

LIVING VALUES: The Foundation of our Ministry

(2 Chronicles 6:40-42, 7:1-15)

Mother's day Prayer:

- What is God's **Mission** for the WELL? **Loving God others as we make disciples of all people.**
- What is God's **Vision** for the WELL? **Thirsty Souls Restored, lives changed, and joyful people worshipping Christ.**
- **What are the LIVING VALUES that will guide the WELL to accomplish our Vision?**
How do we accomplish the vision
we will: #1. Preach the Word of God as true, authoritative, and applicable to all areas of life and faith (we will preach, teach, and devotionally disciple people to know, love, and share God's Word)
 - **We will Devote ourselves to Prayer to undergird every decision in church life.**
 - Be a healthy **Family**, welcoming, diverse, authentic, and forgiving, while striving to love well and help one another flourish in the gospel.
 - Be a church of servant-leaders, rendering faithful **Service** to those within and outside the church as we steward all of God's gifts in our lives.
 - Pursue **Unity** as a church family to accomplish God's purposes in our community, loving each other in a broken & hurting world. *These are our core values at the WELL: **Bible, prayer, family, service, & unity**

Main Point: As a Believer in Christ, your spiritual growth and ability to rightly glorify God is tied to your daily communication with the Father.

READ 2 Chronicles 7:1-15

2 chronicles 6:40-42 - Having just built and dedicated the

⁴⁰ "Now, my God, please, let Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer *offered* in this place. ⁴¹ "Now then arise, Lord God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might; let Your priests, Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let Your godly ones rejoice in what is good. ⁴² "Lord God, do not turn away the face of Your anointed; remember *Your* faithfulness to Your servant David."

^{Ch.7} Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. ³ All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, *saying*, "Certainly He is good, certainly His faithfulness is everlasting."

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. ⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. ⁶ The priests stood at their posts, and the Levites also, with the musical instruments for the Lord, which King David had made for giving praise to the Lord—"for His faithfulness is everlasting"—whenever David gave praise through their ^{ministry}; the priests on the other side blew trumpets and all Israel was standing.

⁷ Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that *was* before the house of the Lord, for he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat.

⁸ So Solomon held the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly *that came* from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. ⁹ And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, because they held the dedication of the altar for seven days, and the feast for seven days. ¹⁰ Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy in heart because of the goodness that the Lord had shown to David, to Solomon, and to His people Israel.

¹¹ So Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's palace, and successfully completed everything that ^{he} had planned on doing in the house of the Lord and in his palace.

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, ¹⁴ and My people ^{who} are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,

and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the ¹⁶ prayer offered in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there ¹⁷ always. ¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, to do according to everything that I have commanded you, and keep My statutes and My ordinances, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, ¹⁸ "You shall not lack a man to be ruler in Israel." May the Lord Bless the Reading of His WORD

Greatest sin of the Church? Modernism? Materialism? Busyness? = **PRAYERLESSNESS**

= The church body has lost their desperation for GOD in their life . . .

Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.

= "A Prayerless church always produces powerless preaching"

Vs. 14: - four essentials to change our PRAYER life in 2022

¹³ If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people,

-God, as a loving Father, will at times discipline us or grab our attention with real needs (desperation) thru pain, suffering, or loss. -"He disciplines those He loves" Heb. 12:6 -When we get proud, distracted, self-sufficient

- God is directing us in our Heart Posture toward Him: **How do you approach God? Asking Father permission to date his daughter? Casual?**
- Rather than simply going through religious motions (ceremonies, rites, rituals, fixed prayers) =genuine heart change to be in His presence.

We need to be given to:

1. **Humility**: = desperation: we need God in our life (what do you NEED more of??) =Lat.="Low"=**face in the dirt**
Vs. 14 and My people ¹⁴ who are called by My name . . .humble themselves – humily, it gets to be our choice first =willingly lower ourselves, remind ourselves we are NOT God..we NEED God; if we refuse =He lowers us

We need to be given to:

2. **Intentional Conversation w/God**: Prayer is a conversation.
Communication =(act of sending/receiving). **Active Listening**= basis of any healthy Relationship
Intentional = Time and Place and Plan? = good communication is a learned skill. It takes effort, time, feedback

Vs. 14: and My people ¹⁴ who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray, (Pray = **do the work**)

=**God is saying in order to have a vital spiritual life you MUST be in direct contact w/Him daily.**

-1 John 5:13-15 "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have ¹⁴ before 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 which we have asked from Him." The Lord delights in our asking. Just as a Father delights in providing for His children

The MESSAGE: Luke 11:10-13 "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?"

Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

We need to be given to:

3. His Daily Presence = Devotion: “SEEK my face” – fixated on the presence and heart of God (enjoy Him/delight)

Vs. 14: and My people ^(a)who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face

When Luther's puppy happened to be at the table, he looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes; he (Martin Luther) said, 'Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat!

All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope."

-Mt. 6:33 “seek first kingdom (His reign in your life); His righteousness (His presence & His character), *THEN* “all these things will be given to you” = To be IN His presence is to worship Him, delight in Him, love Him = it is to communicate with Him and listen to His heart. To be humbled and to glorify His Name above ALL else!!!!

-Heb. 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* He proves (Himself) to be **One who rewards those who seek Him.**”

We need to be given to:

4. Genuine Repentance: (after we have been in His presence, His holy, awesome, life-giving presence, = we cannot help but repent of our sins) =after you invite God to speak, you listen. **Then you obey!!** Turn from your wants and ways, and sinful habits and turn **TO** His purpose, plan, His holiness, and His desire for your life

Vs. 14: and My people ^(a)who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways

“He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.” J. Bunyon

¹⁴ and My people ^(a)who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, ...then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the ^(a)prayer *offered in this place.*

“Our praying needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage that never fails.” – **E.M. Bounds**

“What a man is on his knees before God, that he is, and nothing more.” **Robert Murray McCheyne.**

APPLICATION

- What is your Prayer strategy?
- When do you have dedicated time to pray? To listen?
- When was the last time you recorded/journaled an answer to prayer?
- What are you praying about? Your will, your wants OR what God wants?
 - Mon. eve. prayer group 7pm //- Prayer groups before service //- Prayer partners after each service

Community Group Discussion:

1. What is your greatest strength in praying and your greatest weakness?
2. If you could ask God for one specific thing that you know He would grant, what would it be?
3. Of the four essential postures in 2 Chron. 7:13-15, which one stands out as your greatest need?
4. What is the significance of 2 Chron. 7:13 in the context of prayer? Why would God do or allow this?
5. What will your community group do to become a more informed and more committed group to pray?