

A Life of Prayer.

Week #7: Corporate Prayer

February 17, 2019

Learning prayer is never easy, because it includes a large helping of biblical truth coupled with deep personal experience. It's one thing to study prayer, but it's entirely another to practice it. Prayer can be clear yet confusing, wonderful yet confounding, hopeful yet discouraging. For some, prayer is all about communion with God, while for others it is about bringing God's Kingdom to earth as in heaven. For some it's deeply personal. For others mostly cosmic. Many treat prayer like rubbing the lamp and demanding God do something about the mess our lives have become. Many others have abandoned prayer, because the desired outcomes have not been realized. Some see prayer as pure mysticism. Others see only pragmatism.

With the hope of cutting through the confusion, we are beginning 2019 by opening the scriptures together to learn more about prayer. Our goal is to build a biblical foundation that will lead to a robust practicing of what Jesus so clearly embraced in his life & ministry.

Study Questions: *Praying together.*

1. What would you expect to happen were you to attend a church prayer meeting? Who would lead it? How long would it go on for? Who might you find there? What would be prayed about?
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Acts 2:42-3 & Acts 6:3-4.
 - What characteristics of praying churches do we find in these verses?
 - It seems that the apostles thought prayer was more important than caring for the poor - at least it was for them. How would New Life have to adjust if our pastors spent their time instructing us in the Word of God & prayer? How would it change our life together?
3. Pastor Ken stated several points about praying together (6 actually).
 - Did any of them cause you to stop and think more about corporate prayer (here's hoping at least one did!) - How so?
4. If corporate prayer invites God to lead His people, and bring His resources into earth's circumstances, why don't we pray more? What gets in the way?
5. One of the foundational pillars of our Life Groups is praying together.
 - If you attend a Life Group, how is the group doing in terms of prayer? Is it a stated priority, or does it take a back seat to other things?
 - What do you pray about?
 - Who is the person you call when you need to pray?
6. Pastor Ken has told us that he is working to increase the priority of prayer in our life together.
 - Do you sense that what Ken and others are doing is working?
 - If you were to sit down with PK and talk about prayer, what would you tell him?
 - How would *you* like to journey more deeply into prayer the rest of this year? Will you drop Pastor Ken a note or email with your suggestions? ken@newlifechurch.ca