what. Josie got a haircut last night. Mauricio watched it happen. Kylie's cutting her hair in the living room last night and it was like, I don't know if this makes any sense to you guys, but I'm watching Josie's hair get cut and now it's like shoulder length.

01:02:09:02 - 01:02:40:15

And what I watched happen was like. It was like the very beginning of the end of her childhood. Like, my heart really, legitimately hurt, and I'm trying to be happy about it. And she looks beautiful. But it was like, that's not a little girl thing. That's like a teenage girl thing. Why are you cutting her hair? Why are you doing that?

01:02:40:17 - 01:03:12:14

Don't do that. And she's like. And she's looking over her shoulder like my, Okay, so I'm in that moment. I'm looking at her, and I have all those feelings. I have all of the feelings you can imagine. I have them all right here. I'm like, oh, all the grief I see, the future. What do I do?

01:03:12:16 - 01:03:43:04

What do I do? Do I just make her feel my sadness? The frustration, the like tear that I'm experiencing in that moment? What do I do? God help me. I'm just gonna tell her she's beautiful. And I did, but I can tell she can read me. She's like looking at me. She's watching. She's waiting for me. Because, I mean, those girls, they're looking for their dad's approval.

01:03:43:04 - 01:04:05:01

They're looking for, like, what does he think? His opinion, his thoughts, his feedback. They just naturally they reflect, like, what is what's going on? And I think she caught it. Even just a glimpse of the like, oh, man. And she's like looking at me kind of like defensively. Like what? What's what? And nothing was ever said except for your beautiful I love it.

01:04:05:01 - 01:04:11:21

You look great. It's so fun. So cool. This is great. She's like yeah okay.

01:04:11:22 - 01:04:30:06

So now what? Now what do I do. Right. What do I do? Like this is one of those world word problems in math class. It's like I, I don't know what to do with this. I thought this was math class. I thought I knew the answers, I thought I had this figured out, but now I've got the situation.

01:04:30:06 - 01:04:48:13

God, I need your wisdom. I need your wisdom because it's so important that I get this right. And I don't know how to do. I know what's right, but I don't know how to do it. Okay? We often convince ourselves that we have adequate wisdom for our situations, and if we just sit back and be humble and ask God, he'll give us the wisdom to handle these situations.

01:04:48:15 - 01:05:18:23

And specifically, he'll give us his wisdom, not our own fleshy wisdom. So just a really quick example of Paul's ministry example of of this spiritual, this godly wisdom versus wisdom that the world kind of describes or that the world would give in first Corinthians chapter two, verses one, and then another passage there, and in that chapter it says, and I, brethren, when I came to you, I came not with excellency of speech or wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

01:05:19:01 - 01:05:39:14

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and a power that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world that come tonight.

01:05:39:14 - 01:06:01:17

But we speak the wisdom of God and the mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory. So there's this wisdom that man has that makes him sound really impressive and sound really good, and like he's got all the answers. And then there's what Paul describes as God's wisdom, which is this wisdom from above.

01:06:01:19 - 01:06:36:02

It's just simplicity. It's just sincerity. It's just the power of God. And she's humble. It doesn't have the bells and whistles on it. It's not impressive, but it does something significant. First Corinthians chapter two, verse 13 says, which things also we speak this wisdom, this wisdom

that that we can speak this godly wisdom from his Word, this mysterious wisdom that we can actually just have free access to.

01:06:36:02 - 01:07:01:07

If we'll ask him, we speak it not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost Teacheth comparing spiritual things with spiritual, that means we read our Bible, and the Bible by God's Spirit is taught to us. We can learn it and read it and receive it, and it'll lead us and guide us and teach us and give us wisdom.

01:07:01:09 - 01:07:32:10

It's truth. And then truth applied. If it's just truth, if it's just knowledge. I don't know if you know this verse, but knowledge actually just what puffs you up? Knowledge actually just gives you a big head. Cool. You go and be right. All right. Go and be right. You be the right person in the world. But truth applied wisdom changes a life and changes lives.

01:07:32:12 - 01:07:51:03

The personal revelation and teaching of God's truth and wisdom applied to a person happens through God's Holy Ghost. God's wisdom isn't always what makes the most sense necessarily, it's just what His Spirit teaches us. In his words. It might not be the thing that you think this is what we should do, but it's the thing that God says do it anyways.

01:07:51:03 - 01:08:17:18

And when you do it, that's wisdom is victory. It's fruit. It's worth it. Just making sense. Okay, we got an Easter egg hunt to have, so I'm going to I'm going to jump down here to my last verse. Let's go to the next one there. Our.

01:08:17:19 - 01:08:42:04

To one more on there. All right. As we take the Word of God and we receive it. We inhale and we exhale. We give God our cares, the things that are important to us, the things that are serious, the things that are vulnerable. We give those who are Lord. And then we just receive his response to them. God, what?

01:08:42:06 - 01:09:06:20

What do I do about this? Help? And he's like, hey, here's truth, here's wisdom, here's how you can follow me through this. As we do that. The Bible will describe that process as being filled with the spirit. As you fill your life with the Word of God, then you are filled with His Spirit. Now you're walking this spiritual life.

01:09:06:20 - 01:09:36:21

You could say you're walking in the spirit. As you're walking in the spirit. Now everything's just easy, but everything has perspective. It's like you're running in a race. Might be really hot outside, might. You might have eaten too many bananas. Your legs might be a little sore from yesterday. But if you're just running and you're breathing properly, you can endure it.

01:09:36:23 - 01:09:55:08

It's all good because you're breathing right spiritually going through life. It's hot. Things are hard. Things are sad. As long as you're breathing right, it's okay. You can endure it. Making sense.

01:09:55:09 - 01:09:59:06

I want to just give an invitation to you guys.

01:09:59:08 - 01:10:20:10

And to the believers. If you know, if you know you're a believer, if you know you have Christ, if you know that that you have the son and so you have life, you've received him as your Lord and your Savior and do you have the spirit of wisdom and spiritual understanding?

01:10:20:12 - 01:10:45:17

Are you filled with God's Spirit and His Word? Do you have the answers that you need for this week? Do you know where to find him right? Or maybe are you just overburdened? Are there things that you need to lay down at at Jesus feet? You know, running in a race? I don't carry my phone. I don't carry my backpack when I'm running.

01:10:45:19 - 01:11:08:15

Why is too heavy not supposed to run with those things? Well, we're supposed to. We're supposed to lay aside every weight of sin. We're supposed to set those things down at Jesus feet so that we can run other things that maybe you need to lay down at the Lord's feet. But then maybe this morning, if you could be so honest, you would say, I don't know if I know Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

01:11:08:15 - 01:11:24:19

I don't know that I have that breathing kind of dynamic, that relationship where I speak to him and he speaks to me. I don't think I have that. I don't think I have eternal life. I don't know that if I were to die today or this week where I would spend eternity, I don't know what would happen to me.

01:11:24:21 - 01:11:49:10

If you feel that, that's like holding your breath. That's a little bit of panic. Because when do you draw your last breath? Well, nobody knows. Nobody knows. Maybe you if you don't know that Jesus is your personal Lord and Savior. If you don't know that you have Christ. We're celebrating Easter in remembrance of the day that he rose from the dead.

01:11:49:12 - 01:12:04:20

He's alive. And today you can have the communicative, the interactive relationship with God like we've been describing. You can have that.

01:12:04:22 - 01:12:30:10

All you have to do to start breathing is receive life. Just receive him. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You say God, I believe you gave your son. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sin, that he was buried and that he he rose from the dead. I believe that to happen and that he offers me eternal life in this verse.

01:12:30:10 - 01:12:48:01

And this is the record that God has given to us eternal life. And this life is in his Son. And he that hath, he that hath the son half life. And he that hath not the Son of God hath not life got. I don't have life, and I need life. I need your son. I need him in my life.

01:12:48:01 - 01:13:12:04

I need him in my heart. I need him to forgive me of my sin. I need him to lead me and guide me through all these hairy and difficult decisions and God, I need you. Would you save me? Maybe that you this morning. It's as simple as receiving him, believing. And so I want to encourage you to do so.

01:13:12:04 - 01:13:34:00

Now. I want to do something a little different this morning. I'm going to pray for you. He's going to pray for us, and I'm going to I'm going to actually ask you some questions so that you can help me know how to pray for you. And so what we'll do is we'll just close our eyes, will bow our heads, and what you can do by closing your eyes and bowing your head is you can actually humble yourself.

01:13:34:02 - 01:14:04:01

You can humble yourself right here, right now. And it's just it's just you. And you can see into your heart and where you really are right now. And maybe there are things in your heart in your life that you know need to go. Maybe there's an a void, an absence in your heart, and you need Christ to come in there and to give you life.

01:14:04:03 - 01:14:22:22

I'm going to ask you to just raise your hand so that I can see, and so that I can pray for you for a few different things. And if you would please raise your hand if you know there are things you simply need to give to the Lord in prayer this morning, you just need to give these things to the Lord in prayer this week.

01:14:22:22 - 01:14:48:00

This morning, would you raise your hands so that I know to pray for you? Thank you. Lots of hands. It's good hand and maybe another person. Or maybe this is you as well. And if you raise your hand already, raise it as many times you need to. But raise your hand if there are things that you know you need wisdom from God to navigate in handle this morning or this week, could you raise your hand?

01:14:48:02 - 01:15:15:00

Any wisdom? Yeah. And then lastly, would you raise your hand if you think you need to receive Christ this morning? You need to receive eternal life. You don't know that Jesus Christ is your personal Lord and Savior. Your your your rescuer from hell, your rescuer from sin. If you would raise your hand so that I know to pray for you.

01:15:15:02 - 01:15:19:02

Yeah.

01:15:19:04 - 01:15:33:10

Father. You know where each one of us is at. And, you saw the hands who have things that.

01:15:33:12 - 01:15:55:14

They need to lay before your feet. God, would you would you give us the boldness and the humility, the perspective to slow down and lay them at your feet? God, please help us to unburden our hearts and our minds before you give us wisdom to pour our hearts out to you and then guide you saw the hands, the need for wisdom.

01:15:55:14 - 01:16:20:20

God, would you then, in response to laying these things down at your feet, God, would you give us a response? Would you give us the timing, the, the, the grit to decide we're going to open our Bible, we're just going to start reading and we're going to trust that you will speak to us. You'll meet us there. God, would you meet us where we have need for wisdom?

01:16:20:22 - 01:16:33:08

Please give wisdom and then and then for anyone who knows that they need to accept Christ.

01:16:33:09 - 01:17:09:21

God, please. It's so good to be your son. It's so good to be forgiven. It's so good to have received salvation. Please connect the dots. Please help our sister to to know you as Lord and Savior and anybody who who's working through that to know you as Lord and Savior. God, please bless the fellowship and the time we have together with the lunch and the Easter egg hunt and the rice.

01:17:09:23 - 01:17:42:00

Driving. Oh, God. Would you just look over them and give them traveling? Mercy. God, thank you for this morning. Thank you for everybody here. God be glorified now as we as we respond to you and and praise and worship. We love you. We pray in Jesus name. Amen. Amen. So you guys can see in Jason, if you come down and lead us in a song of worship during that song of worship, if you know that you need to respond and you want to pray with me, or you want to pray with someone near you meant grab somebody and let's pray.

01:17:42:01 - 01:18:06:20

Let's not be ashamed. Let's not be, nervous over this. This is natural. This is family. And so, man, let's pray. Let's go to the Lord together if you have a need. And come on down as we sing. Amen. We're going to be singing just as I am, without one plea.

01:18:06:22 - 01:19:32:01

Just, as, with, one plea. But, the, blood was shed for me, and, it, pits me, to thee, O Lamb of God. I come, just, Yeah. Man. Waiting, to rid my soul. One, blood to thee. Whose blood can clean plainly spot o lamb of God, I call.

01:19:32:03 - 01:19:57:19

Come. Thank you, Miss Irene. Well, before we, in this service, we've got, a few more things to do. We're going to take up an offering, as we've been instructed. And, it's good to have all of you here. Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for that message. And to remind us not to go through the motions and, Christ definitely didn't go through any motions whenever he was suffering for us on the cross.

01:19:57:19 - 01:21:47:09

So the least we can do is abide and understand our responsibilities to reach those in need and spread the gospel. So we thank you for that. Thank you, Miss Irene, and thank you, Brother Al, for always making a smooth transition for me when my dad's not here to understand how much I appreciate you guys. So, while we, we're going to say a prayer here, brother al, would you pray for the offering and, for the food that we're going to receive afterwards as well?

01:21:47:11 - 01:21:55:20

You know.

01:21:55:21 - 01:22:00:11

And and.

01:22:00:13 - 01:22:18:01

Thank you. Irene, please stand with me. Remember, we have food. We've got a lunch. We've got time for fellowship out in the foyer. So I hope you're hungry to, enjoy what's being provided for us. And afterwards, there is an Easter egg hunt. And you don't want to miss that as well. And, we thank you for coming.

01:22:18:01 - 01:22:50:00

And you are dismissed.

01:22:50:02 - 01:22:52:14

Amen. You don't.